**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 18 January 2023 – Spring Semester**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke 6:27-36 (NLT)**

 27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.

 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.

 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back.

 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

 32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!

 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!

 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

 35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

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**Scripture Lesson**

Q = Do we have the right to respond to others in a retaliatory way?

Q = Does the United States have the right to respond with a retaliatory strike

 against an enemy?

Q = Does God give humanity the right to respond in retaliatory ways?

Q = Give one example of an accepted retaliatory strike against another

Military Retaliatory Strike

 In the strategy of war, a retaliatory strike or second strike is **a country's assured ability to respond to an attack from an enemy with the same force of weapon the attacker used**.

The Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

**Published online June 27, 2015**

[**https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/)

 *“Imagine your clenched fist cracking another person’s jaw. How does it feel? The answer likely depends on several factors. Important among these is whether or not the target of the haymaker had recently provoked you.*

 *Stolen parking spots, rude emails, and pugnacious parents often trigger such aggressive outbursts in daily life. Conventionally, scientific explanations of violence have focused on how negative feelings like anger precede aggressive responses to provocation (*[*Berkowitz, 1989*](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/#nsv082-B9)*; Anderson and*[*Bushman, 2002*](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/#nsv082-B11)*).*

 *Yet everyday experience and budding literature suggest that revenge is sweet and retaliatory aggression may be driven by hedonic reward (*[*Bushman*et al.*, 2001*](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/#nsv082-B12)*; [Krämer](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/%22%20%5Cl%20%22nsv082-B35)*[et al.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/%22%20%5Cl%20%22nsv082-B35)*[, 2007](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4927037/%22%20%5Cl%20%22nsv082-B35)).*

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Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/

“THE TRIPLE EVILS”

 *The Triple Evils of POVERTY, RACISM and MILITARISM are forms of violence that exist in a vicious cycle. They are interrelated, all-inclusive, and stand as barriers to our living in the* ***Beloved Community.***

 *When we work to remedy one evil, we affect all evils. To work against the Triple Evils, you must develop a nonviolent frame of mind as described in the “Six Principles of Nonviolence” and use the “Kingian” model for social action outlined in the “Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change.”*

**Poverty** – unemployment, homelessness, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, infant mortality, slums…

**Racism** – prejudice, apartheid, ethnic conflict, anti-Semitism, sexism, colonialism, homophobia, ageism, discrimination against disabled groups, stereotypes…

**Militarism** – war, imperialism, domestic violence, rape, terrorism, human trafficking, media violence, drugs, child abuse, violent crime…

 Fundamental tenets of Dr. King’s philosophy of nonviolence are described in his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*.

**PRINCIPLE ONE:** Nonviolence Is a Way of Life for Courageous People.

**PRINCIPLE TWO:** Nonviolence Seeks to Win Friendship and Understanding.

**PRINCIPLE THREE:** Nonviolence Seeks to Defeat Injustice, or Evil, Not People.

**PRINCIPLE FOUR:** Nonviolence Holds That Unearned, Voluntary Suffering for a Just Cause Can Educate and Transform People and Societies.

**PRINCIPLE FIVE:** Nonviolence Chooses Love Instead of Hate.

**PRINCIPLE SIX:** Nonviolence Believes That the Universe Is on the Side of Justice.

 Dr. King often said, he got his inspiration from Jesus Christ and his techniques from Mohandas K. Gandhi. These principles should be embraced as a lifestyle

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*“Revenge is sweet and not fattening.”*

Alfred Hitchcock

**Luke 6:27-29**

 **27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.**

 **28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.**

 **29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.**

*Matthew 5:38-42*

 *38 “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’*

 *39 But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.*

*40 If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.*

 *41 If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.*

 *42**Give to those who ask and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.*

* This law in the Old Testament was established as a standard to limit one-on-one retribution. In other words, it was designed to ensure that the punishment in civil cases fit the crime—**Read Exodus 21:22-25**

 “22 “Now suppose two men are fighting, and in the process they accidentally strike a pregnant woman so she gives birth prematurely. If no further injury results, the man who struck the woman must pay the amount of compensation the woman’s husband demands and the judges approve.

 23 But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life,

 24 an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot,

 25 a burn for a burn, a wound for a wound, a bruise for a bruise.”

* When Jesus declared in Luke 6:39

*“But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.”*

* He was speaking on matters concerning personal retributions, not criminal offenses or acts of military aggression.
* Jesus was applying this principle of non-retaliation to personal offensive acts of words or disrespectful intentional insults against one’s dignity
* In **Verse 40**, Jesus was applying this principle of non-retaliation regarding lawsuits

 *“If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.”*

* In **Verse 41**, Jesus was applying this principle of non-retaliation regarding infringement on one’s liberty

 *If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.*

* In **Verse 42**, Jesus was applying this principle of non-retaliation regarding the violation of property rights

 *“Give to those who ask and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.”*

* In other words, we have a right to strike back physically but Jesus is encouraging us to allow the criminal laws of the land to work for us.
* **Exodus 21:22-25** was never meant to sanction acts of personal retribution—it was to sanction civil law to protect one-on-one retaliatory acts.
* Jesus in His statement **Matthew 5:38-42** made no alteration to the true meaning of the Law.
* Jesus was not only explaining the Law but also affirming its true meaning.
* The followers of Jesus Christ should be distinguishable from those of the world who function out of a retaliatory mindset

**Luke 6:30-31**

 **30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back.**

 **31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.**

***Matthew 7:12***

*“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

* The followers of Christ should respond with blessings and generosity rather than physical harm, cursing, and retaliation
* Believers demonstrate love and not hate

**Luke 6:32-34**

 **32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!**

 **33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!**

 **34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.**

***The Message: Verses 31-34***

 *“Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that.*

 *Do you expect a medal if you only help those who help you? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.”*

**Luke 6:32-36**

**35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.**

 **36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.**

**The Message: Verses 35-36**

“I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

Next Week

**Read Luke 6:37-38**

* Sacrificial Generosity of Tithe, Time, Offerings, Talent, and Service

Q = Do you believe in tithing? Why?

 What does tithing mean?

 Why is it important for a believer to tithe?

 Give an example of a spiritual principle concerning a seed. **Read**

 **Matthew 17:20; 2 Corinthians 9:6**

 Are you robbing God? **Read - Malachi 3:8-12**