

## RESPONSE-ABILITY

# KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

MATT 5:38-42

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

### God's Precaution: Non-Retaliatio

**Pr 20:22** Do not say, "I will repay evil". Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

**Pr 24:29** Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."

**1 Th 5:15** Never repay evil for evil ...

**1 Pet 3:9** No insult for insult, but blessing ...

### God's Prescription: *Lex Talionis*

What you take you will lose: no more, no less.  
Eye, tooth, hand, foot, burn, bruise, wound.

Key: godly judges, not incensed individuals.

Ex 21:22-25; Lev 24:17-22; Deut 19:16-21

Matt 5:25-26; 7:1-2; 25:31-46

Rom 13:1-7; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11-15

### God's Preventive: Love

**Lev 19:17** "You shall *not hate* your fellow countryman in your heart; you may *surely reprove* your neighbor, but shall *not incur sin* because of him. **18** You shall *not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge* against the sons of your people, *but you shall love your neighbor as yourself*; I am the LORD."

### God's Provision: Fairness

A way to judge evil acts objectively and blindly.

A way to fit (yet limit) the penalty to the crime.

A way to deter others with fear of punishment.

Deut 13:11; 17:13; 19:20; 21:21; Eccl 8:11

A way for victims to seek and ensure justice.

A way to prevent personal, hateful revenge.

### Man's Perversion: Revenge

"Do unto others as they have done unto you."

"Don't just get mad. Get even!"

"To *overcome* evil, *become* (more) evil!"

"Hate, don't wait! Settle the score plus more!"

"Gun them down! Beat them up! Blow them out!"

### Isaac or Herodias?

#### Gen 26:12-25 – Conflict Over Wells

Isaac: "Let it go! Re-dig another well!"

#### Mk 6:14-29 – Conflict Over Marriage Law

Herodias: "Let it grow!" "Chop off John's head!"

What Isaac and Herodias share: Response-ability.

### Christ's Practice: Salvation

**1 Pet 2:23** ... while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; **24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross ...

**1 Pet 2:21** "an example ... walk in His steps ..."

### Christ's Pro-Action: Response

When insulted with a slap, *turn the other cheek.*

When sued for one's shirt, *offer your coat also.*

When coerced into service, *go a second mile.*

When begged for money, *give, do not turn away.*

Whatever others do, you have response-ability.

### Response-Ability

**Ro 12:17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Deut 32:35

### Christ's Practice: Salvation

**Lk 23:34** But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

### Response-Ability

**Ro 12:20** "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Prov 25:21-22