



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Rules of Kingdom Life - 2

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum and the Galilee region became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, sharing scripture and teaching. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke shares what Jesus said about the actions and character of people that love and serve Him. They will love others.

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.” (Luke 6:29-30 NASB)

Rules of Kingdom Life. Loving, doing good, blessing and praying for people that mistreat, curse, hate and are enemies of Christ's followers are what Jesus calls His followers to do. It is not the normal human response. However, just like the calling of 12 common men to become His apostles and to accomplish extraordinary acts, He calls and commands His followers to love in ways that require uncommon love. Jesus' followers are called to be different.

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also...” Jesus commands His followers to turn the other cheek when they are hit (“slaps” – Mt 5:39) on the cheek. A slap on the cheek in that culture was considered an inflicted insult and an act of disrespect.

Contrary to the normal and expected reaction and retaliation to the offender and a misapplication of the law, “*eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,*” (Ex 21:24), which was intended to be a principle for limiting punishment to offenders, Jesus directs His followers to not personally respond with a similar “slap” insult or act of disrespect. This command deals with personal retaliation and is not intended to address criminal attacks. Jesus' followers are called to be and act differently.

“...whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either.” Jesus also applies this retaliation principle to personal possessions. Jesus calls His followers to live at a higher level than the world. “*Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.*” (Mt 5:41) Jesus' followers are called to be and act differently.

“Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.” Jesus commands His followers to not place their focus on money and stuff, but rather Him. His followers are to be Christ like in all that they do. “*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*” (Mt 20:28) Jesus commands His disciples or followers to be different than the world. His followers are not called to personally retaliate. Jesus' followers are called to be and act differently.

For Your Consideration:

- When you are insulted for His sake, do you retaliate with a similar insult to the offending party or address it with love and respect?
- Do you value your possession over people and service to Christ?
- Are you serving or being served?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44