



“If you continue in My word, then are you My Disciples **InDeed...**”

Non-Resistance: What The Bible Says Part 2

Matthew 5:40-42 “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”

In our last lesson we explored what it means to “turn the other cheek” when our physical body, feelings, or reputation are hurt by another person. In this lesson Jesus is going to teach us what to do when our possessions or our time are infringed upon by others.

Apparently law suits were common in Jesus’ day as they are in ours. The way of the world is to “stand up for your rights!” and “don’t let him take advantage of you!” Jesus tells us here that to the contrary, we should actually give more than they’re demanding of us! What kind of thoughts come to your mind when you read this startling command?

How do you think “giving someone your cloak also” would affect your attitude as the giver? How do you think it would affect the recipient? _____

In order to actually do what Jesus said here, what are we going to have to believe about God, time & eternity, and the meaning of life? _____

In Jesus’ day of the Roman occupation of Palestine there was a law that any soldier could require a Jew to carry his equipment for 1 Roman mile (1,000 paces). Most Jews resented this reminder that they were under the domination of a foreign heathen nation. Jesus tells us again to give more than the minimum requirement; actually, double. What

happens inside when you are forced to give your time to another? _____

What is different when you choose to give something unexpected? _____

Which Jew do you think would have a greater influence for God on the Roman soldier, the one who grudgingly walked exactly 1,000 paces, or the one who cheerfully said after the first 1,000, “Let’s do another 1,000!”? What do you think they might talk about during the second mile? _____

In verse 42 Jesus tells us to give to those that ask us for something. Why do you think He didn’t put any qualifiers on this command? Is it because there are never any situations where we should withhold from someone what they are asking for or is it that we’re so selfish that we need a strong command to keep us from making excuses? Or something else? What do you think? _____

Are You a “Disciple InDeed”?

1. Do you make it a habit to give more than is required of you by others or do you do the minimum and insist on defending your rights?
2. Do you use people to get things or do you use your things to win people?
3. Do you try to explain these verses away or do you keep them before your eyes as a continual challenge to your natural selfishness?

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Doers of the Word

What are you going to do with God’s Word today?

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Further Study: 1 Cor 6:1-7, Luke 6:27-29

“...And you shall know The Truth, and The Truth shall **make you Free!**”

