

Tough Talk

Revenge is sweet . . . or is it?

Read Matthew 5:38-42; Ex.21:23-25; Lev.24:19-20; Deut.19:21; Lev.19:18; Prov.24:29; Rom.12:17-21; 1 Pet.2:21-23.

1. Read Matthew 5:38-42. What is your first reaction when you are wronged/or taken advantage of in some way?
2. Have you ever felt bad after exacting revenge on someone? What did you do and what was the outcome?
3. In your **own words**, summarise Matthew 5:38-42. Write down your summary below (then share with others):
4. Is Jesus teaching that his followers should be 'doormats'? Explain your answer.
5. In which way was the OT law of 'eye for eye' a godsend to ancient Israelite society? In which ways is that law still relevant modern societies?
6. Should Christians be pacifists? Is there a difference between personal and political/international responses to this teaching of Jesus? Should a Christian go to war, or does Jesus prohibit it in this teaching? (Enjoy this one!)
7. Read Rom.12:17-21. Is this plausible or unworkable? What are the main lessons?
8. In which ways have you gone the extra mile with someone recently? (. . . be careful, as always, that you do not allow your answers to promote yourself at the expense of someone else!)
9. In which ways can you live more generously to others than you do presently?