

Questions for Gospel Harmony #33 – The Sermon on the Mount (Parts 9 & 10)

Matthew 5.38-48

1. Where has Jesus audience heard these words? Explain the meaning of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” (Verse 38)
2. What does Jesus tell us not to do when we are assaulted by an evil person? How does Jesus say we should react to loss of honor, property, and freedom? Why must Christians react this way? What good would it accomplish? (Verses 39-42)

Special Question: Do you think that Jesus teachings in Matthew 5.38-42 forbid a Christian from killing in order to defend against a criminal or persecutor? Please explain.

3. Where had Jesus audience heard that they should “love their neighbor and hate their enemy”? Is this taught in the Old Testament? (Verse 43)
4. How does Jesus say that Christians should treat those who “curse,” “hate,” “spitefully use,” and “persecute” them? Why should Christians treat our enemies this way? What does Jesus mean when He says, “Therefore, you shall be perfect...” (Verses 44-48)

Special Question: Do you think Jesus teachings in Matthew 5.43-48 forbid a Christian from killing as an agent of the government (i.e. in war or police action)? Please explain.