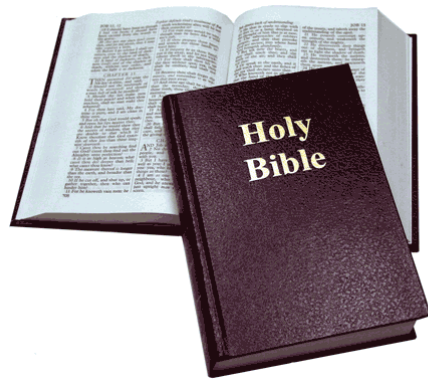


# The Sermon on the Mount

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STUDY 12

Reading: Matthew 5:38-42



## *The anvil and the hammer*

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study Questions

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June/Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013

- 1) If verse 38 is a quote directly from the Old Testament Law, why do you think Jesus appears to both challenge and redefine it?
- 2) At first glance this passage suggests that Christians should be 'door mats'. *Does verse 39 mean that I should never defend myself or a third party who is being threatened? What does Jesus really mean here?*

**Jesus picks out four illustrations from everyday life to demonstrate His point:**

- 3) What is the significance of the slap on the face in verse 39; and what does Jesus teach us in His suggested response to it?
- 4) In verse 40 Jesus' teaching impeaches on legal rights. *Why is the giving of the 'cloak' so significant?*
- 5) On hearing Jesus' third example in verse 41 why would it have jarred on the ear of many of the listening Jews? What is the tough lesson Jesus means to teach here?
- 6) Verse 42 sounds both reckless and irresponsible. *What is Jesus saying and how does this reflect the general approach to the Christians life?*

*"Sometimes we have to be the anvil while bad men are the hammers"*  
(C H Spurgeon)