

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

Outline

1. Personal Retaliation and the Distortion of Justice
2. Kingdom Ethics and the Boundaries of Justice
3. Gospel Fulfillment and the Hope for Justice

1. Personal Retaliation and the Distortion of Justice

Matthew 5:38-42

1. Personal Retaliation and the Distortion of Justice

Application

- Watch for subtle forms of retaliation
- Refuse the moment of escalation

2. Kingdom Ethics and the Boundaries of Justice

Matthew 5:38-42; Romans 12:17; 13:1-4

2. Kingdom Ethics and the Boundaries of Justice

Two Questions for Kingdom Citizens:

- a. What does Jesus call us to as citizens of his kingdom?



*"Returning violence for violence
multiplies violence, adding
deeper darkness to a night
already devoid of stars.*

*Darkness cannot drive out
darkness; only light can do that.*

Hate cannot drive out hate.

Only love can do that."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. Kingdom Ethics and the Boundaries of Justice

Two Questions for Kingdom Citizens:

- a. What does Jesus call us to as citizens of his kingdom?
- b. How do we integrate Jesus's teaching with the rest of Scripture?

Romans 12:17; 13:1-4

“Repay no one evil for evil . . . “

AND

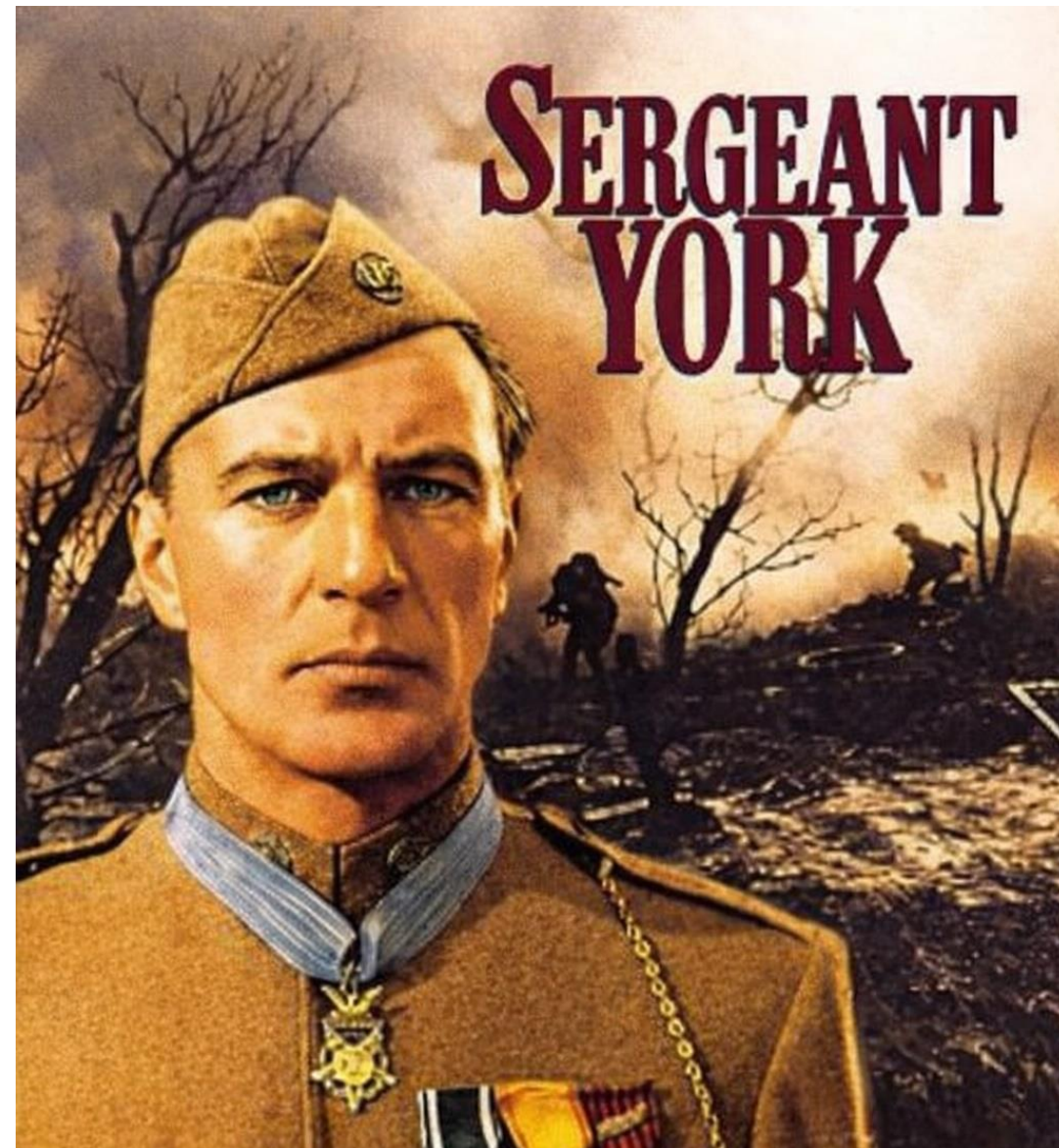
“The governing authorities . . . are God’s servants for your good.”

2. Kingdom Ethics and the Boundaries of Justice

Application

- Distinguish responsibility from revenge
- Learn to live faithfully within imperfect systems





3. Gospel Fulfillment and the Hope for Justice

Various Texts

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

Matthew 26:67-68

Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

1 Peter 2:23

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed himself to him who judges justly.

3. Gospel Fulfillment and the Hope for Justice

Application

- Entrust your story to God
- Follow Jesus in the way of the cross

Summary

1. Personal Retaliation and the Distortion of Justice
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3. Gospel Fulfillment and the Hope for Justice

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