

A Different Way To Relate



“You have heard it said...but I say unto you...”



Second Mile Christianity

“If anyone forces you to go with you one mile, go with him two.”
(v. 41)



Jesus illustrates this principle with four life circumstances.



“Don’t Push Me”

“Do Not resist the one who is evil, but if anyone slaps you on the right cheek turn to him the



“Jesus’ illustration and personal example of one who offers no resistance....They depict a man whose control of himself and love for others are so powerful that he rejects absolutely every conceivable form of retaliation.”
[John Stott. Essential Living: The Sermon On the Mount.

“Repay no one evil for evil... (21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Rom. 12:17, 21

The Christian Response!

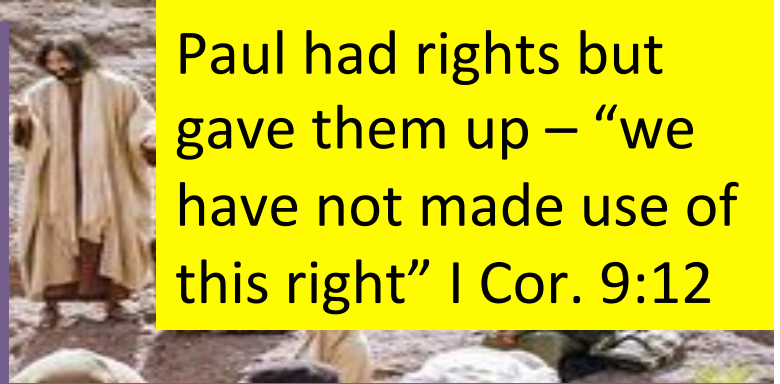


We Are To Take Insults With Grace.



Don't Infringe on My Rights!

“And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”
(v. 40)



Paul had rights but gave them up – “we have not made use of this right” I Cor. 9:12

We hear about human-rights, women's-rights, children's-rights, workers'-rights, gay-rights, criminals' rights, victims' rights and on and on. People believe that they have rights and are, in many cases, not only pleading for them but demanding them.

The Christian's Response!



We Must Learn To Move Past A Concern
For Our Rights.



Don't Take Up My Time

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. (v. 41)

There are two ways to obey being commanded by a soldier to carry his pack; (1) Grudging Acceptance and (2) Graciously and Cheerfully.

A Roman soldier could require a Jewish citizen to carry his pack for him for a distance of one mile

First mile things are obligations – ordinary things, but the second mile was to be seen as an opportunity.

The Christian's Response!



We Must Be Willing To Do More Than Is
Expected Of Us.



Don't Ask Me For My Money

“Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.” (v. 42)

In all things, we must be good stewards of our possessions



There are few things in life that reveal as much about us as what we are willing to allow to part us from our money.

The Christian's Response!



Don't Hesitate to Give To Those In Need.



Jesus' Conclusion

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (44) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.



“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; (v. 45)

According to Jesus the test of perfection, that is the test of maturity, is the capacity to love those who do not love you.