



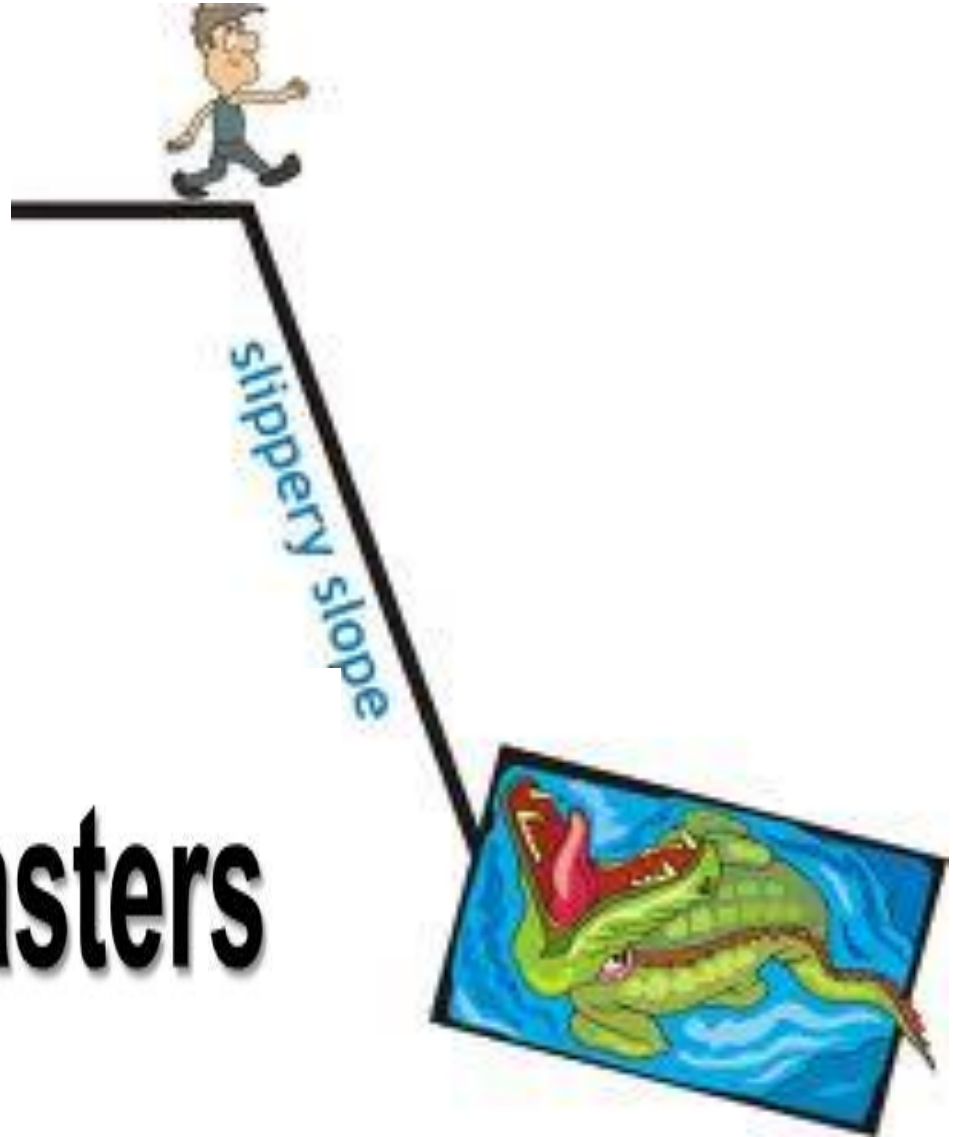
SERMON  
ON THE  
MOUNT

MATTHEW 5-7

**Part 3 Matthew 5:33-48**

You have heard that it was said,  
..... but I tell you

Even “**little things**”  
can lead to



**big disasters**

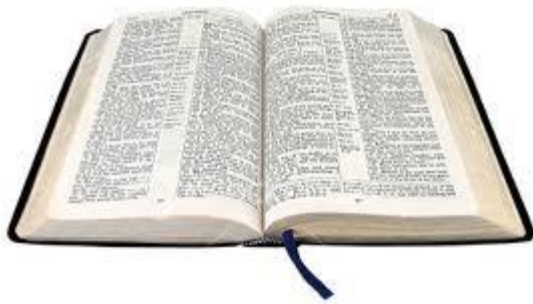
## **3 more examples of small slips** **leading to big falls**

**4, opening your mouth and what comes out**

**5, retaliation**

**6, wrong teaching that needs correcting**





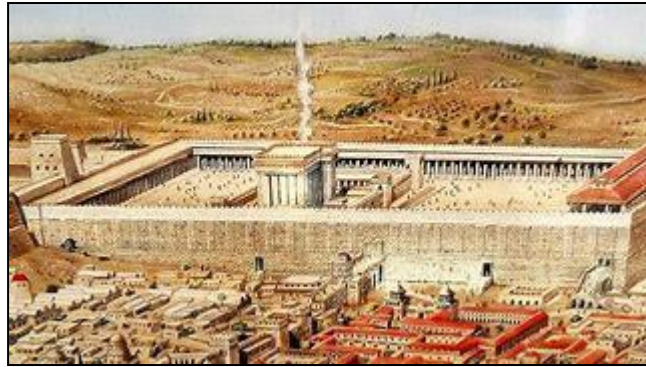
The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment.  
'misusing God's Name'

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.'

**I SWEAR**



But I tell you, Do not swear at all.. either by heaven, for it is God`s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.



**‘Heaven’ was a substitute name for God**  
**There’s nothing (natural) you can do**  
**about the things you swear by !**

But I tell you, Do not swear at all..



**Misusing God's holy name**

**I promise ...**

**“God told me ....”**

Simply let your `Yes` be `Yes,` and your `No,` `No`;



**Yes = Yes**

**NO = NO**

**Integrity**



**Your word can be relied upon.  
If you make a promise .... Keep it!**

***There should be no need to 'sign it in triplicate'***



Simply let your `Yes` be `Yes,` and your `No,` `No`;  
anything beyond this comes from the evil one.



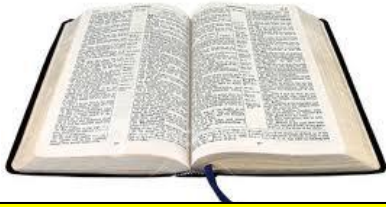
Jesus was talking about rash and careless oaths in conversation, not of solemn oaths in Courts of Justice etc. Paul calls on God as his witness ...



Romans 1:9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

2 Corinthians 1:23 I call God as my witness--and I stake my life on it--that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness.



## Exodus 21:24

You have heard that it was said,  
'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'



This had become this.



**It was about justice limiting revenge**



**Compensation**

**Government applies the law. It's not about personal revenge**

## Revenge is destructive





But I tell you, Do not resist (retaliate) an evil person.



Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

Proverbs 9:8

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.

Proverbs 26:4

If someone strikes you on the right cheek

**It's about dealing with insults**



**What is different with this picture ?**



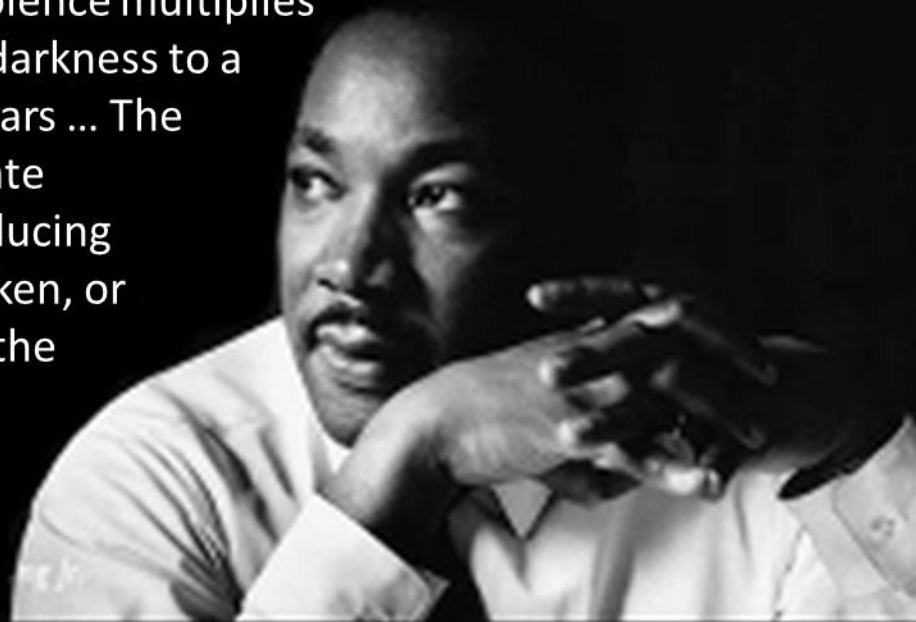
Society was built around shame and honour. The left hand was considered unclean; it was not to be used for eating – or for hitting. So a blow to the right cheek would be done with the backhand. It was a way to publicly insult someone.

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

## ***TURN THE OTHER CHEEK***

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars ... The chain reaction of evil – hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars – must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.”

Martin Luther King



What is your first instinct – retaliation, fear, or both? With the Holy Spirit helping you, there's a new possibility. Don't run and hide. Don't strike back. Confront the other person with honesty and strength.

And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.



It's only 'stuff' after all.  
But on occasions love can say  
'Sorry, no!'



If someone forces you to go one mile,  
go with him two miles.

Israel under Roman rule



As they were going out, they met a man from  
Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to  
carry the cross.

Matthew 27:32

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.



Forced loans have been a mode of oppression in every age, for which, perhaps, no people have suffered more than the Jews.

**It's about attitudes to 'getting my rights'**  
**It's not all about me**



We live in a time controlled by  
a 'spirit of entitlement'

There is a place for wisdom, self-respect  
and also self-defence



Jesus resisted evil at the temple,  
and confronted the arrogant and abusive

When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"

John 18:22 -23

You have heard that it was said,  
`Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.`

**Who said this ?  
It's not in the Bible**



**It was part of  
the teaching of  
a 1<sup>st</sup> century sect  
at Kumran**

An example of  
misinterpreting scripture

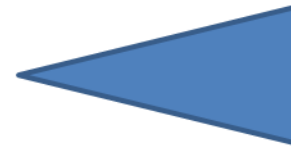


But I tell you.. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,



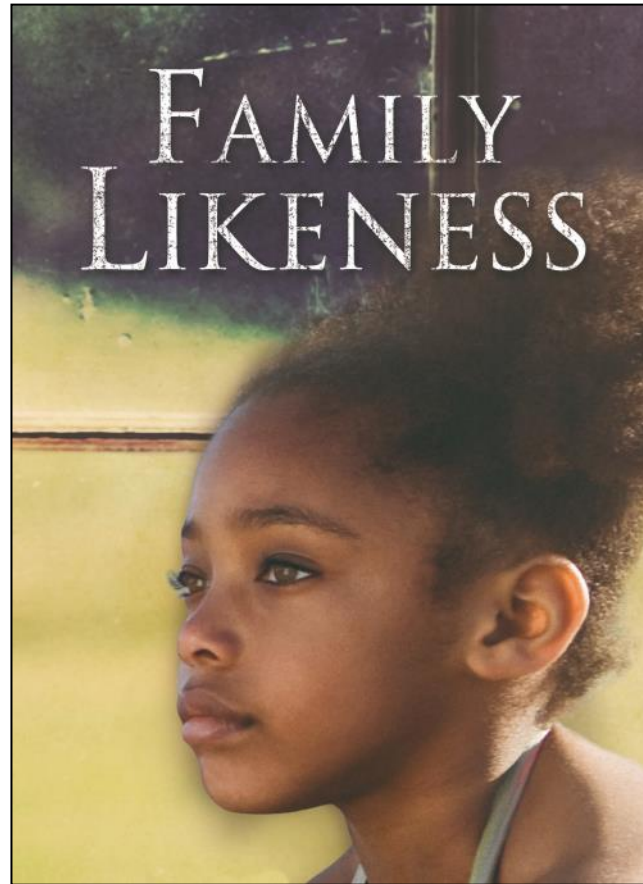
bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

bad



worse

But I tell you.. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.**



# What does 'love your enemies' mean ?

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good,  
and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.



**Blessing the undeserving and ungrateful**

# What does 'love your enemies' mean ?

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

For example ...



Be perfect, therefore,  
as your heavenly Father is perfect.



**We won't achieve this on our own !**

So the law was our guardian (personal tutor) until  
Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:24



# Freedom !

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Love does no harm to a neighbour.

Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

Romans 13:8 -10