

4. a) From **Matthew 5:39**, what is the principle Jesus lays down and what is the first example He gives of a kingdom response? *Note: a slap on the cheek is not about physical injury, but about insult (2 Corinthians 11:20).*
- b) In offering the other cheek, what does the injured party demonstrate about their relationship with God, where their security lies, or what they value?
5. a) What is the second example in **Matthew 5:40** and what is unique about it? *Note: standard dress in Jesus' day consisted of an inner and outer garment, with the outer garment doubling as a poor person's bedding (Exodus 22:25-27).*
- b) What is the greater significance of giving up a coat or outer garment and how would the distinctives of kingdom living be graphically on display?
6. a) What is Jesus' third example in **Matthew 5:41**? *Note: under Roman occupation, a Roman soldier had the right to force a civilian to carry a load, with one mile being the legal limit (Matthew 23:32).*
- b) How would the response to abuse that Jesus advocates upend the power dynamics of the situation and demonstrate kingdom principles?

7. Reframe what Jesus proposes in **Matthew 5:42**. What do you think Jesus is saying about the importance of being generous beyond what is normal and comfortable?
8. From **V39-42**, which of the four examples is the toughest for you to see yourself living out and why? What arguments might you make to justify any unwillingness to do what Jesus says? Turn this into a prayer to align your heart with kingdom priorities.

9. **JESUS SAID: TURN THE OTHER CHEEK**

Paul said, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." **Romans 12:17-19**. Paul, like Jesus, advocates against vengeance and retaliation on a personal level; instead, followers of Jesus are those who trust in the perfect divine justice of God.

Jesus asks His followers to break the cycle of violence by responding to provocative situations in unexpected ways. The ramifications of living this way are enormous. As you contemplate life in the kingdom of heaven, how do you see yourself fitting in? Where do you see opportunities to show Jesus' radical love in your relationships? Ask your group to pray for you as you grapple with what Jesus said.

MEMORY VERSE: "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." **Matthew 5:39**

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST