

Law taught an “eye for an eye”

- Exodus 21:24, 25 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.
- Leviticus 24:20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.
- Deut. 19:21 Your eye shall not pity: life *shall be* for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.
- **It was to ensure that the punishment fit the crime**

Law was NOT for person revenge

- Leviticus 24:14 “Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard *him* lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.”
- Leviticus 19:18 “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the Lord.”
- Proverbs 24:29 “Do not say, ‘I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.’”

Jesus says

- “But I tell you not to resist an evil person.”
 - Other passages urge resistance of evil, even of evil men (Gal. 2:5, 11; Titus 1:9-11; Eph. 6:11)
 - Jesus cleansed the temple (Jno. 2:13)
 - What then? “Jesus is condemning the spirit of lovelessness, hatred, yearning for revenge. He is saying do not resist the evil doer with measures that arise from an unloving, unforgiving, unrelenting, vindictive disposition.”

Examples

- But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.
- If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.
- And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two
- Refuse not a borrower

Which Is Easier:

■ ***To follow the letter of the Law***

- Turn the other cheek
- Be Sued
- Be compelled to go one mile
- Refuse not a borrower

■ ***Or maintain the right attitude?***

- The spirit of love not hate
- Forgiveness not revenge
- Kindness not vindictiveness



Illustrations of the spirit Jesus commends

- Abraham rushing to rescue his nephew Lot (Gen. 13:7-9; 14:14-16)
- Joseph forgiving his brothers (Gen. 50:19-21)
- David twice sparing the life of his pursuer King Saul (1 Sam. 24:4; 26:7-9)
- Stephen interceding for those who had stoned him (Acts 7:60)
- Jesus praying, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34)