



August 27, 2023

Gospel of the Kingdom - Check your Clapback

Matthew 5:38-42

Summary – Basic human nature responds to aggression by fight or flight. Neither of these responses build community or have positive results. Jesus gives a third way to respond to aggressive behavior that provides the environment to both reduce violence in the aggressor and gives the victim an opportunity to respond with dignity and strength.

Scripture – Acts 7:60; Luke 23:43; Deuteronomy 24:13; 1 Corinthians 6:7; Romans 12:19-21; Matthew 7:1-4

Community Group Questions

Introduction

- “Violence at its best can only check violence, not stop violence.”
- Why do humans have such a tendency to overreact?

Slap (Matt. 5:38-39)

- Human nature is either fight or flight. What benefit is there in not fighting back?
- If our honor comes from a higher place, how does that help us stand our ground with dignity?

Sued (Matt. 5:40)

- “Possessions **always** take a backseat to people.”
How can you demonstrate the Kingdom with your possessions?
- Discuss 1 Corinthians 6:7

Bullied (Matt. 5:41)

- “You can not change Roman law but you can change a Roman heart.” Share a time when you went the “extra mile.”

Foolish (Matt. 5:42)

- When it comes to meeting the needs of people, what is the difference between being “good or nice?”
- What are the benefits/challenges of having an open hand to your possessions?

Reminder

- Meditate on Matthew 5:38-42 this week.