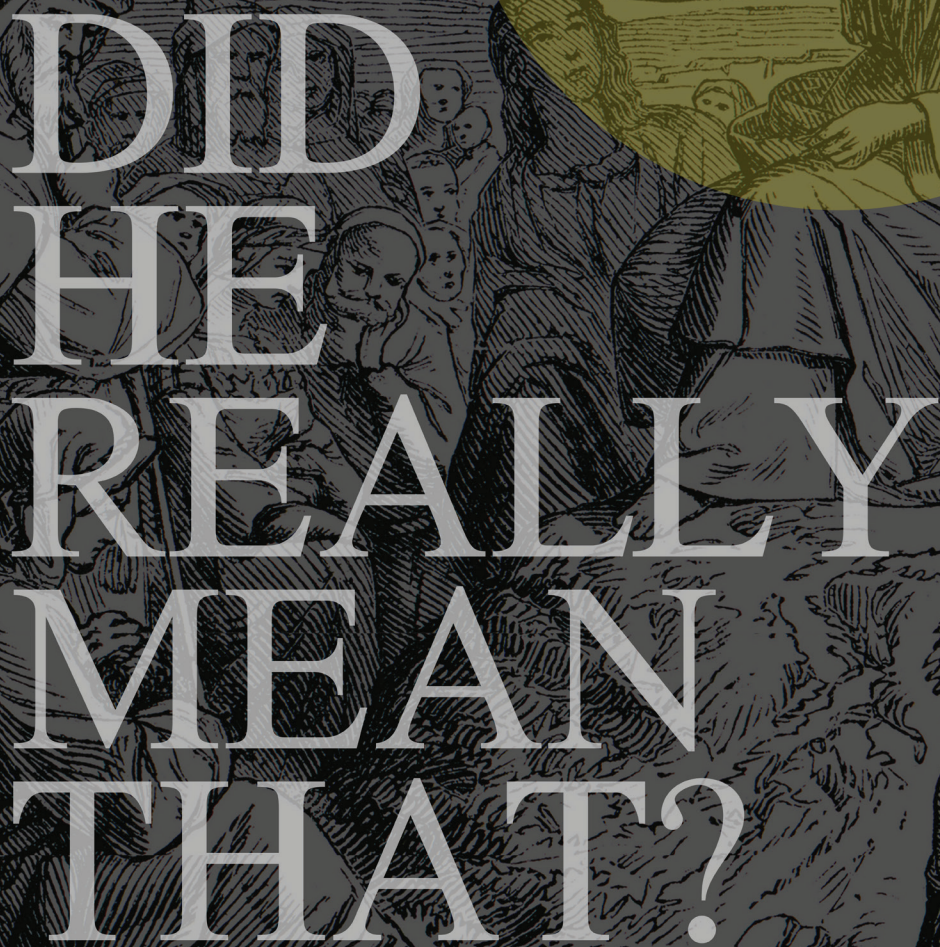


JUSTICE
INTERRUPTED
10



DID
HE
REALLY
MEAN
THAT?

A STUDY ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.38-42 NRSV

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

- Matthew 5.38-42 NRSV

PRAY: Father, please search my heart and reveal to me any sense of security I find in self-reliance and self-protection instead of trusting you. In the discomfort of this passage, reveal to me the invitation you are extending for greater surrender to you.

EVENING

REVIEW: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.38a NRSV, Matthew 5.38a MSG

"You have heard that it was said..."

- Matthew 5.38a NRSV

"Here's another old saying that deserves a second look..."

- Matthew 5.38a MSG

PRAY: Father, there is much that I know and much that I don't know. May I even surrender my prior understanding of your scriptures to allow The Living Word to speak a fresh word of invitation and correction where needed. May my faith and confidence be in You and not in my best ideas of you. I need you more than I even know.

EVENING

REVIEW: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.38-39 NRSV

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also"

- Matthew 5.38-39 NRSV

PRAY: Father, I operate within my own ideas of justice and they often are justified. Please reveal to me the invitation to extend mercy and give me the wisdom and sensitivity to your Holy Spirit so I never confuse being complicit in abuse with mercy. Truly you are my protector and guide, help me to dismantle systems of abuse in our time but never be driven by vengeance.

EVENING

REVIEW: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.40 NRSV, Matthew 6.25-33 NRSV

"...and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well"

- Matthew 5.40 NRSV

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- Matthew 6.25-33 NRSV

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.41 NRSV

"...and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile"

- Matthew 5.41 NRSV

PRAY: Father, many of us do not know what being forced to do anything is like. Give us eyes to see the people in our society who are on the underside of power. May we walk alongside them trusting that following you is the path of downward mobility resulting in the lifting up of the oppressed and the poor. Your Kingdom come and will be done, Oh God.

EVENING

REVIEW: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

SATURDAY//

OCTOBER 16TH

MORNING

READ | Matthew 5.42 NRSV

"Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you"

– Matthew 5.42 NRSV

PRAY: Father, seriously? This doesn't seem wise at all. Please help me to see the Imago Dei in the eyes of the beggar and may I learn to give freely to those that desire to borrow from me. I need a lot of help on this. Help!

EVENING

REVIEW: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

Look back at all the verses, prayers and meditations this week. Spend some additional time with whatever was most helpful.

EVENING

COMMIT: Spend time with someone you love. Call them on the phone, take them out to dinner, just relax with them.



Beaches Vineyard
CHURCH

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