



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 13 | 7:00PM

JOIN US as we update you on the progress of the building and our next steps!



Turn the Other Cheek

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Matthew 5:38-42 NLT

"You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow."

False Narrative:

We need to strike back harder in order to establish our place in the world.

"Evil will become powerless when it finds no opposing object, no resistance, but instead, is willingly borne and suffered. Evil meets an opponent for which it is not a match."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jesus' Narrative:

We are secure in His Kingdom and therefore are free to be generous with others.

The word "resist" literally means: "To engage in revengeful or violent retaliation."



FEBRUARY 18 - 3:00-5:00 pm

Four Examples of Oppression and how we can respond:

“If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.”

“If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.”

“If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.”

“Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.”

What is Jesus Up To?

1. Jesus is seeking to restore our dignity.

2. Jesus is seeking the spiritual formation of our hearts.

Practical Application:

We need to refuse to use our words as _____.

Spiritual Practice: Spiritual JiuJitsu

When we have been hurt by someone else, one of the narratives that often runs through our mind is that, “Justice needs to be served.” Many times, that act of justice would come in the form of revenge. The response would actually go beyond seeing justice served and move to the place of causing hurt or pain to the same degree or greater than we have experienced ourselves. Often times when hurt or injury is caused, people point to Old Testament teaching like we see in Leviticus 24:19-20 *“Anyone who injures another person must be dealt with according to the injury inflicted—a fracture for a fracture, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whatever anyone does to injure another person must be paid back in kind.”*

As we read through the Sermon on the Mount we see Jesus continually show us that he desires to give us a new way to live – a way that disarms the ideals and values of the world that we live in. James Bryan Smith in the book, “The Good and Beautiful Life” described it as Spiritual JiuJitsu. JiuJitsu is a martial art and many consider it a form of fighting. However, the word means “a way of yielding” by using an attacker’s force and energy to work against him or her.

Instead of trying to match force with force, jiuJitsu teaches a person how to overcome an armed opponent with no weapons other than intelligence. Unless we understand this principle, this passage may cause a great deal of harm. People conclude that Jesus is teaching us to become passive victims of abuse. A closer look, though, shows that Jesus is offering a brilliant way to respond to abuse and attack from a position of Kingdom security.

To understand our position in God’s Kingdom as sons and daughters, we have the opportunity to offer grace and forgiveness to those around us. To lay down our need to seek revenge we can choose to respond to attack by not attacking back.

During this week make a conscious decision to pay attention to the way you respond to people around you. Are there moments that you think, “I hope they get what they deserve?” It could be a friend, co-worker, family member or even the driver that cut you off in traffic. **In those moments ask, “Am I trying to respond to force with force or am I willing to practice Kingdom JiuJitsu?”** It might startle people and provoke them to ask, “What kind of person would do such a thing?”