

Matthew 5:38-42

November 18, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Next Level Living

Intro

1. The Old Testament Law

Exodus 21:22-25 - If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must pay the amount of compensation...*the judges* approve. But if there is further injury, *the punishment must match the injury*: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot, a burn for a burn, a wound for a wound, a bruise for a bruise.

#1 - The purpose of the law wasn't to require retaliation, but to limit punishment.

Genesis 4:23 - Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. *I have killed a man for wounding me.*"

#2 - This law was for the courts to enforce, not individuals.

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Romans 12 - Don't repay anyone evil for evil... Don't take revenge, leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It's *Mine* to avenge; *I'll* repay," says the Lord.

Romans 13 - Be subject to the governing authorities... The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. If you're doing wrong, you should be afraid, for they the power to punish you. hey're God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

2. The Law of Jesus

#1 - Turn the other cheek.

"Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (**Romans 12:21**)

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#2 - Give them the shirt off your back.

Exodus 22:26-27 - If you take your neighbor's cloak as security for a loan, *you must return it before sunset*, because his cloak is the only covering he has for his body. What else will he sleep in?

Julio Diaz is a social worker from the Bronx. Every night, he ends his hour-long subway commute one stop early so he can eat at his favorite diner. But one night, as Julio stepped off the train, his evening took an unexpected turn.

#3 - Go the extra mile
