

Big Buts of the Bible—Turn the Other Cheek

Weekend Discussion Questions

September 27-28, 2008

Community:

1. Have you ever been in a physical fight? If so, what were the circumstances?
2. Before Scott shared this weekend the truth behind Jesus' statement "turn the other cheek" what was your understanding/view of this idea?

Core:

1. As Scott shared the story of the confrontation with his neighbor do you feel he should have handled it differently? Why?
2. We learned this weekend that the verse an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth comes from the Old Testament? Do you think it was important for God to provide the Israelites with such rules? Why or Why not?
3. Read Matthew 5:38-42. Jesus suddenly does a paradigm shift in the way people have thought and responded for centuries. As he lays these ideas out in the midst of a violent Roman oppression what response do you sense people had?
4. As we learned from Scott, Jesus is not speaking in the context of spouse abuse, or when someone's life is in danger. Jesus is being very specific here. Jesus is talking about a personal insult delivered to you by someone else. Why do you sense these verses have been so misused and misinterpreted over the centuries?
5. As we watched the demonstration upfront we learned that in Jesus' culture being slapped by someone was a normal way of insulting the other person (huge insult). What behaviors in our culture today might we equate this to?
6. Typically there are two ways to respond to such insult...fight or flight. Jesus poses a third option in the midst of the insult. By the response it creates questions in the aggressor ... Why? Why would you do this? Why would you behave this way...everyone else either returns evil with evil, or runs away....you didn't do either one...WHY??? In your mind how does this response affect the aggressor?
7. In verse 41 we learned that Roman soldiers could force a Jew to carry their supplies for a mile yet Jesus states go an additional mile when asked. Why was this idea so hard to swallow for the Jews?

Challenge:

1. Jesus provides for us a whole paradigm shift in the way we respond to others when they insult us, demand something from us or expect from us something that isn't theirs. How can we pursue, creative, strong and loving alternatives to what we see as the normal and natural response?
2. Check out the blog for further study at flatironschurch.com/blog



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Weekend Services | Sat 5:00 & 6:30pm | Sun 9:00, 10:30 & 11:55am, 6:30pm