

CHRISTIAN LIVING

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God bless you,
Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
CHRISTIAN LIVING
Text: Matthew 5:39-42

Prayer

Father in Jesus name, our Lord and our Father we thank You for all You have been doing in our lives, may Your name be highly exalted, we ask for forgiveness of sins, Father forgive us, we are going into Your word, Father speak to us, in Jesus mighty name we have prayed. Amen.

Introduction

I welcome you all to the presence of the most high God.

Bible Text

Matthew 5:39-42 KJV "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. [41] And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. [42] Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

Study

The Bible is teaching us something here: we must not be revengeful. As **Matthew 5:39** says, "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." This principle is addressed in **1 Peter 3:9**, which says, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." **Romans 12:17** also emphasizes, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody." **Proverbs 20:22** similarly advises, "Do not say, 'I'll

pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you."

The Bible is not supporting rendering evil for evil. We must not bear any grudge, nor avenge ourselves, nor study to be evil with those that have treated us unkindly. But we must go beyond them by forgiving them. God is our God, and He is at our back. We should not think, at the moment, that maybe it is riding or cheating; we are to forgive instantly. The law of retaliation must be replaced constantly with the law of love. Not that if anyone has injured us, our recompense is in our hands - we don't have the right to do that - but in the hands of God. By doing this, we are showing ourselves to be true disciples of Christ by forgiving them.

There are three things our Savior specifies to show that Christians must patiently yield to those who bear hard upon them rather than contend, and this includes:

1. **A strike on the cheek**, which can be an injury to us in our body. As Jesus says, "Whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (**Matthew 5:39**). This is not only a hurt but an affront and indignity. As **2 Corinthians 11:20** says, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" However, in the context of patience and forgiveness, if a man in anger or scorn does abuse us, we are to turn the other cheek to him. That is, instead of avenging that injury, we should pray for one another and bear it patiently. We should not challenge him or enter an action against him. If it is necessary for public peace that he be bound to his good behavior, some people will laugh, and we are not to look at their side. Some wise men will value and honor our behavior at that moment. Our recompense is in Christ's hands, who shall reward us with eternal glory for the shame we patiently endure. And though it be not directly

inflicted for Christ, if it be quietly borne for conscience' sake and in conformity to Christ's example, it shall be put upon the score of suffering for Christ.

2. The loss of a coat: Matthew 5:40 says, "If any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." This means that if anyone wants to sue us and take our undershirt, we should let them have our coat also. This is what it means to live generously. It is common for legal processes to be misused to inflict great injuries. It is possible for wicked men, who have no conscience and use forgery and deception, to take advantage of the law to force someone to give up their coat. As **Ecclesiastes 5:8** says, "If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things." We should not worry or bother about such matters. Instead of seeking revenge or fighting for our rights, we should allow them to take our coat also, if the matter is small and will not cause significant harm to our families. It is good to submit to such situations for the sake of peace. After all, it would cost us more to recover our coat through legal means than to simply buy another one. Unless we can recover it through other means, it is better to let it go.

3. Going to a mile by compulsion. Matthew 5:41 says, "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." This means that if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. This is not because you are being forced, but because you are to go the extra mile. This is the sign of love. You are to love your friends. Some will say, "I will do it if I'm not forced to do it." But instead of saying that, we should say, "Let me do it to avoid unnecessary argument and quarreling." It is better to serve him than to serve thy own lust, pride and revenge.

Christians must not take legal action on small injuries, which should be submitted to and no notice taken of them. And if the injury be such as requires us to seek reparation, it must be for a good end and without the thought of revenge. Though we must not invite injuries, yet we must meet them carefully and cheerfully in the way of duty and make the best of them. If anyone says, "Flesh and blood cannot pass by such an affront," let them remember that, as **1 Corinthians 15:50** says, "**Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.**"

In conclusion,

We must be charitable and beneficent. **Matthew 5:42** says, "**Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.**" We are to love our enemies; they should be able to bring out the best in us, not the worst. When someone gives us a hard time, we are to respond with energies of prayer. We must not only do good to our neighbors but also labor to do good to all. We must be ready to give to him that asks of thee. If thou hast ability, look upon the request of the poor as given them an opportunity for the duty of almsgiving. As **Proverbs 19:17** says, "**He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord.**" When a real object of charity presents itself, we should give at the first word. Give a portion to seven and also to eight. Yet, the affairs of our charity must be guarded with discretion, lest we give to the idle and unworthy. As **Psalms 112:5** says, "**He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord.**" We should give to those that are in necessity and deserve well. What God says to us, we should be ready to say to our poor brethren: "**Ask, and it shall be given you**" (**Matthew 7:7-8**) We must be ready to lend. This is sometimes as great a piece of charity as giving, for it not only relieves the present exigency but obliges the borrower to providence, industry, and honesty.

Therefore, from him that borroweth of thee, something to live on or something to trade on, turn not thou away. Show not those things that must have such a request to make of us, nor find excuses to shake them off. We should be easy to access to him that will borrow, though he be bashful and have not confidence to make known his case. Beg the favor, yet we know both his need and his desire, and therefore, we are to offer him the kindness. It is now compulsory for us to be more forward in acts of kindness, for before we call, God hears us and prevents us with the blessings of His goodness.

We have come to the end of our study. If there's any question, we can ask but if none, do have a lovely day.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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