

Read Romans 12:9-21. Jot down things you notice.

Sermon Notes

Surprise!

Matthew 5:38-42

Nolan Donald

Verse 19 suggests we should never seek revenge. What reason does the author offer for not needing to seek revenge?

How does understanding that vengeance is God's affect our ability to do the other things suggested in vv. 9-21?

Digging Deeper

In your life, are there people, occasions, or situations where it is harder to not repay someone in a similar manner when you've been treated poorly? Explain.

Who is someone that you could "go the extra mile with this week"?

If you worked to reflect Matthew 5:38-42 with your family and coworkers, what would be different?



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Community Group Prep Work

For the week of October 4, 2009

Please complete the following questions before your Community Group meeting.

Getting Started

Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from Sunday's message? What was it and why?

If you could be in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, what would it be for? Explain.

In the sermon, we thought about retaliation and why "an eye for an eye" won't work. Have you experienced the frustration of trying to get even and never getting satisfaction? Explain.

Which would be hardest for you to do? Why?

- Turn the other cheek and not respond to an insult.
- Give your coat away when someone takes your shirt.
- Walk an extra mile with someone forcing you to do something you don't like.
- Give unselfishly whenever someone asks.

This week, we talked about not taking retaliation in our own hands, trusting God's provision and care, and surprising people with acts of grace and love. The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis (found in Genesis 37-50) has lots of similar aspects to what Jesus taught in Matthew 5:38-42. Read the following passages, jot down things you notice, and answer the questions below.

- Genesis 37:1-36
- Genesis 39:20
- Genesis 40:1-23
- Genesis 41:14-16, 39-45
- Genesis 42:1-8
- Genesis 45:1-11
- Genesis 50:15-21

How did Joseph respond to his brothers? Based on his position, how could he have responded?

What do you think made Joseph choose not to retaliate against his brothers when he got the chance?

What ways are Joseph's reaction similar to/different than what Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:38-42?