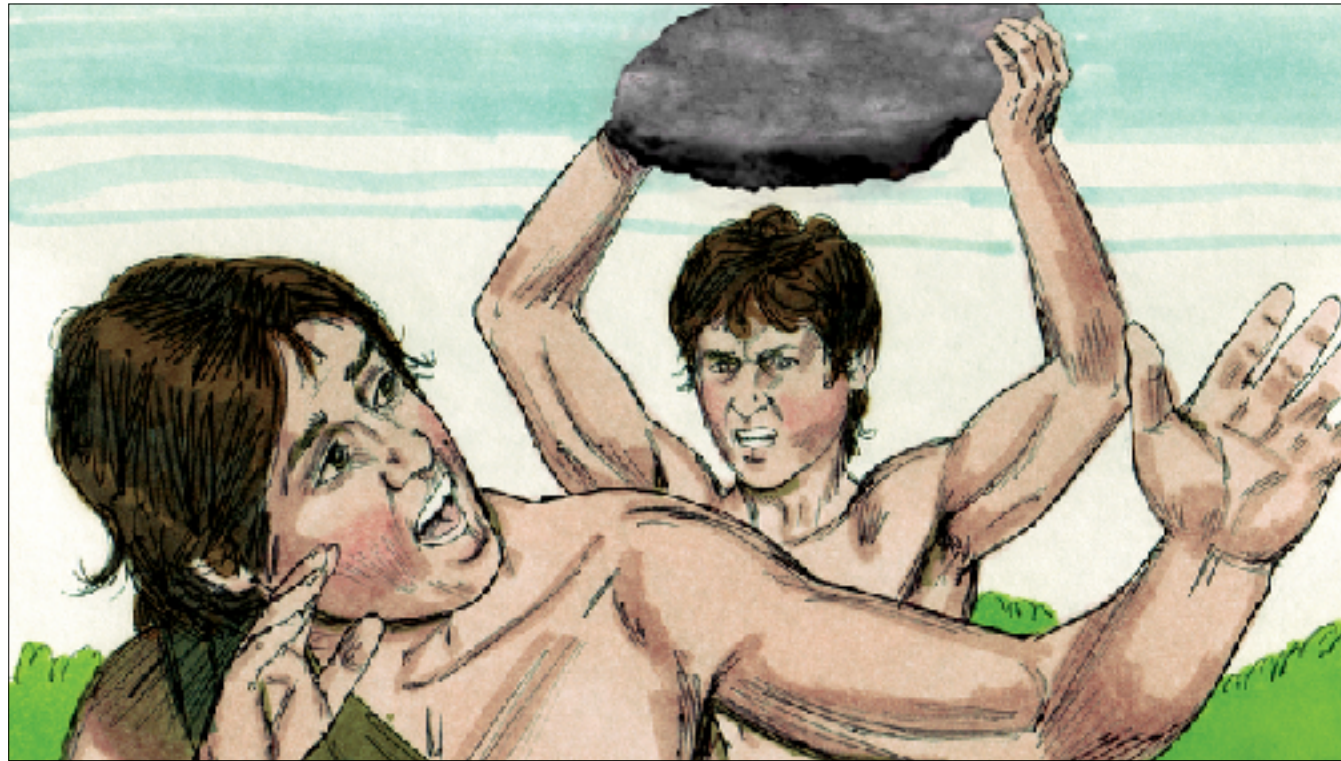
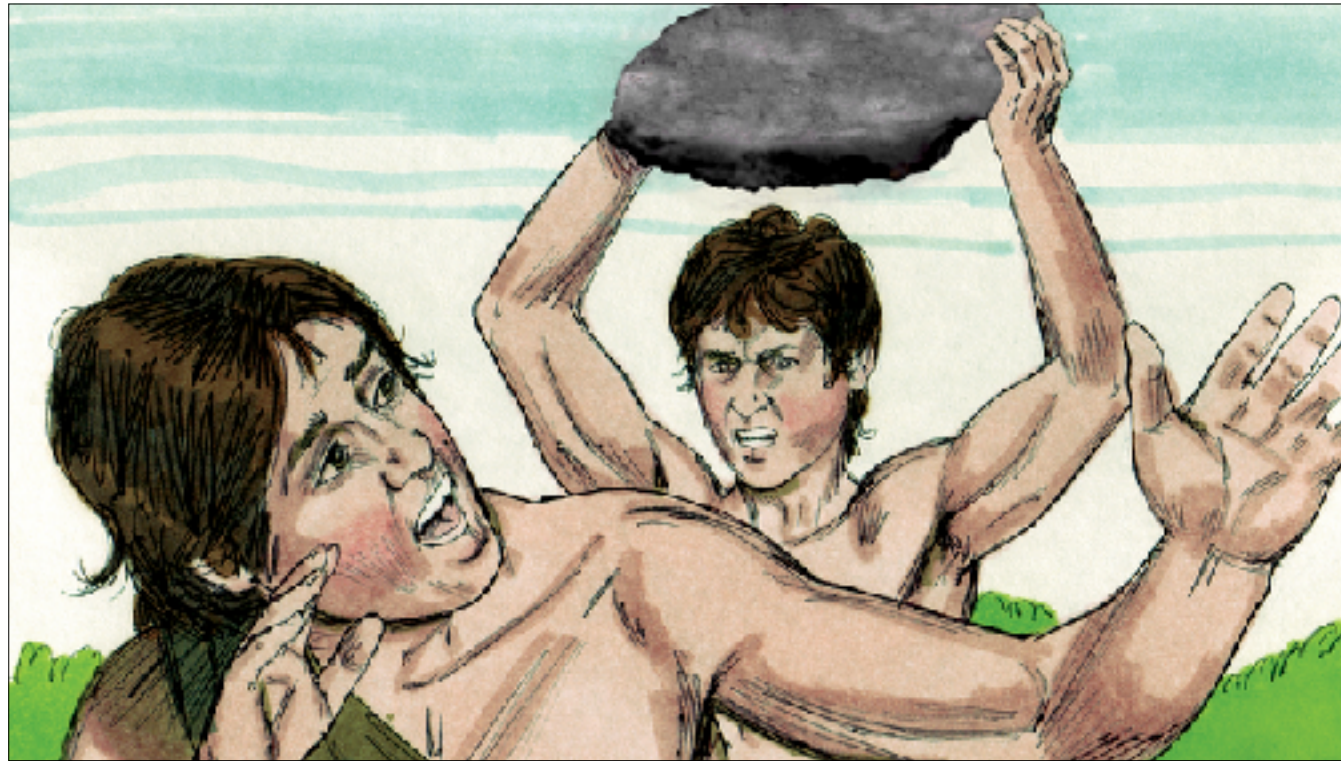




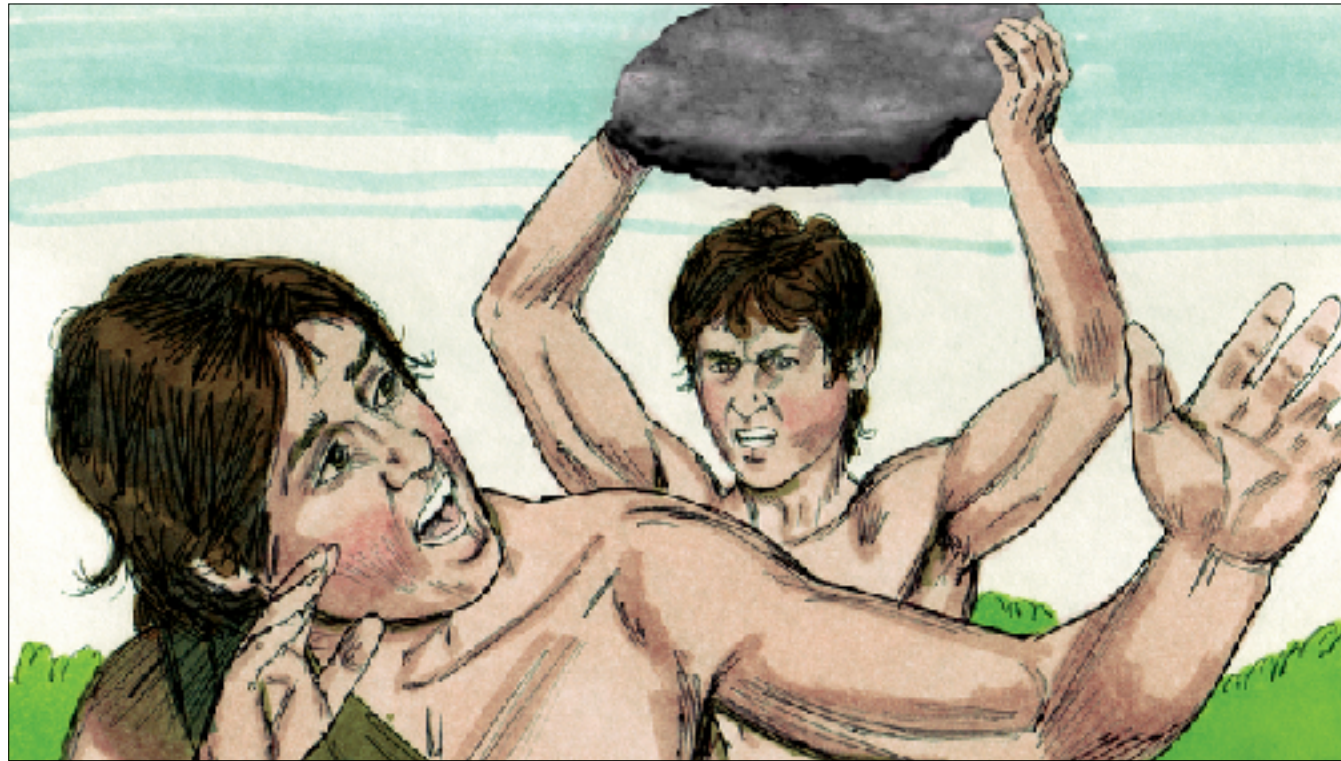
- Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:15-23
 - Genesis 4:23-24



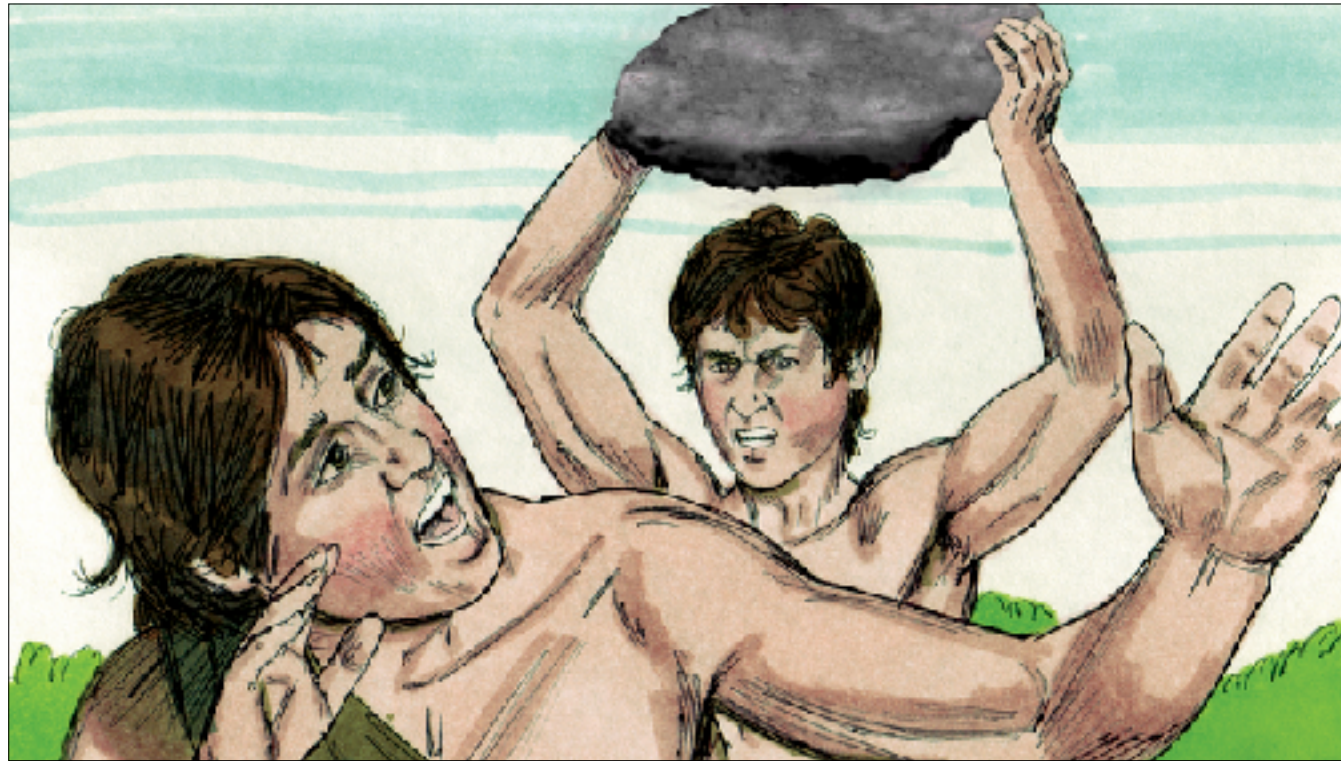
- Cain kills Abel
 - Genesis 4:8: Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.



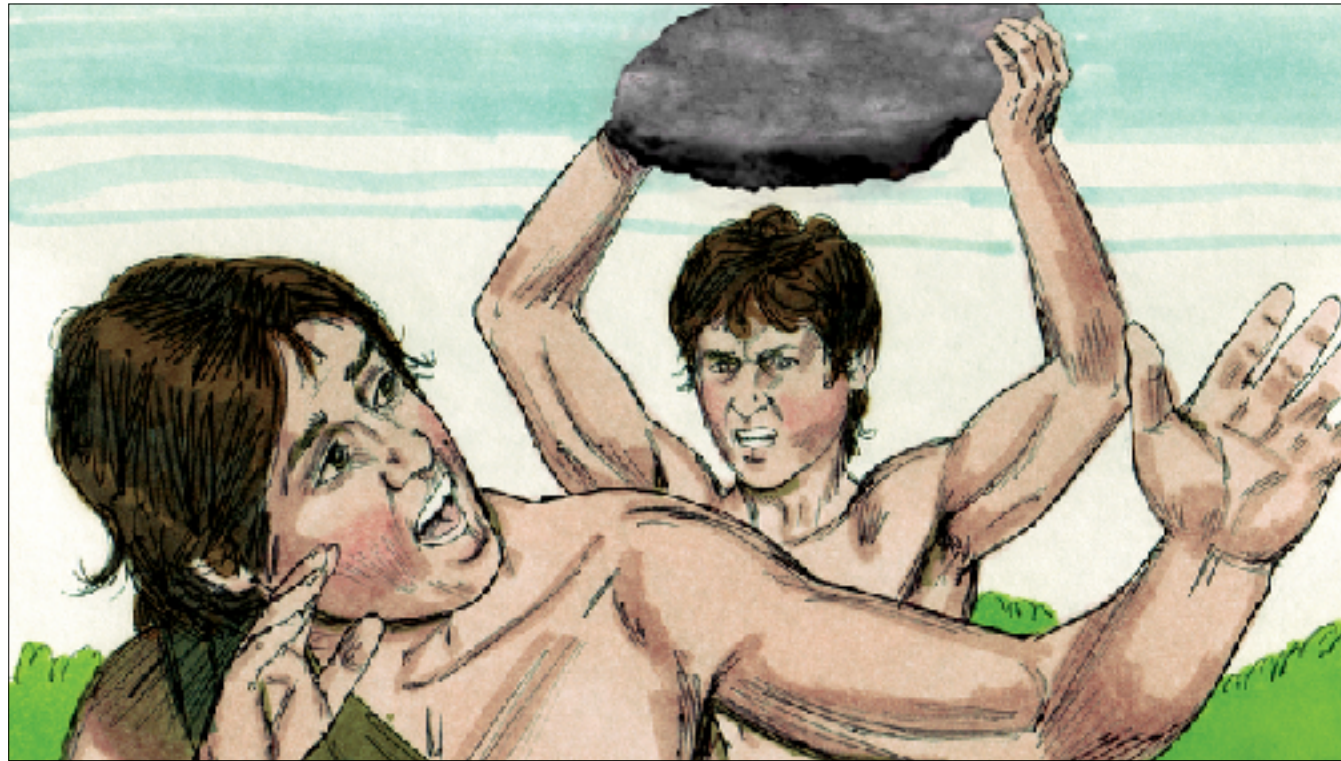
- Cain fears reprisal: Genesis 4:14-16
- Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and **whoever finds me will kill me.**” Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, **lest any who found him should attack him.** Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



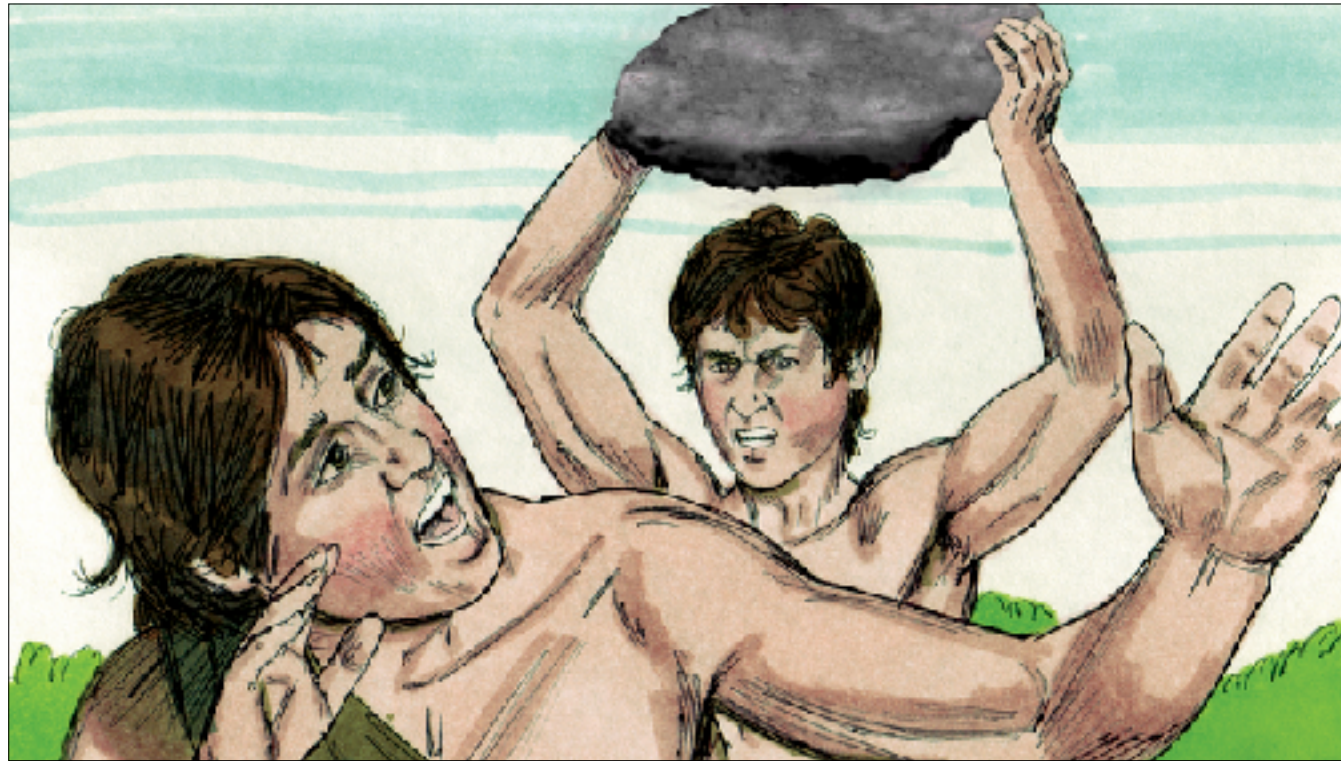
- Lamech kills a man for wounding him
 - Genesis 4:23-24: Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: **I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.** If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”



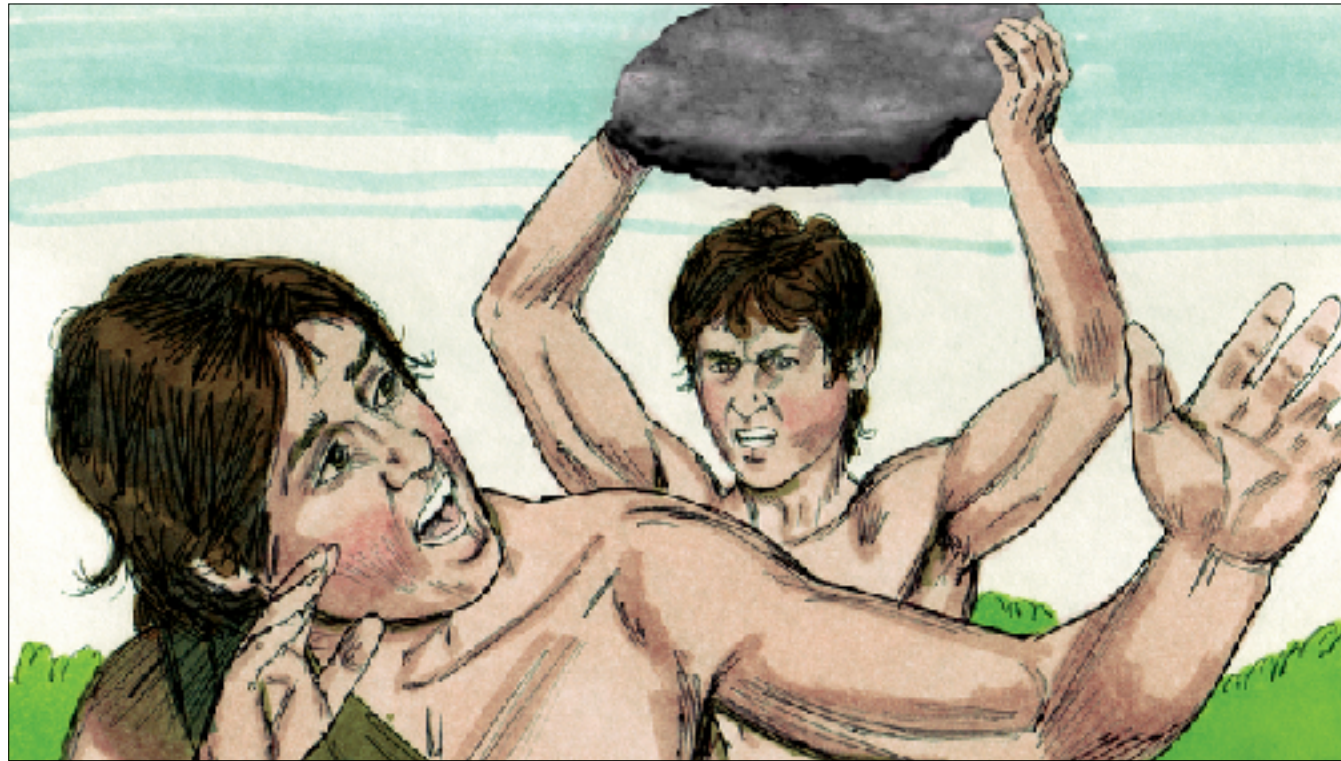
- Violence of the world at the time of Noah
 - Genesis 6:11-12: Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.



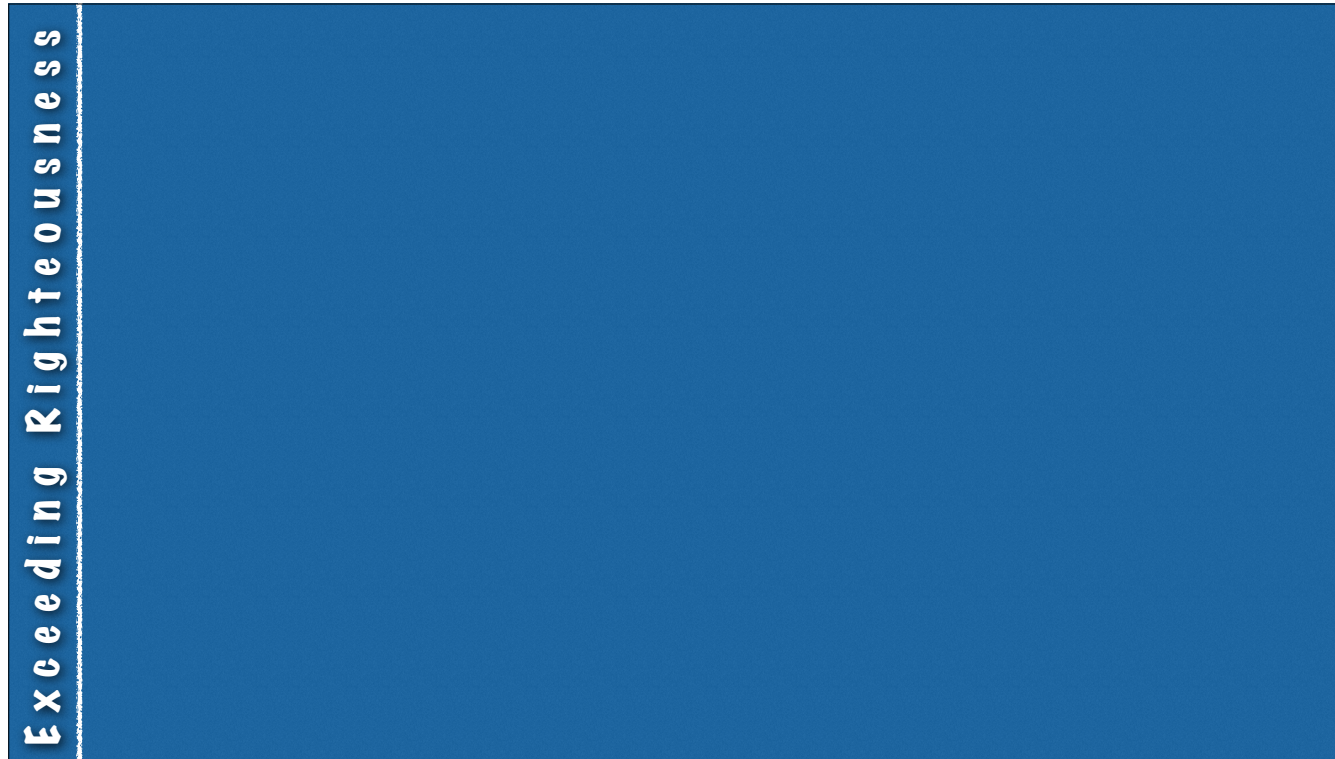
- Jerusalem's Ezekiel 7:23: "Forge a chain! For the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence."



- We live in a violent world still
 - The common response to violence against me is to seek vengeance, revenge, justice where there has been no justice.
 - We often speak and think in terms of the right of the victim to have deal with those who have wronged them.



- So many of the movies we watch involve someone being wronged and then how they get back at that one: we often find ourselves cheering for them, approving their violence



- Fourth Example of True Righteousness: Matthew 5:38-42
 - This one we struggle with.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

- Exodus 21:22-25 (ESV) 22 “When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the **judges** determine. 23 But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

- Leviticus 24:17-23 (ESV) 17 “**Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death.** 18 Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life. 19 **If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him,** 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him. 21 Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death. 22 You shall have the **same rule** for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the Lord your God.”

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

- Deuteronomy 19:15-21 (ESV) 15 “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on **the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established**. 16 If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, 17 then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the Lord, before the **priests** and the **judges** who are in office in those days. 18 The **judges** shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, 19 then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. 20 And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you. 21 **Your eye shall not pity**. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

- Its original aim was definitely and deliberately limited vengeance.
 - If any harm is done to us, the immediate natural instinct is to hit back, and not only that, but to do more than hit back.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

- The object of that law was not to urge men to take an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and to insist upon it every time; it was simply meant to avoid this horrible excess, this terrible spirit of revenge and demand for retribution, and to check it and hold it within bounds
 - The punishment must fit the crime **and** not be in excess of it.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”
Exodus 21:22-25

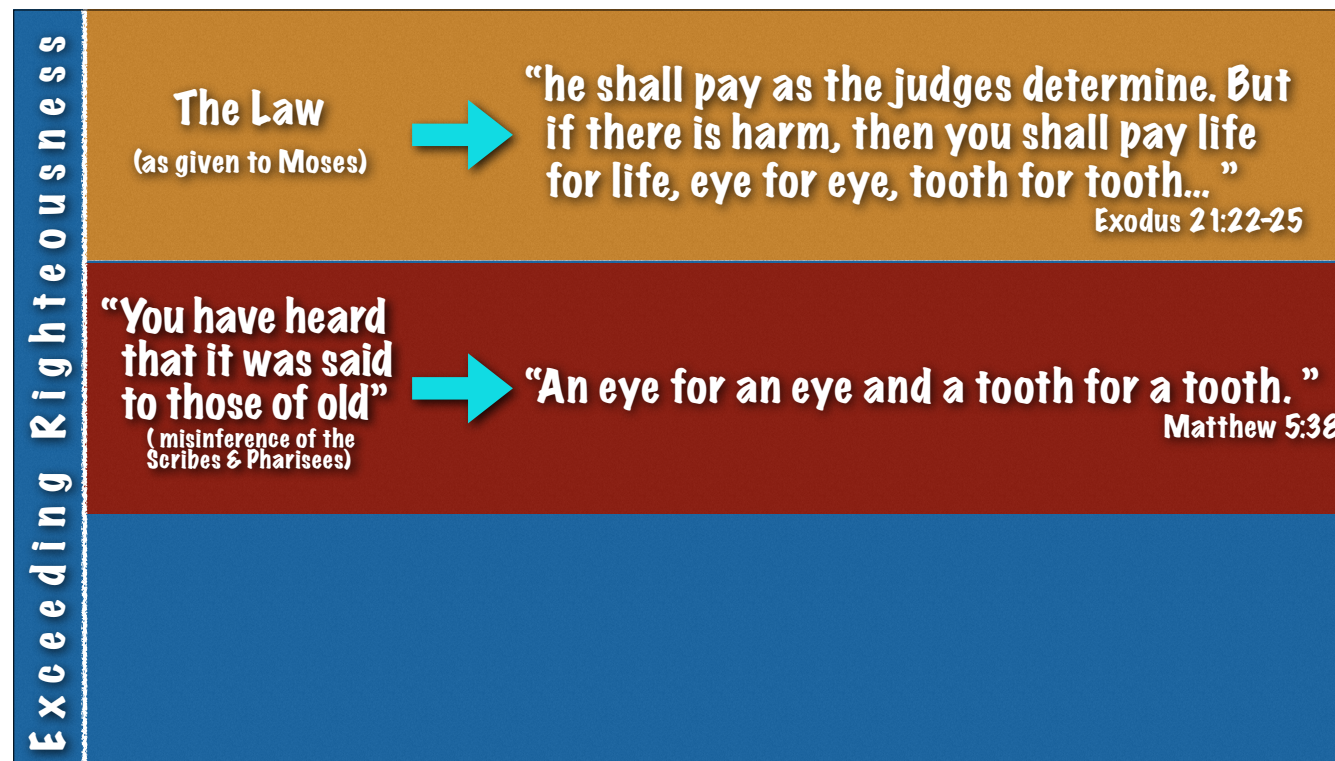
- Exodus 21:26-27 (ESV) 26 “When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. 27 If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.

Exceeding Righteousness

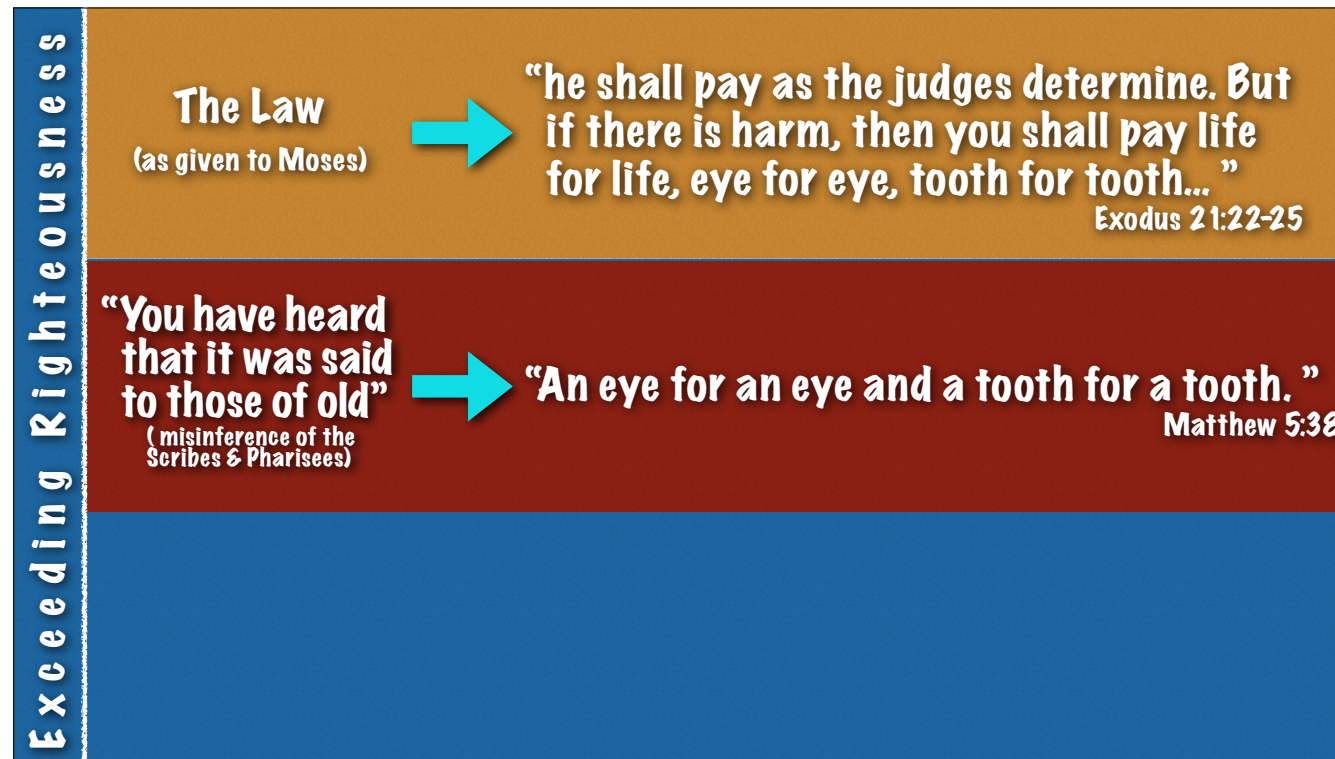
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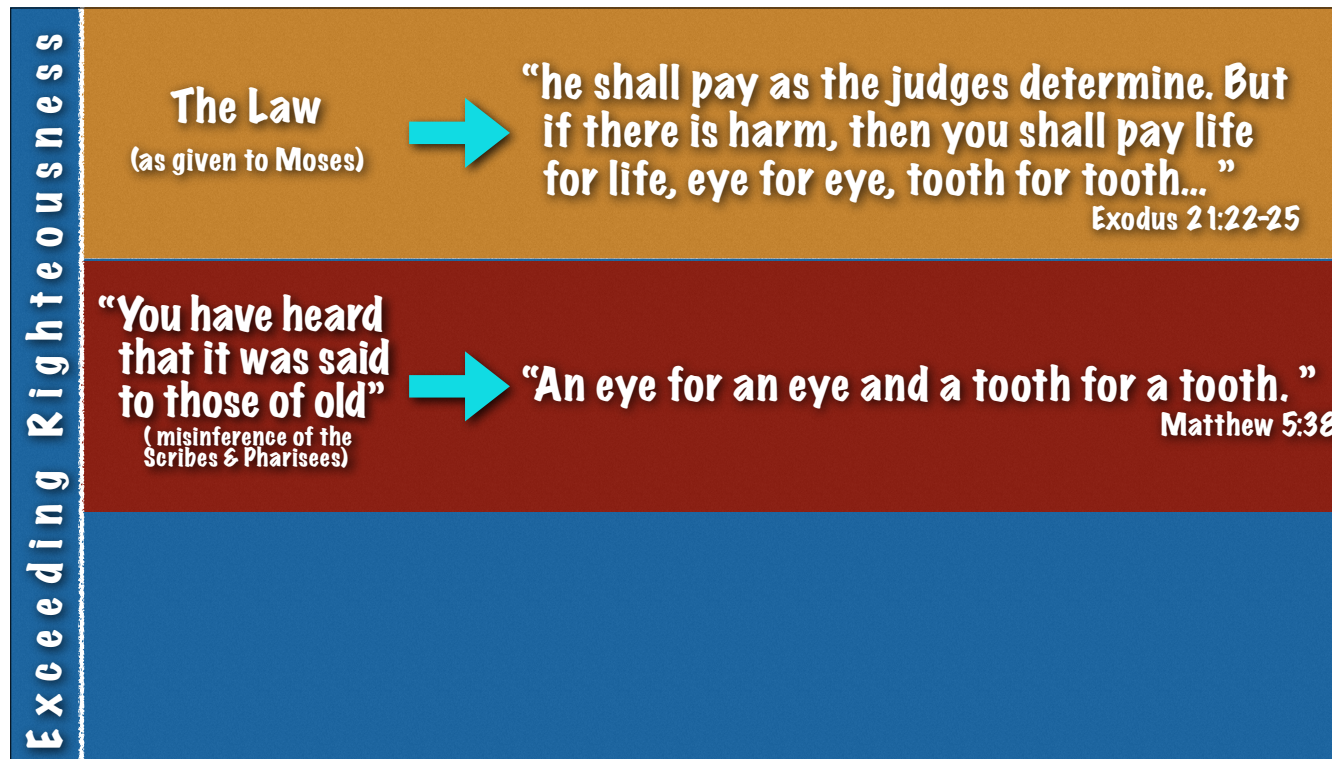
- This was never a law which gave a private individual the right to exact vengeance.
 - A judge in the law court must assess punishment and penalty.
 - Its main object was to introduce this element of justice and of righteousness into a chaotic condition and to take from man the tendency to take the law into his own hands and to do anything he likes.



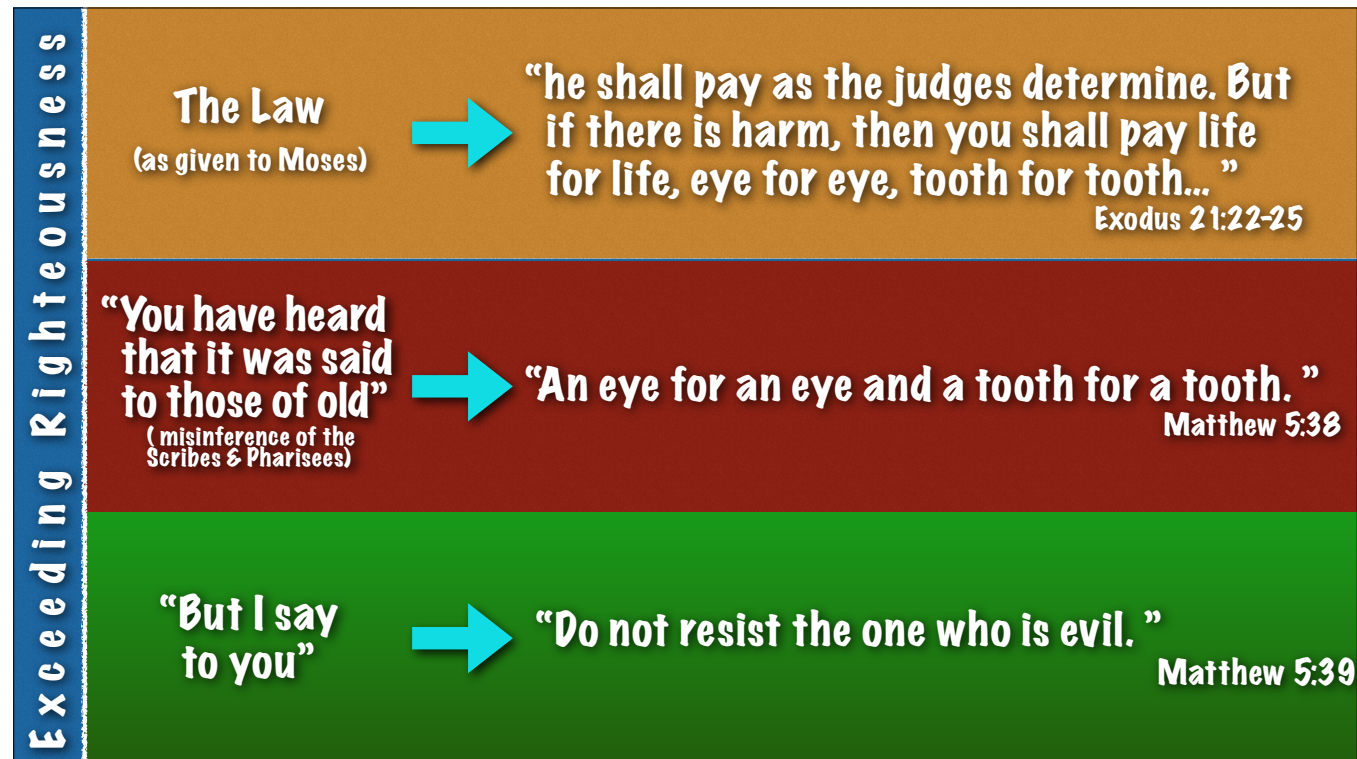
- The Pharisees tended to ignore entirely the fact that this teaching was for the judges only.
 - They made it a matter for personal application, a matter of right and duty to have 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'



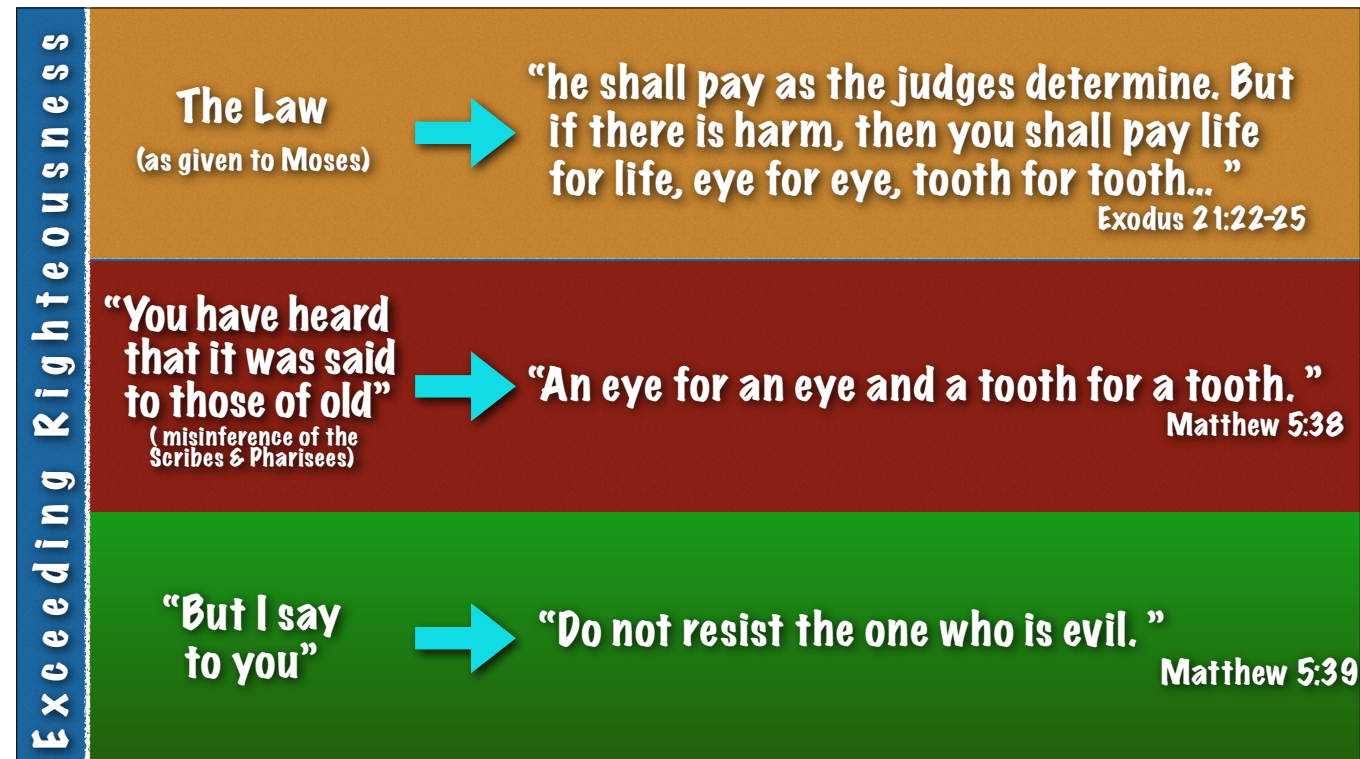
- But they ignored other commands...
 - Leviticus 19:17-18 (ESV) 17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



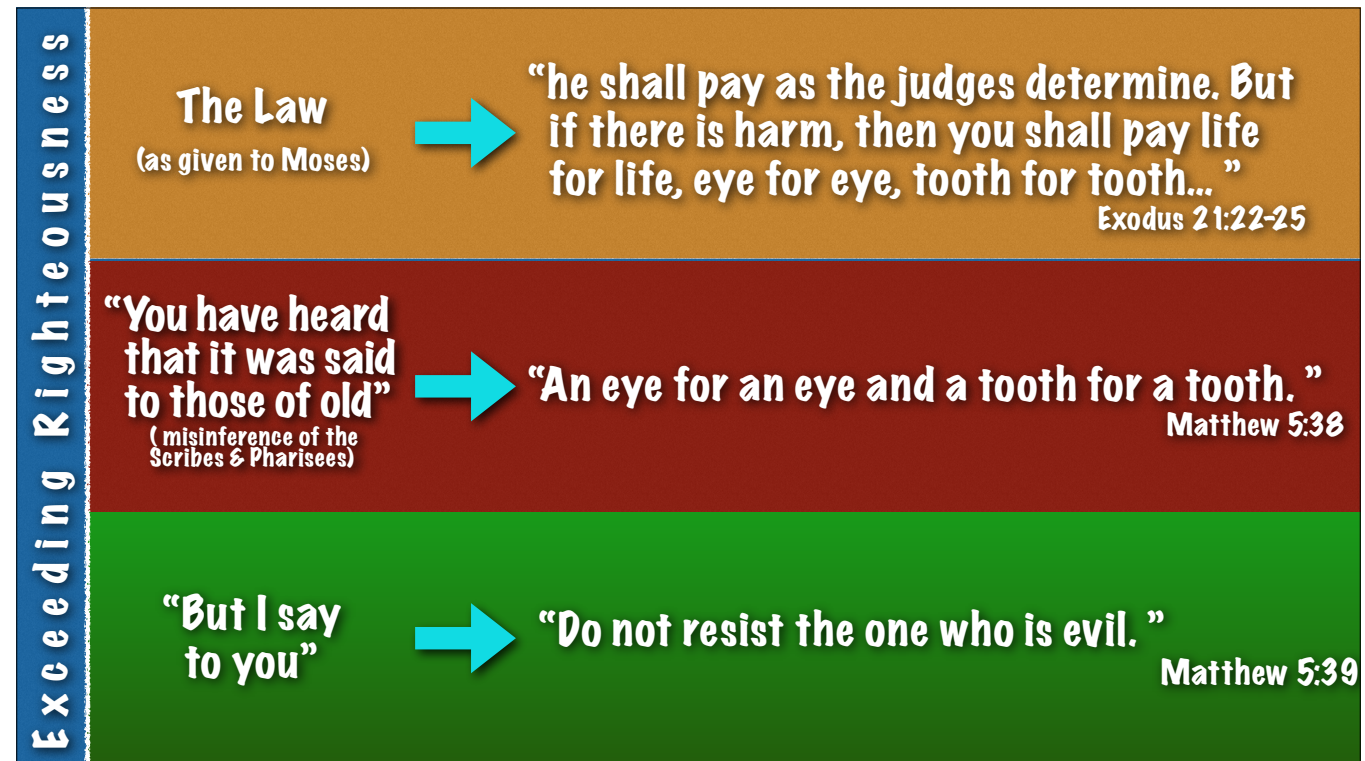
- To them it was something to be insisted upon rather than something which restrained.
- It was an outlook which thought only of one's own rights.
- The question became "How far may my personal retaliation extend, without breaking the law?"



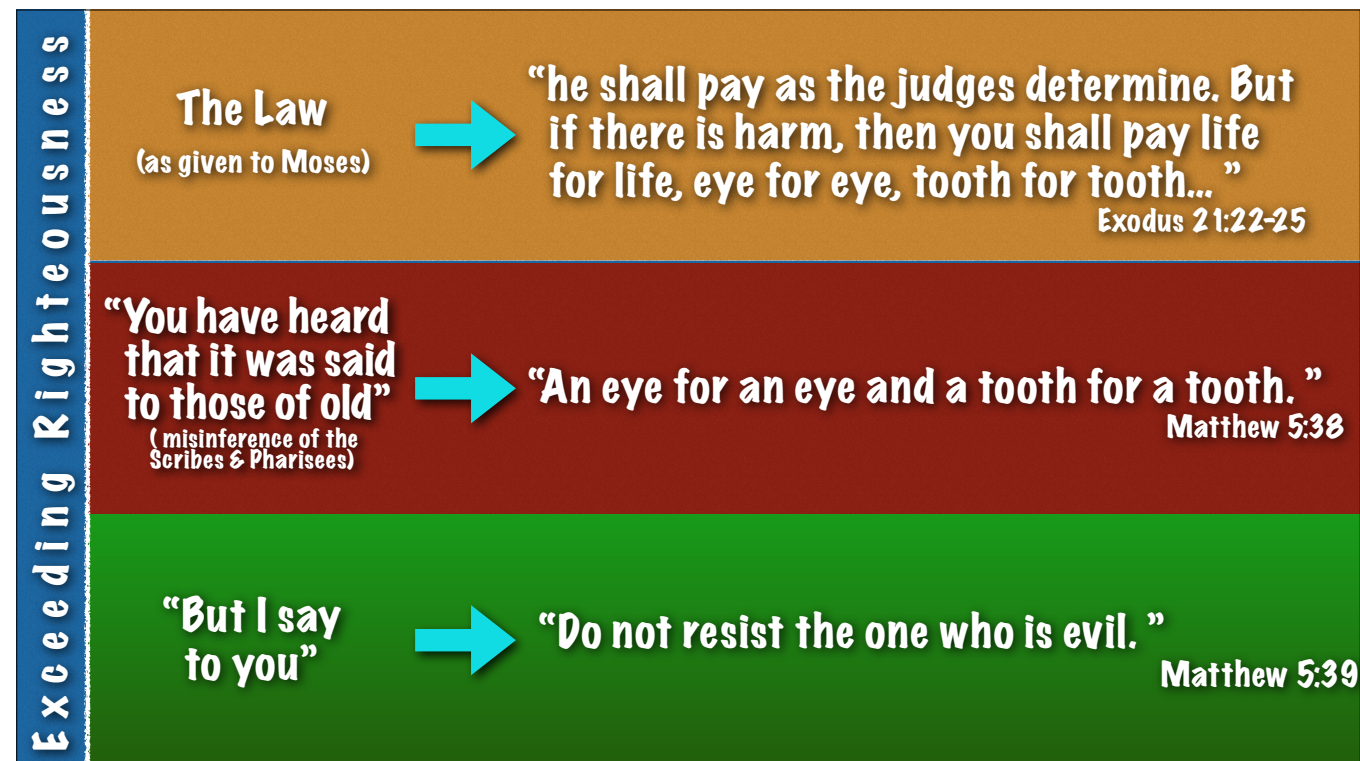
- Do not resist (withstand, oppose) the one who is evil
 - MED: Believers are urged to stand firm and "resist" the devil (Eph. 6:13; Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9).



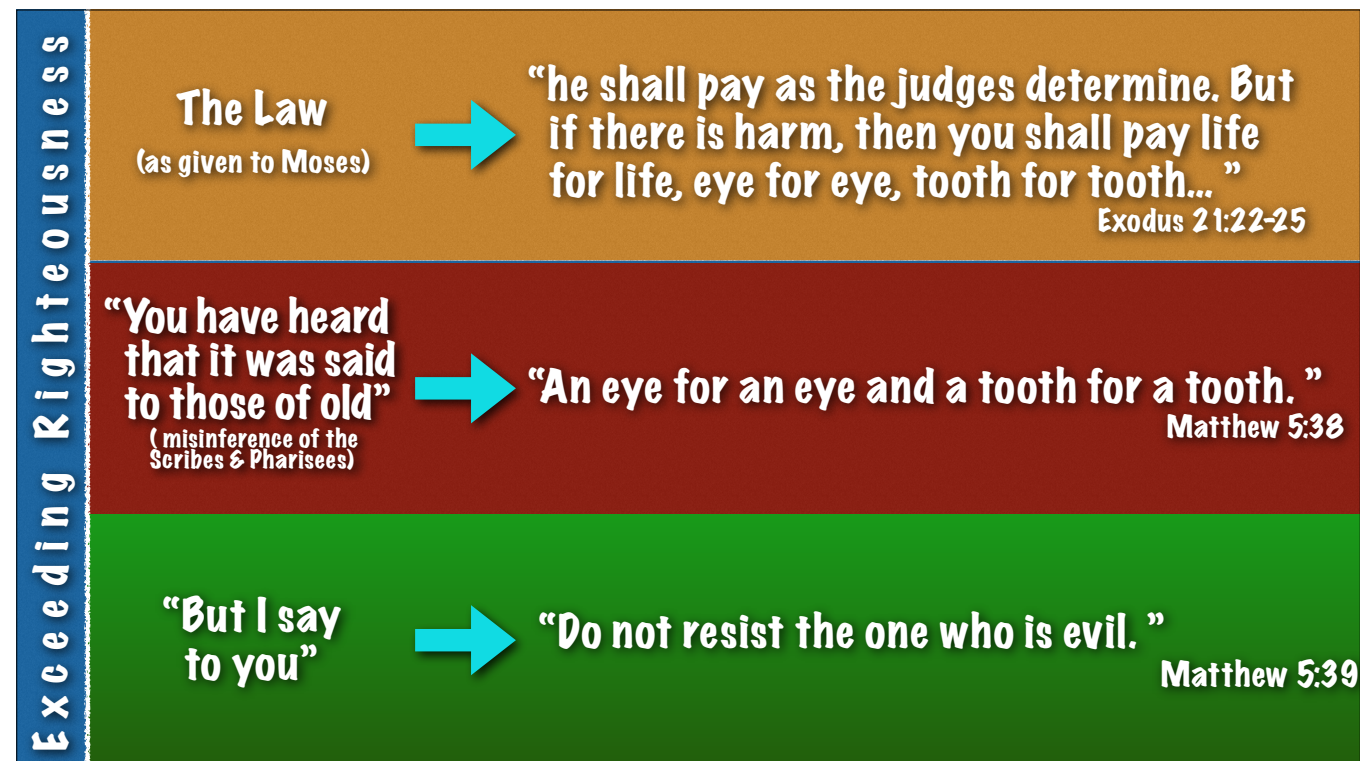
- four specific examples
 - Our tendency is to **oppose** the evil one; feel justified in "taking a stand"
 - Consider... what is our "normal" reaction to the one who is evil or who does evil to us?
 - normal = as taught by the world: based in self (defense, we rationalize); negative emotions; revenge, hatred, get even)



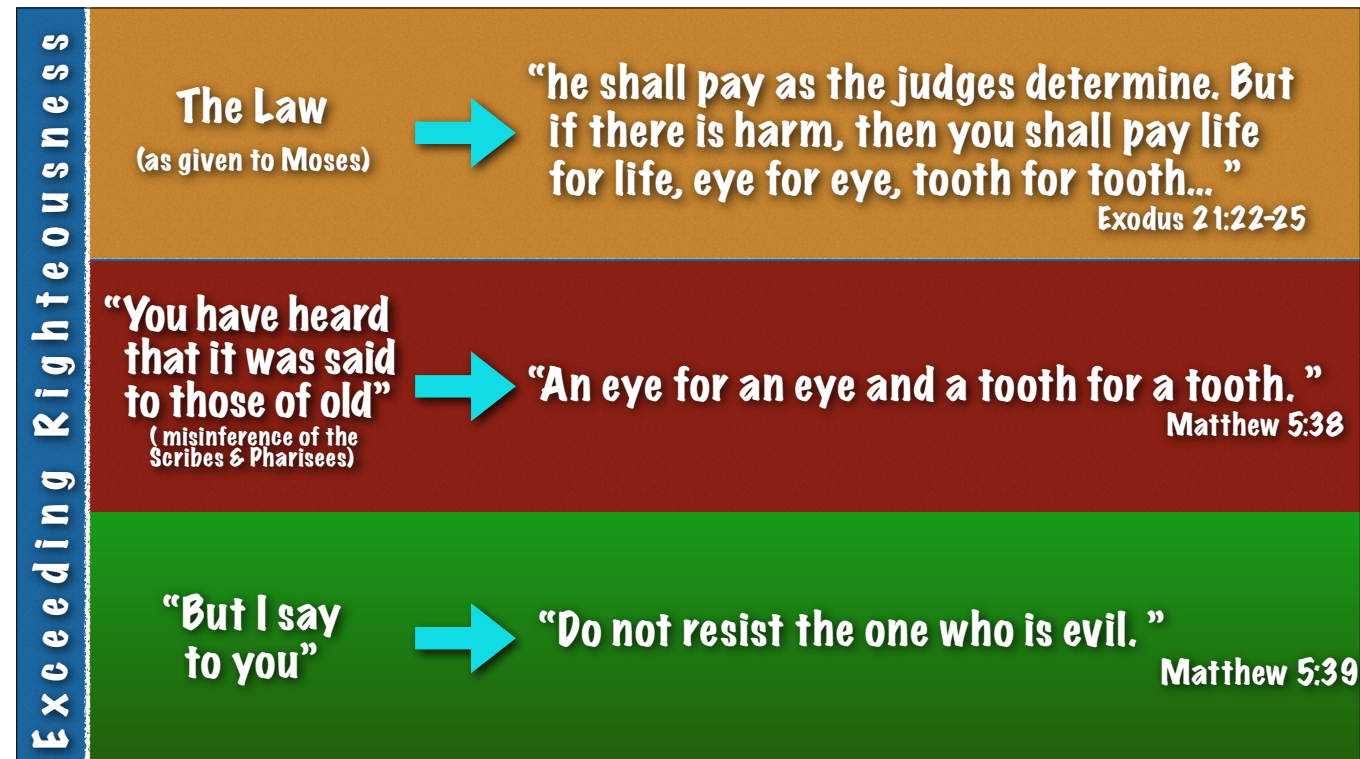
- Going further, we wonder what this really means...
 - completely passive, and cannot defend even from a criminal?
- Defense
 -



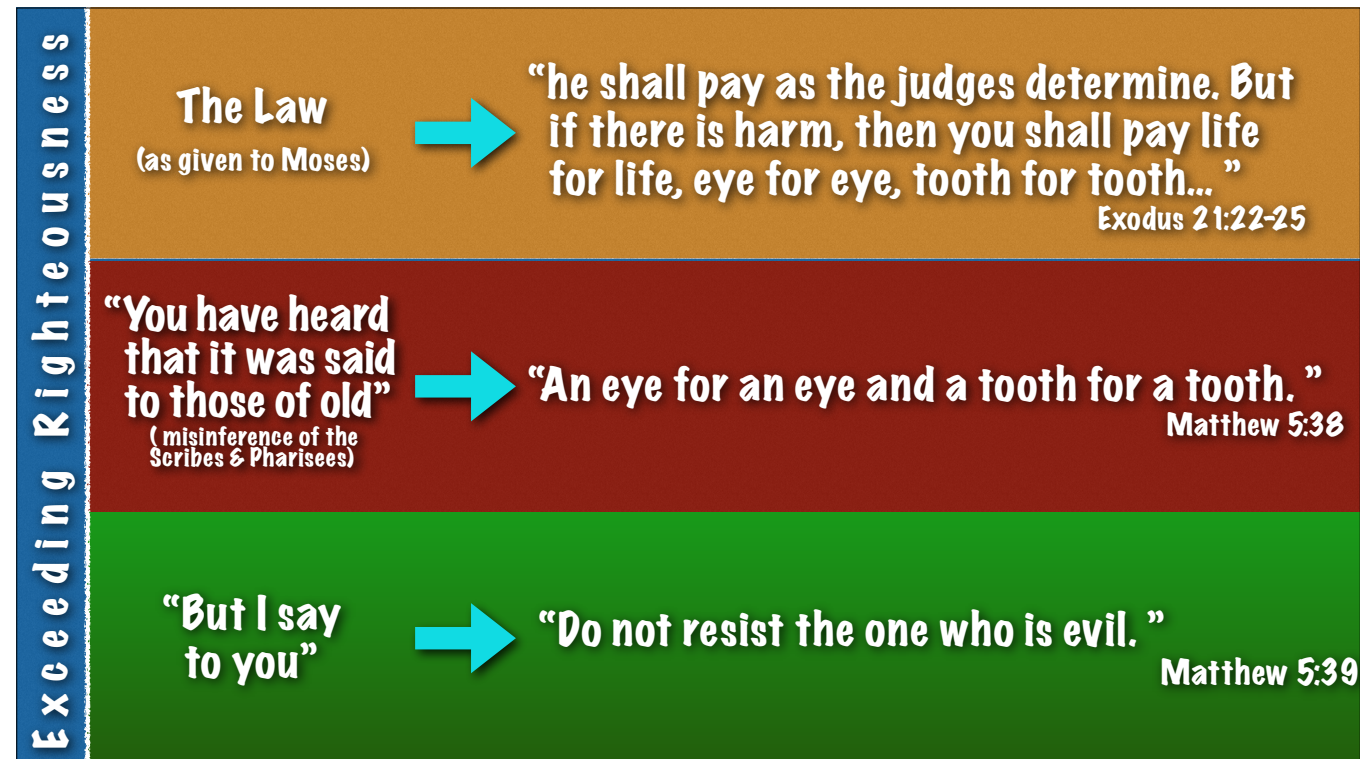
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 - Going further, we wonder what this really means...
 - completely passive, and cannot defend even from a criminal?
- Defense
 - Luke 22:36-38: He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. **And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.** 37 For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment." 38 And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."
 - John 18:10-11: Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, **"Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"**
 - John 18:22-23: When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"
 - Acts 16:35-40: But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to



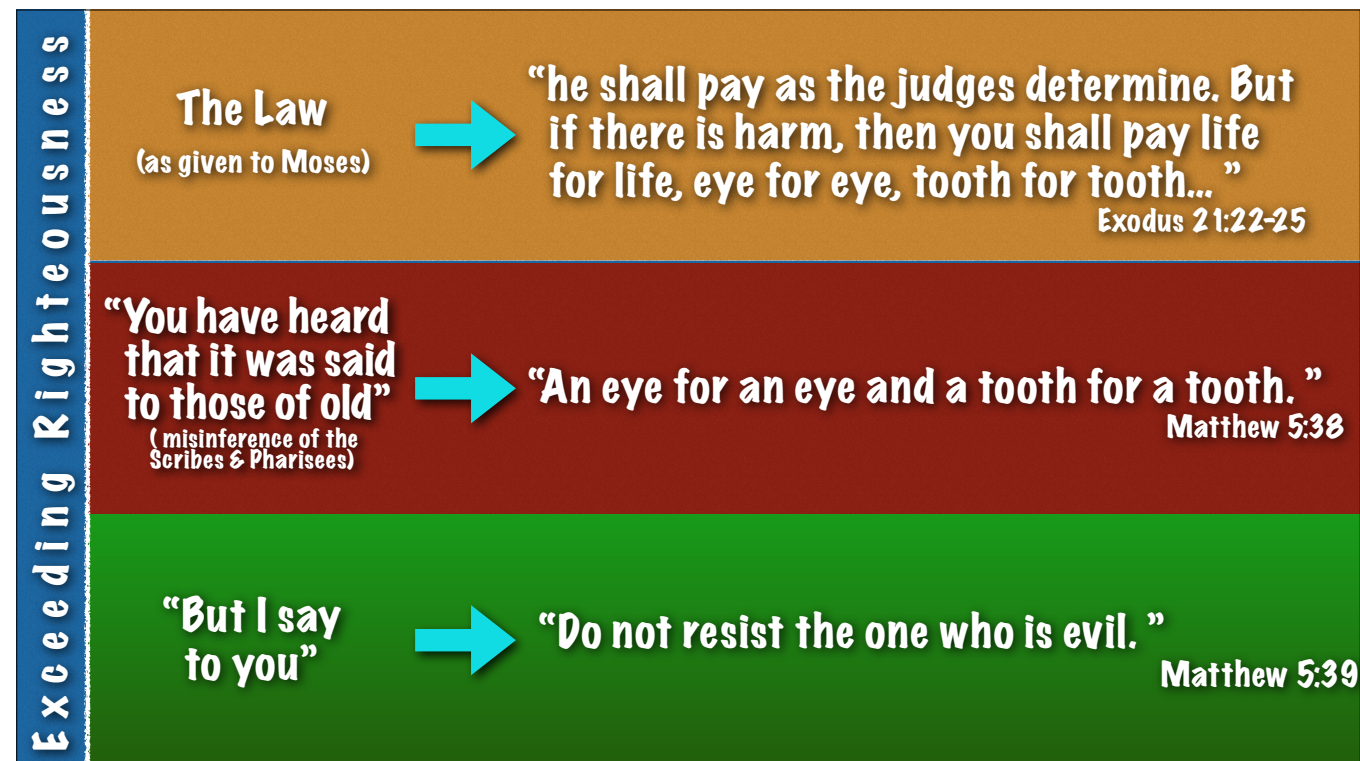
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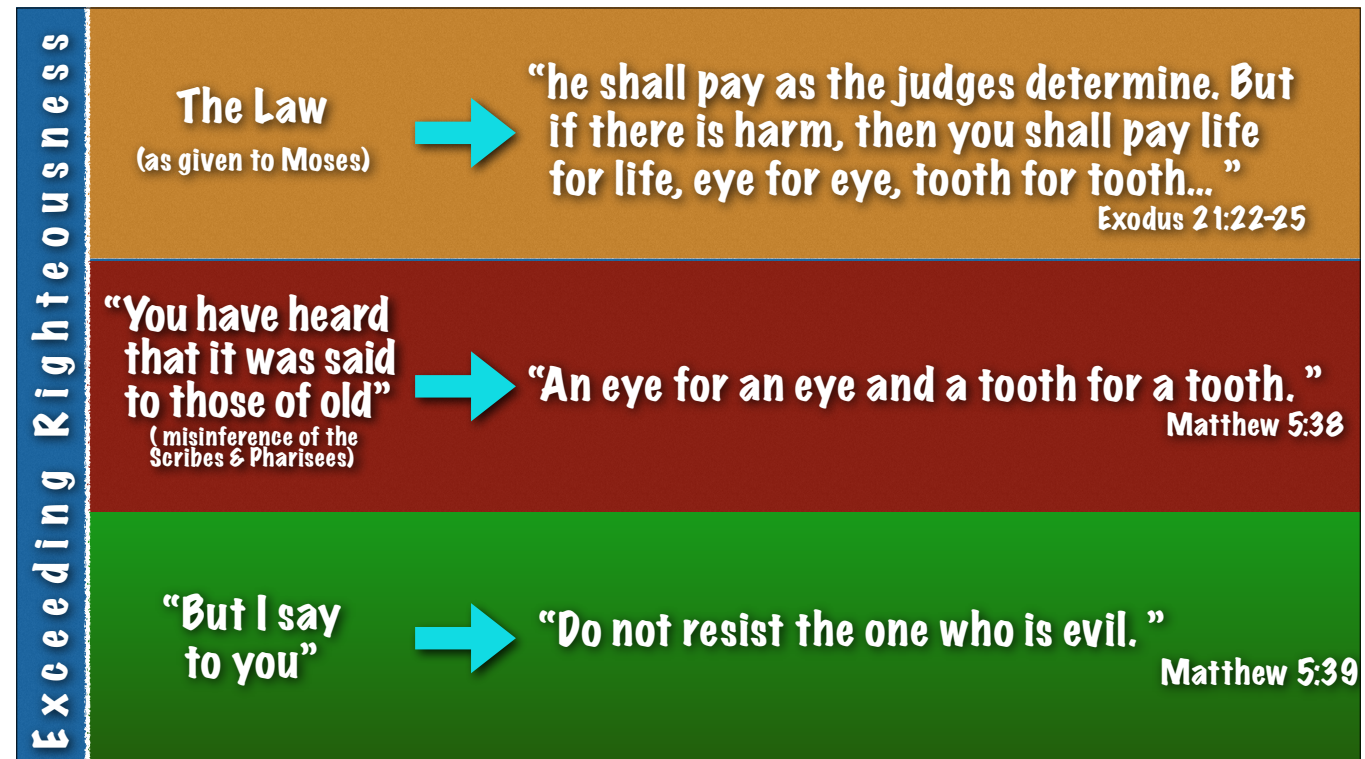
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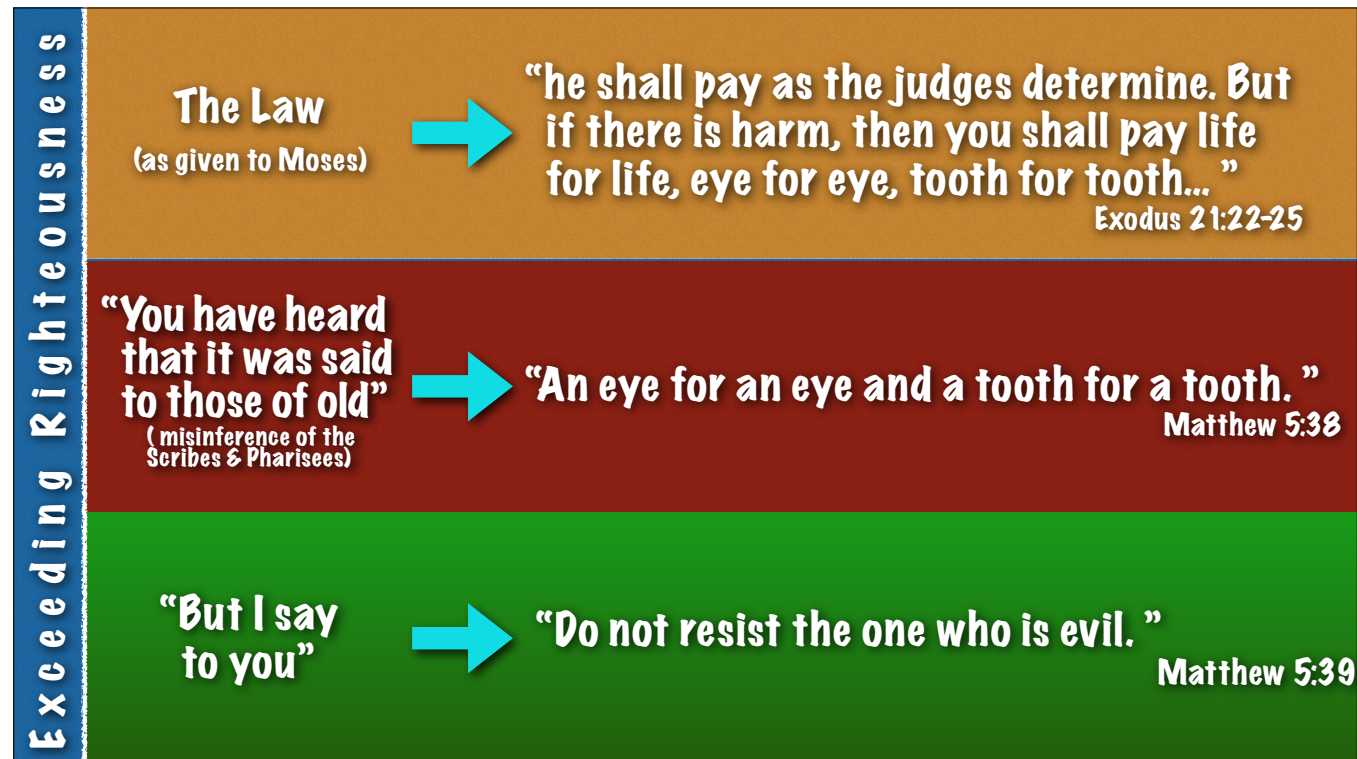
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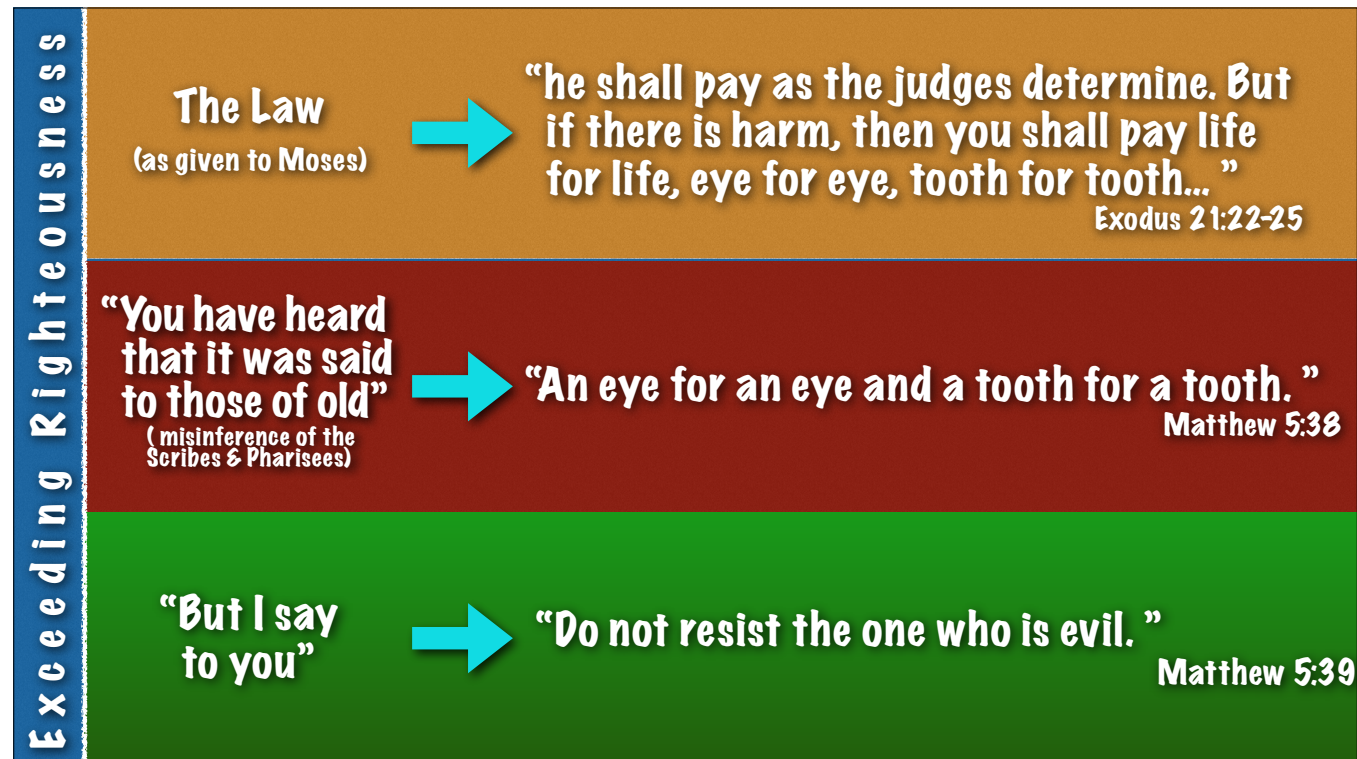
- 39: But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- turn cheek -- seeking retaliation
 - This speaks directly to the eye for an eye.
 - If you hit me, I have the right to hit you back.
 - defending my honor
 - protecting myself
 - really... vengeance?



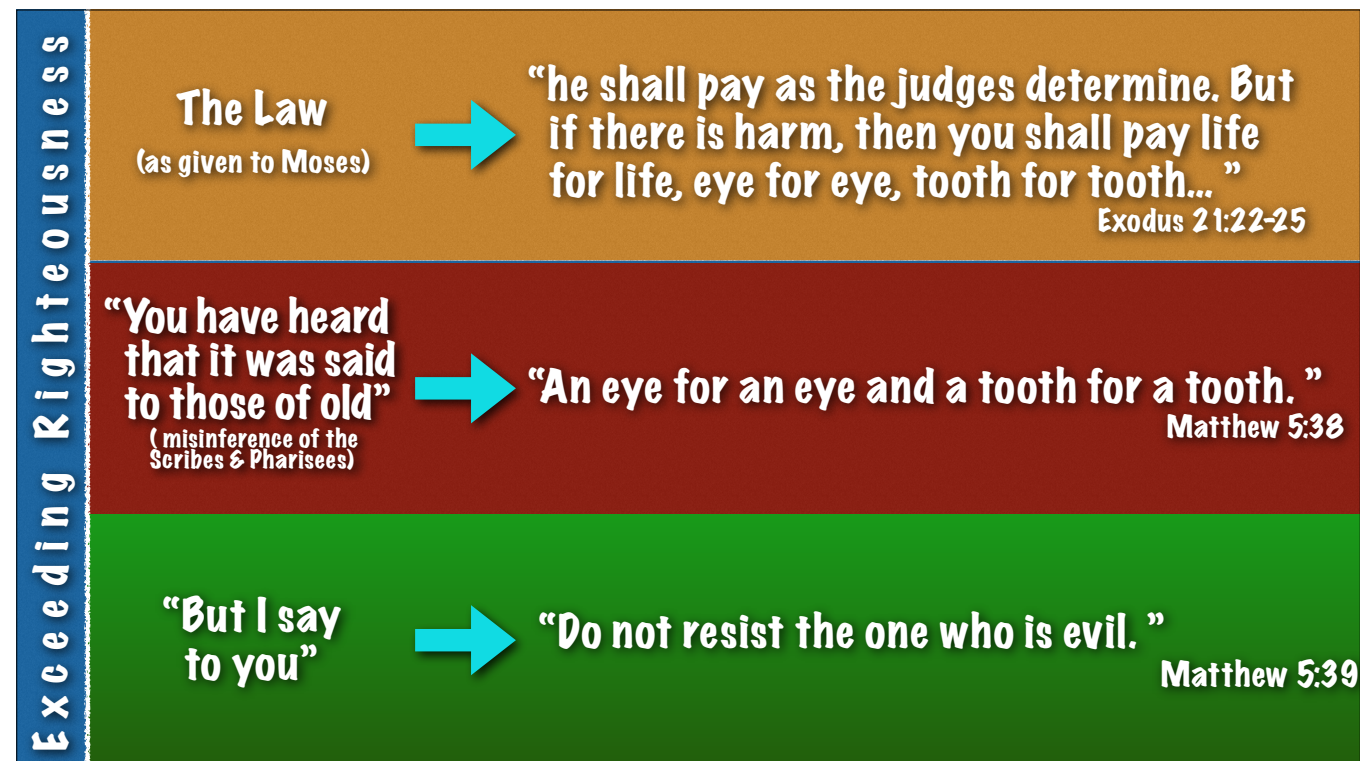
- Jesus' example
 - 1 Peter 2:23: When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.



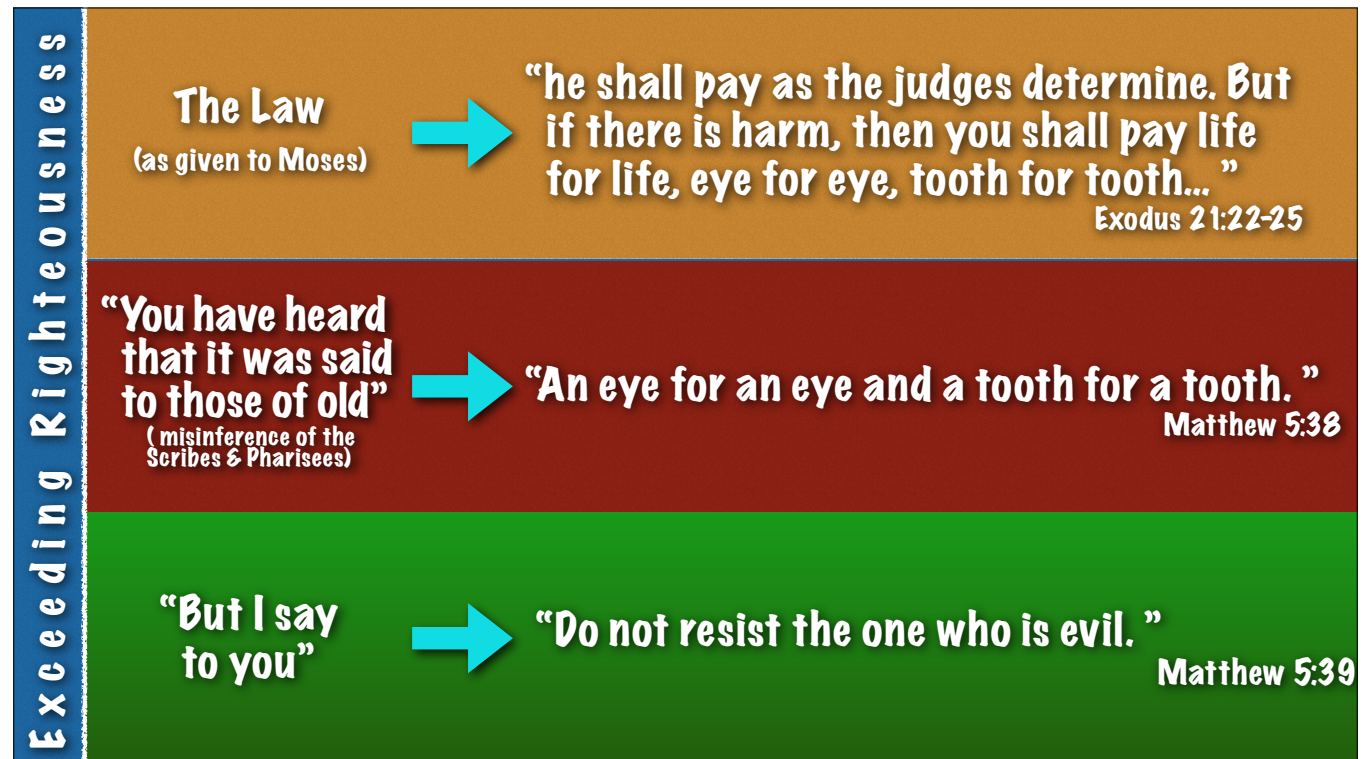
- WHY?
- entrusting
 - (CWSB Dictionary) delivered over to the charge, care, or kindness of someone, in the general sense of giving up, committing, entrusting
- God judges justly!



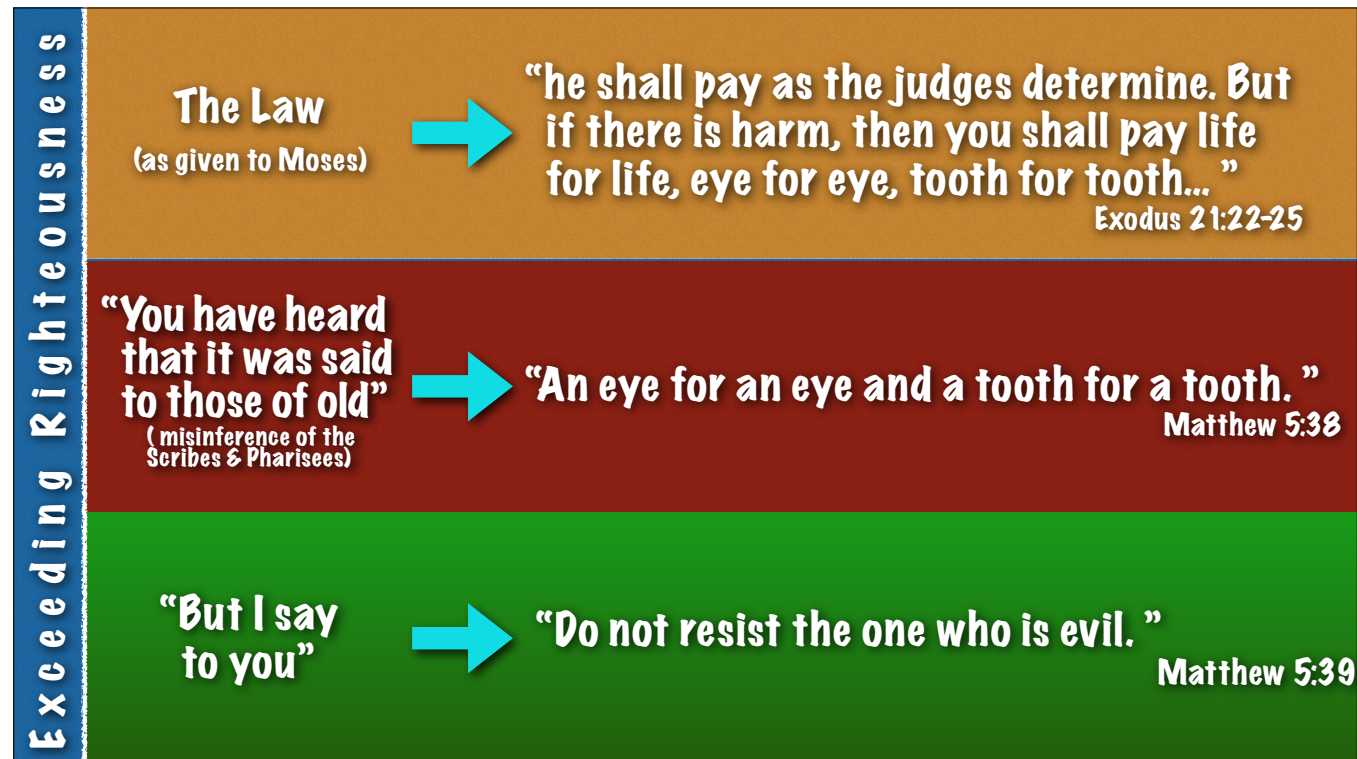
- When I entrust myself to God...
 - I don't have to defend myself
 - I don't need vengeance
 - My Father will take care of me...
 - Romans 8:31-39



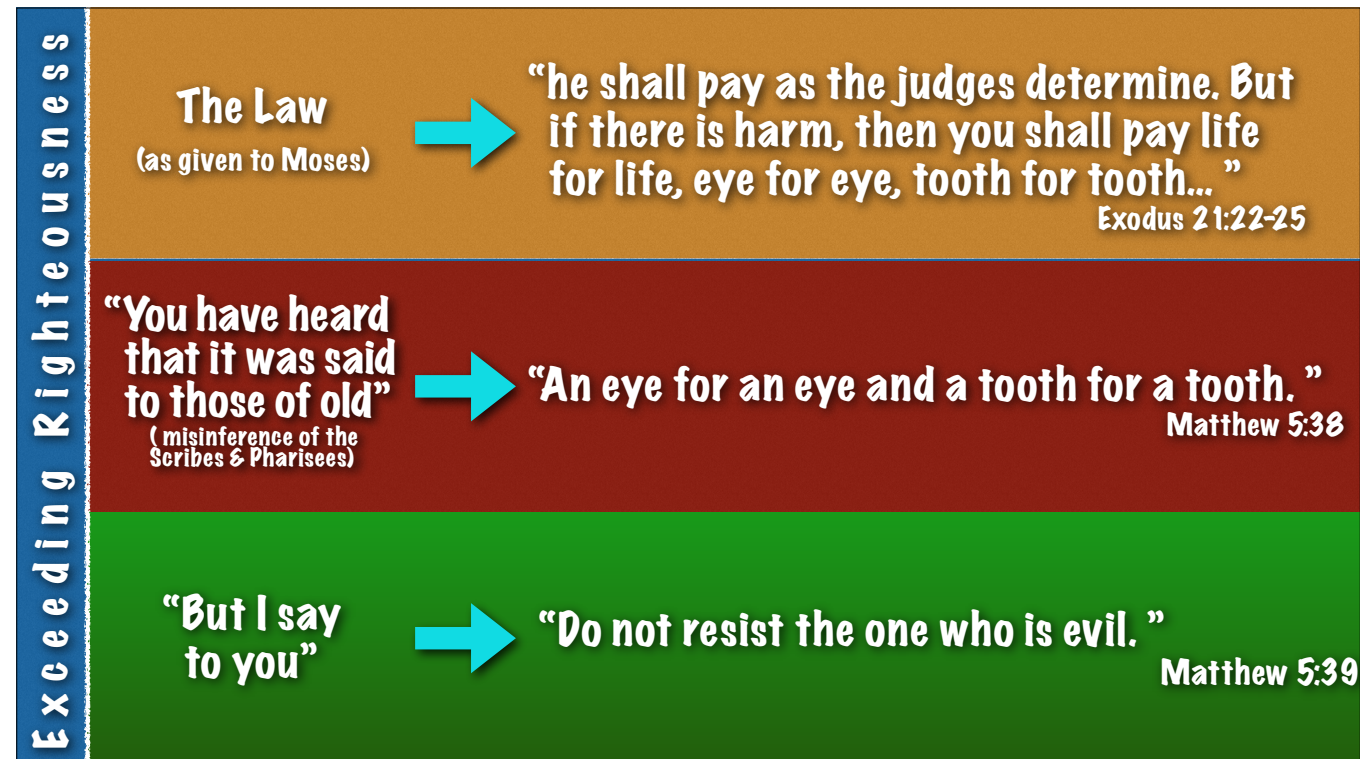
- Romans 8:31-39 (ESV) 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



- So we need to completely change our attitude, be more like Jesus
 - don't easily take offense
 - don't seek to retaliate
 - trust in your Father's care.



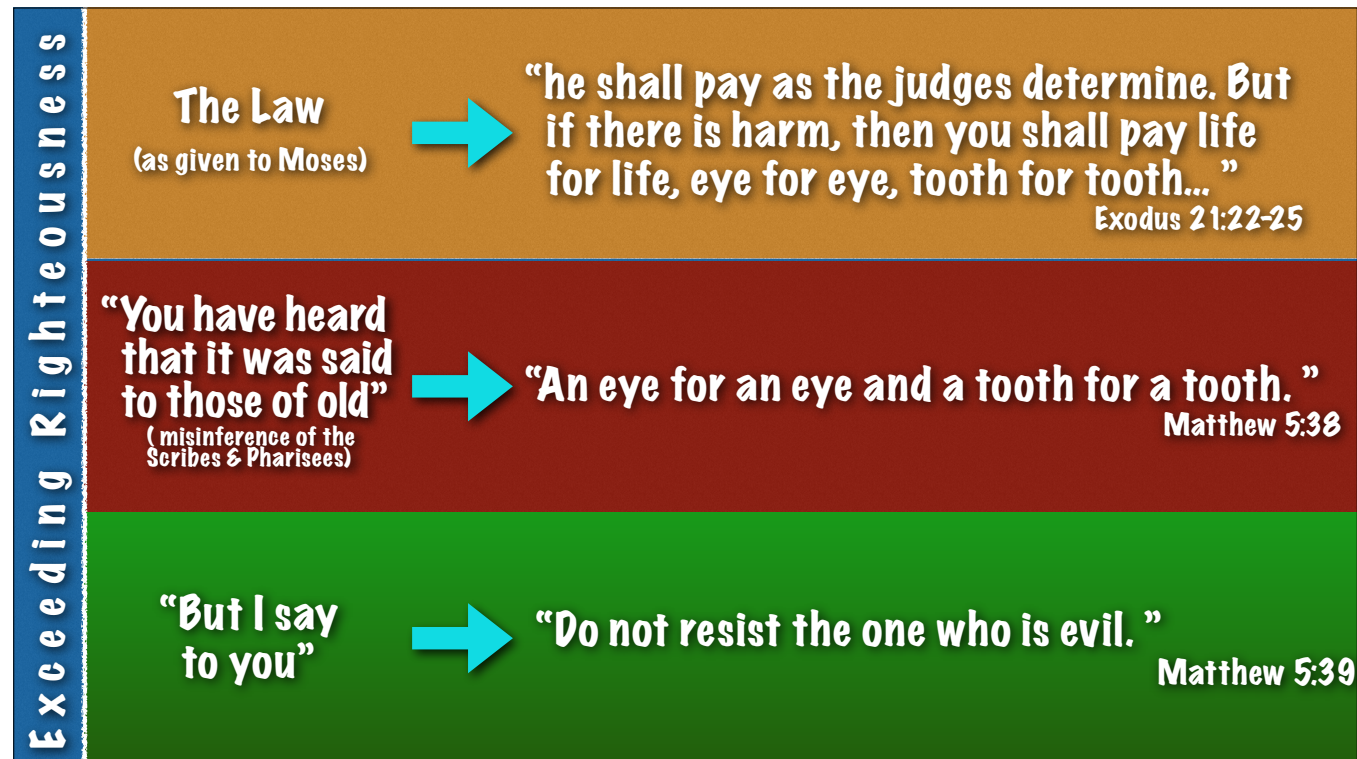
- 40: And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.
- Tunic and cloak
 - Being sued ... tend to want to protect my property
 - according to Jewish law a man could never be sued for his outer garment (blanket), though it was legitimate to sue for an inner one.



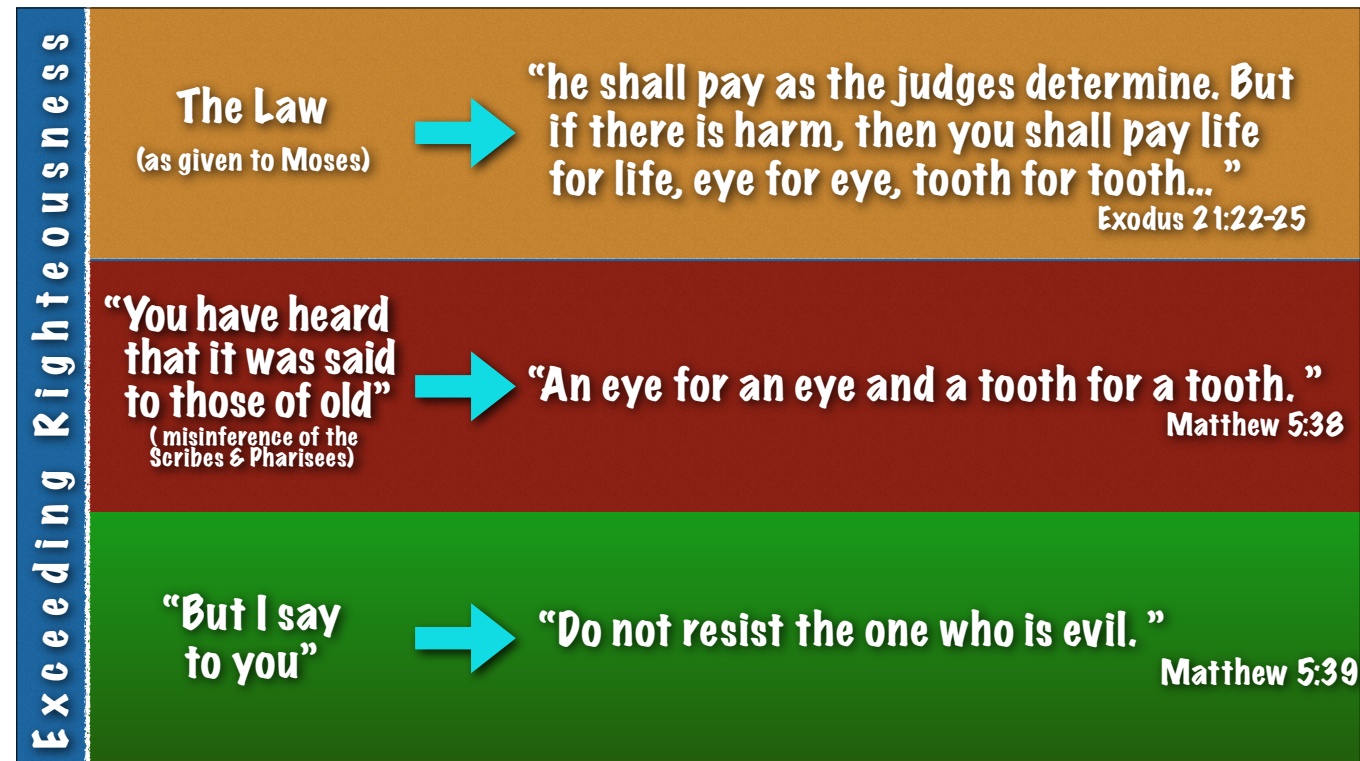
- Instead of insisting on winning suit, fighting, and counter suing
- Allow the suer to have not just what he asks for, but more than what he is asking for.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:7-8: To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!



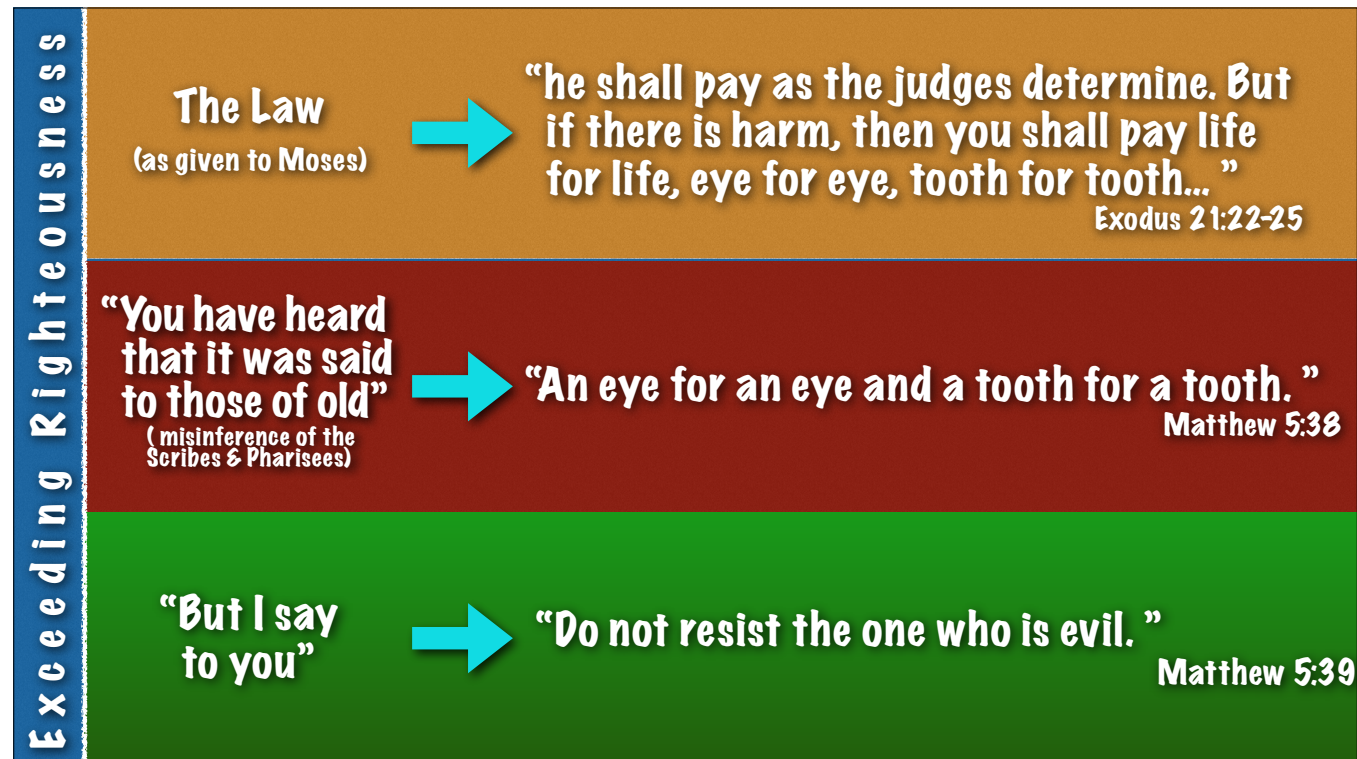
- True righteousness would have us not be over concerned about our earthly wealth.



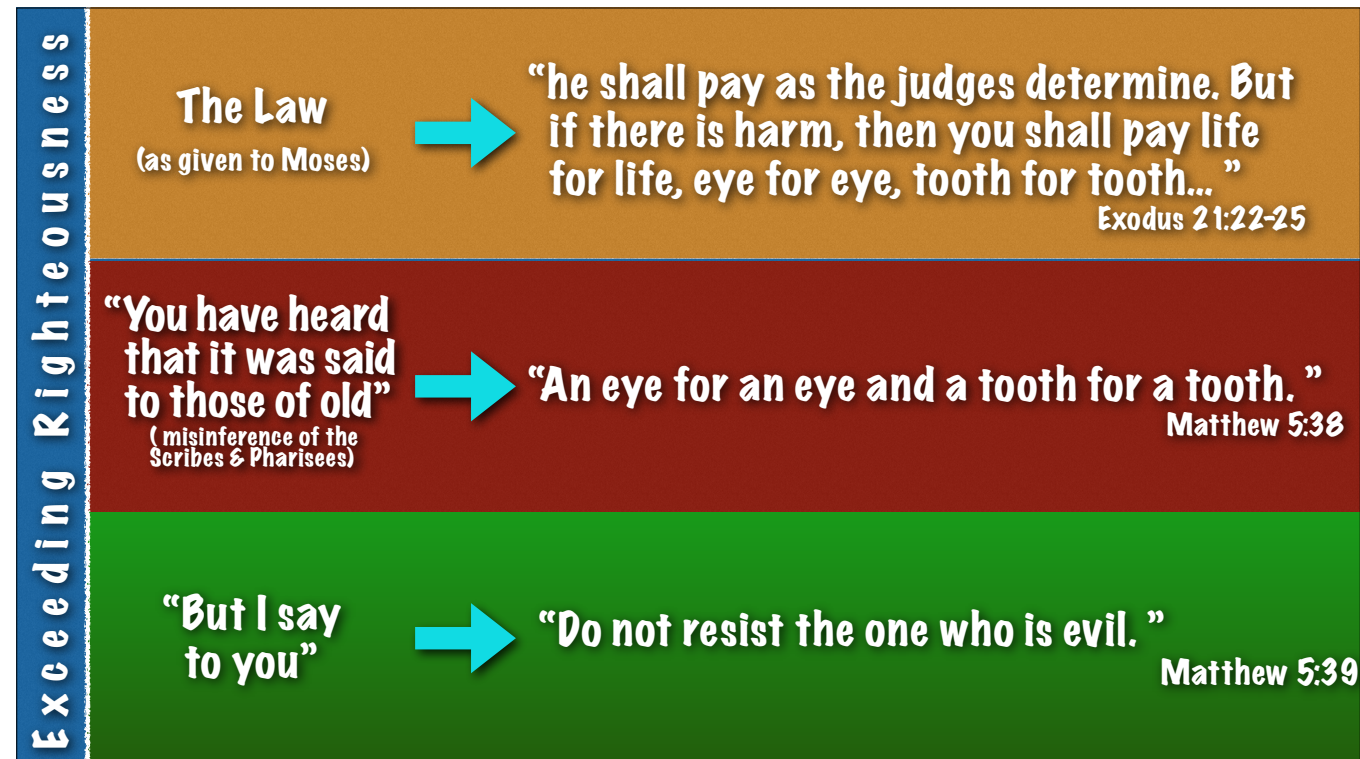
- Matthew 5:41: And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.
 - the government had a right to commandeer someone to carry things
 - tend to resent being forced to do things, especially if it interferes with our lives
 - busy, plans, things to do



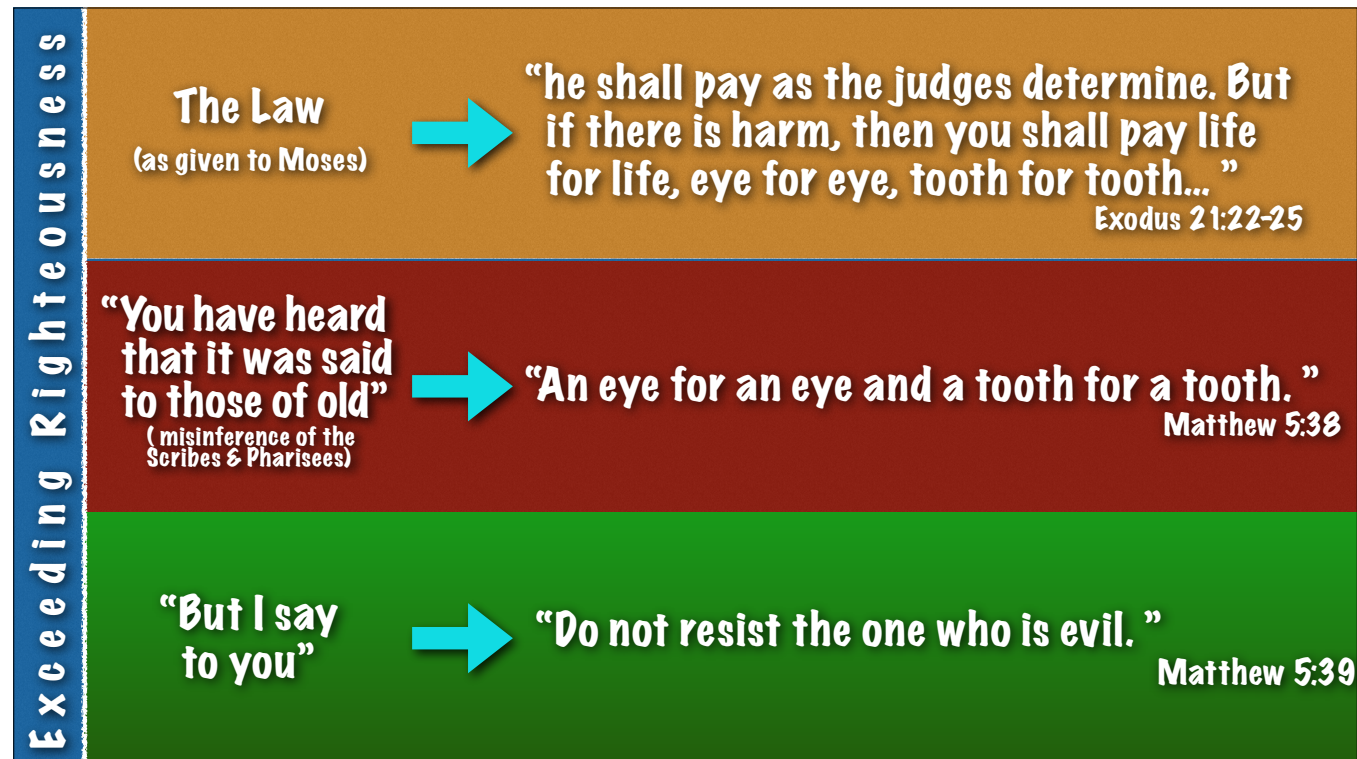
- true righteousness would have us not only do what is required, but do more
- And with good attitude? Cheerful and gracious.
- 1 Peter 2:18-19 (ESV) 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.



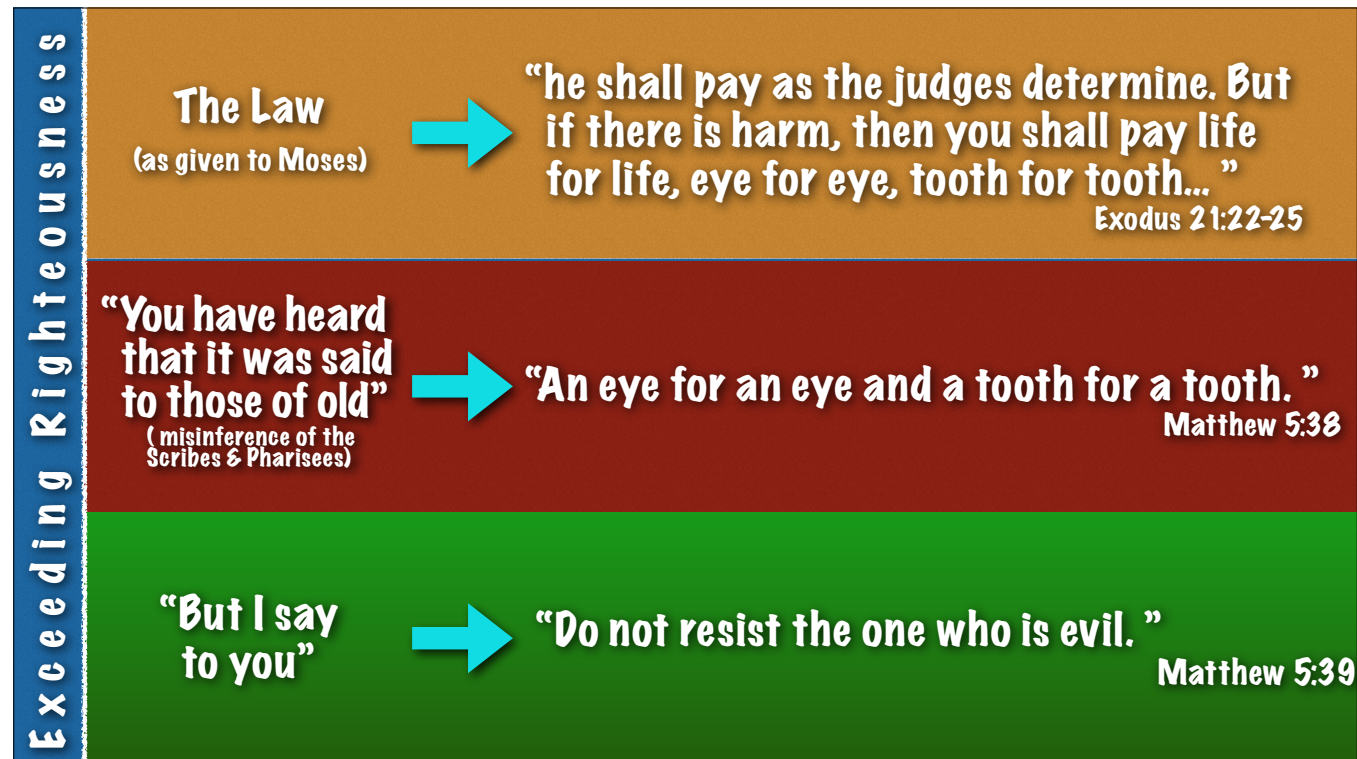
- Matthew 5:42: Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.
 - beggars and borrowers are often hard for us.



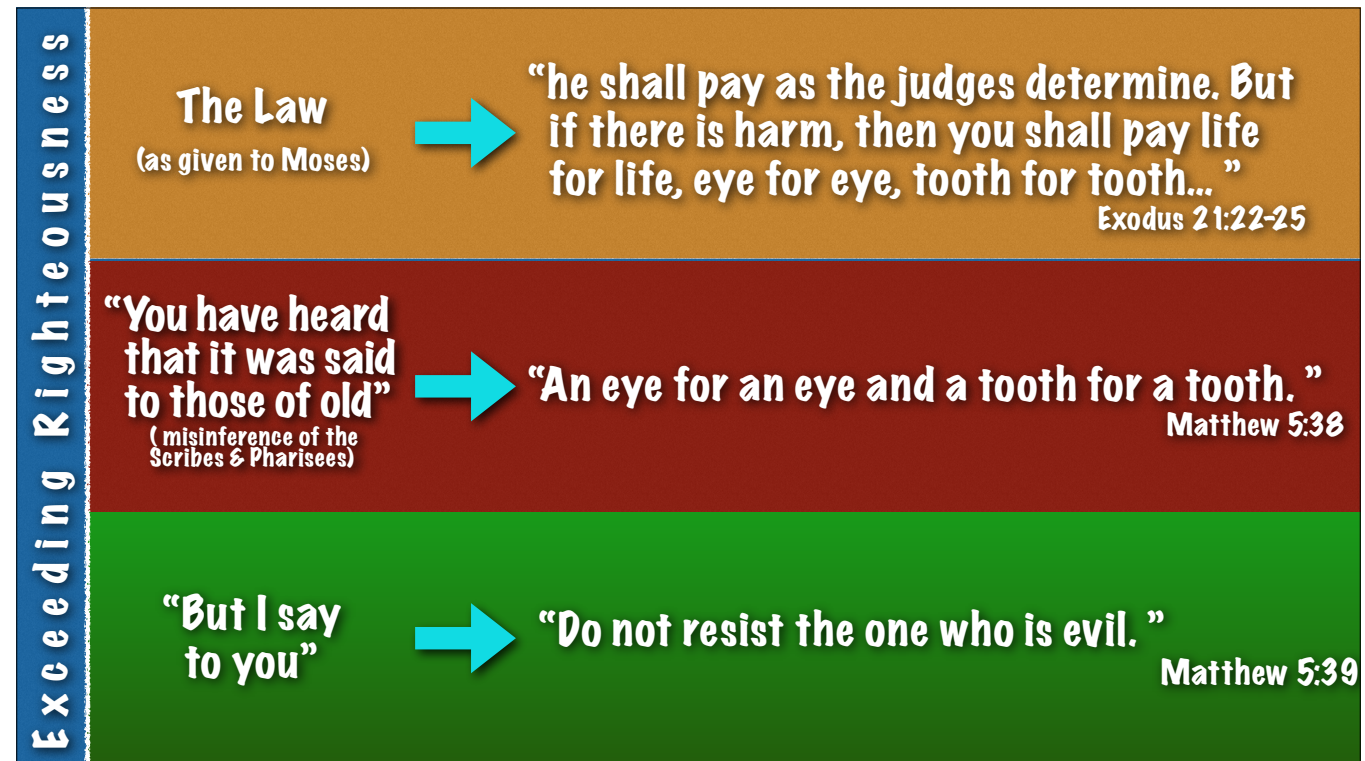
- See someone in need, what do we think of them
 - first thoughts
 - created their own situation
 - they'll mis-spend anything I give them
 - often judgmental.



- 1 John 3:17-18: But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.



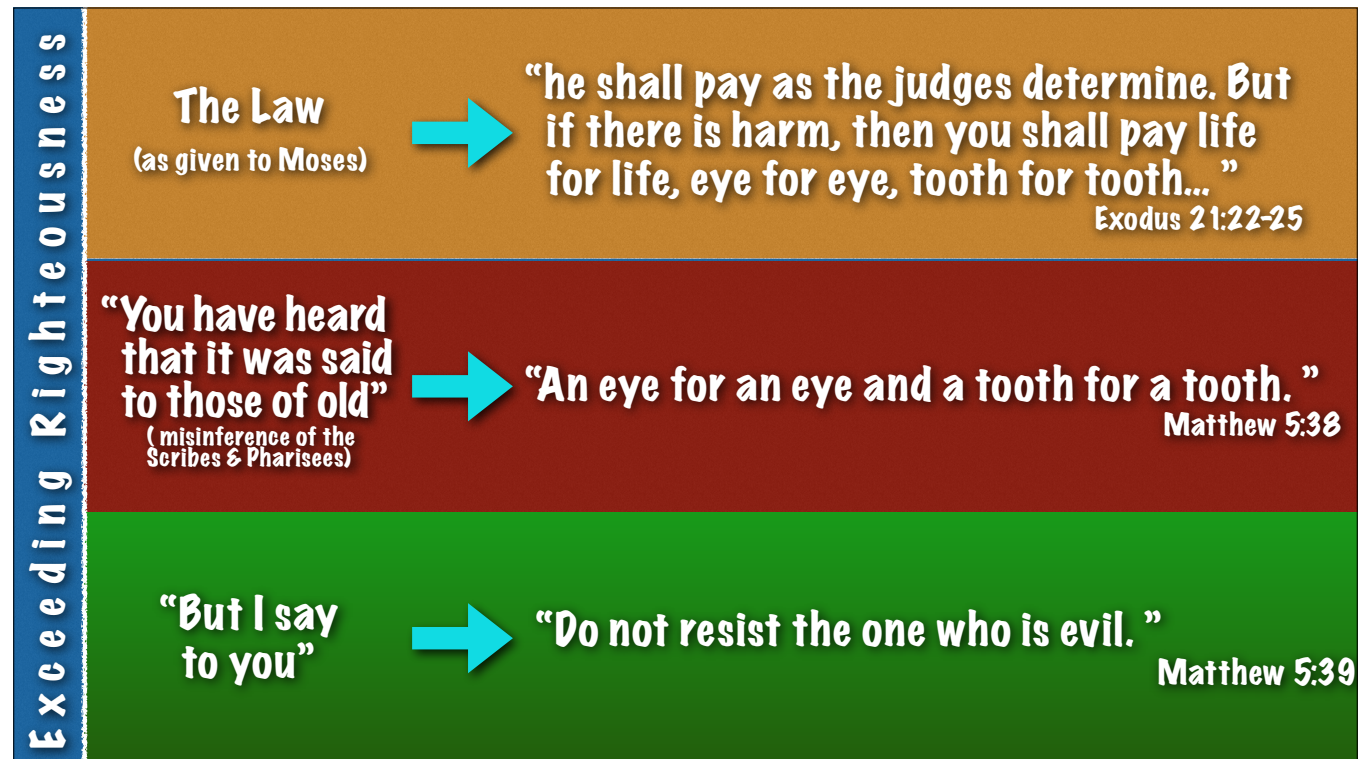
- Often we are willing to use our money for our own frivolous desires, but withhold a little of help for those in need.
 - Warned against helping those who refuse to work.... but often that's something we presume instead of know.



- What is Jesus teaching us?
 - Vengeance is often about myself, preserving my rights, not getting taken advantage of.



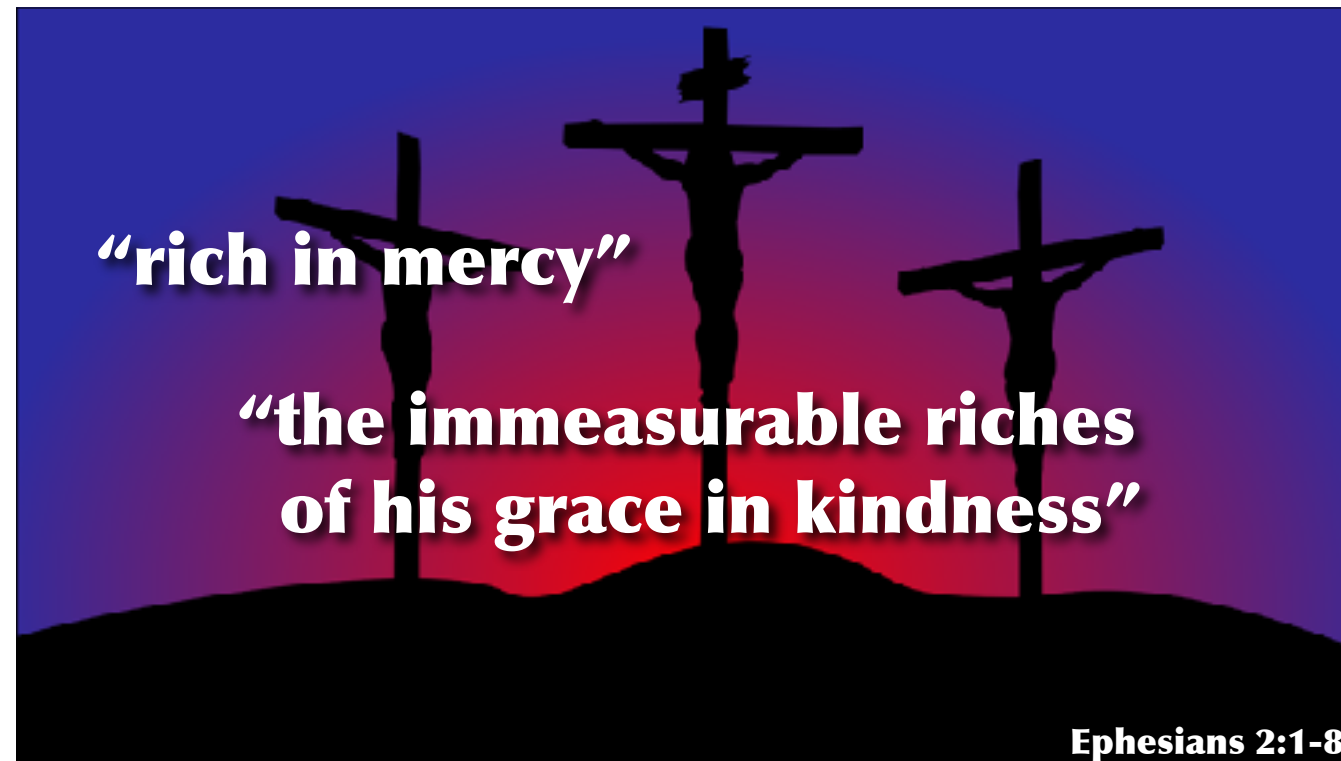
- Proverbs 24:29: Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."
- Proverbs 20:22: Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for Jehovah, and he will deliver you.



- Not:
 - I HAVE to turn the other cheek; walk second mile, give. (Sigh)
 - I want an eye for an eye.
- Rather:
 - What is best for the other?
 - Trust in God, especially when being wronged



- If all that we get from this is that we are turn the other cheek when slapped
- We are as blind and self-deceived as the Scribes and Pharisees
- What is our Father trying to teach us about himself, and what he desires us to be?
 - Our Father knows well the hurt of those who do evil
 - But how does he respond to those who hate him and rebel against Him?



- Ephesians 2:1-8 (ESV) 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in **kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Cheek: <https://pixabay.com/en/smile-mouth-teeth-laugh-nose-191626/>

Crosses: <https://pixabay.com/en/golgotha-jesus-christ-death-1863767/>

Elisha: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moody-elisha-syrians/>

God Is Merciful! (part 1)

Matthew 5:38-42

Synopsis: Turn the other cheek. So well know, but so misunderstood. Jesus is teaching us not just to turn away from vengeance, but to choose to be merciful and kind to those who are evil.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."