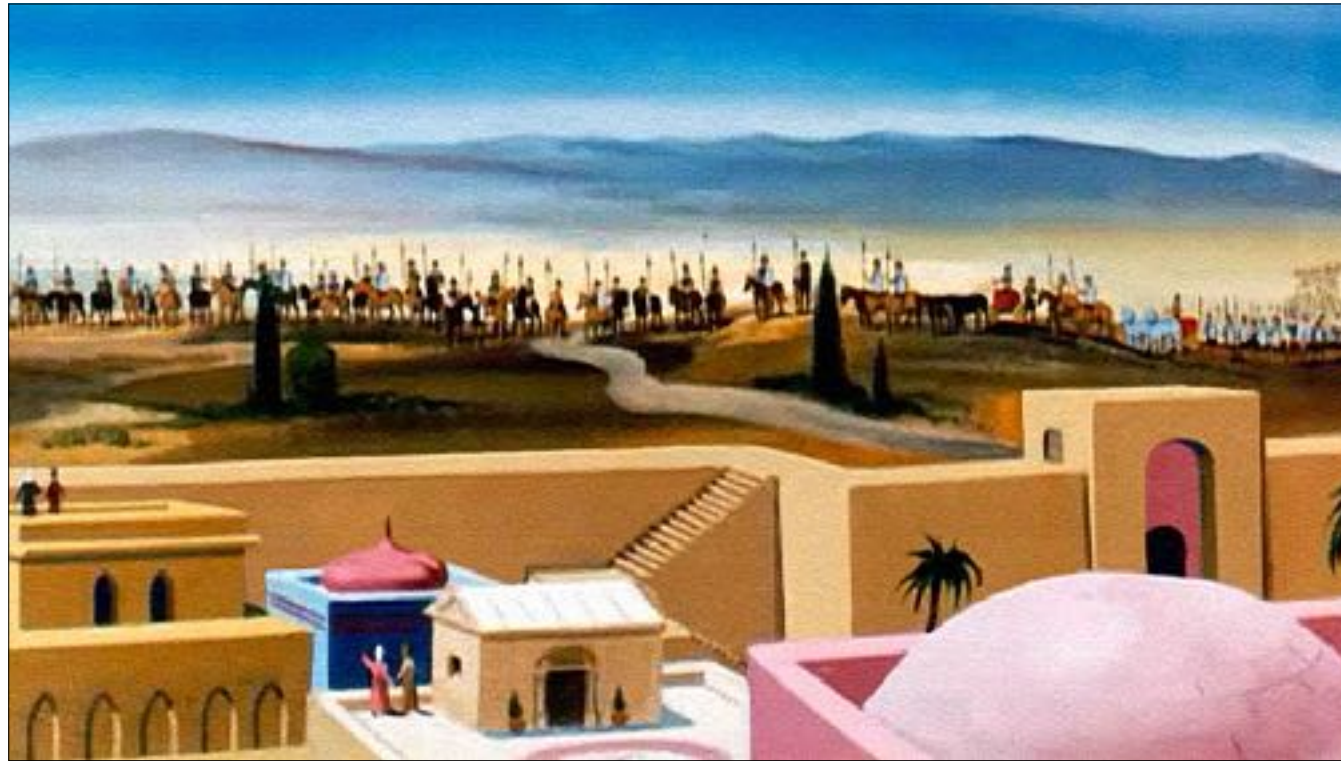
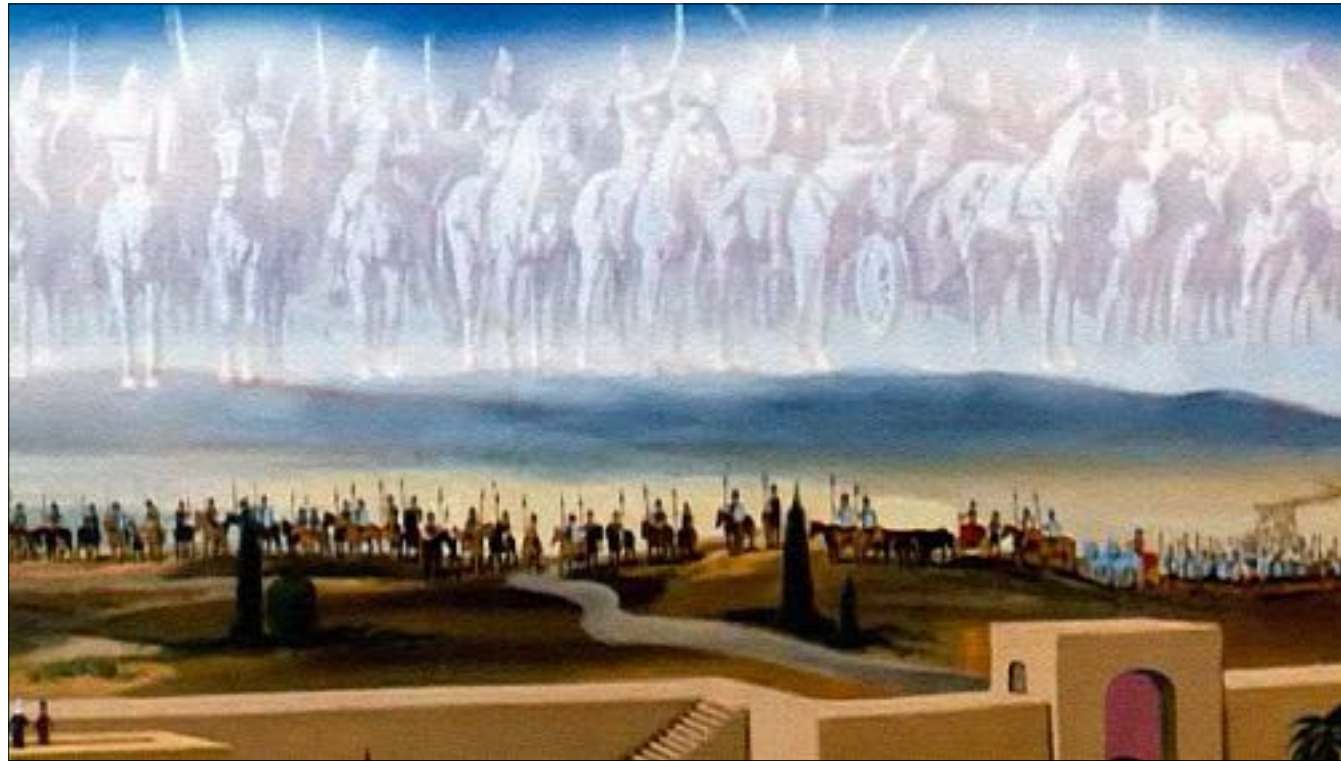




- Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:15-23



- 2 Kings 6:15-23 (ESV) 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”



- 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

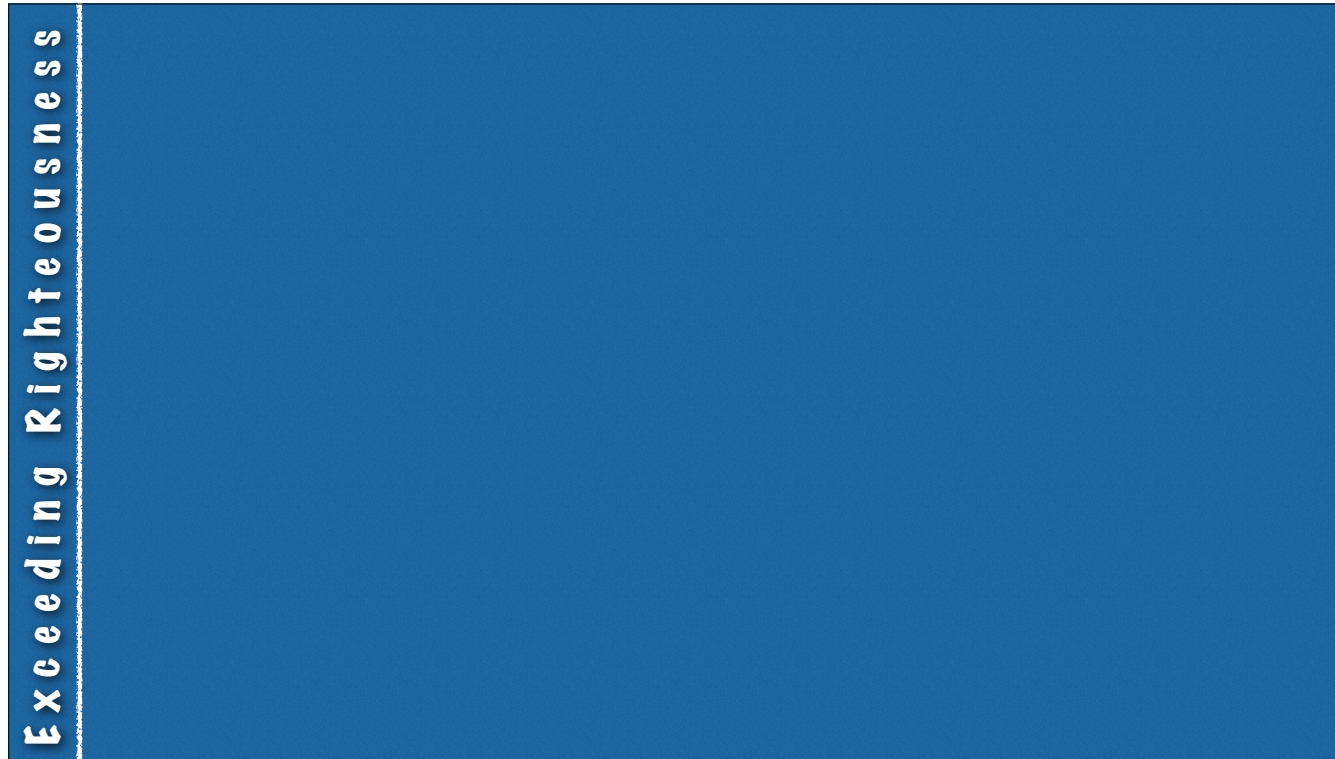




- 21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?”



- 22 He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” 23 So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.



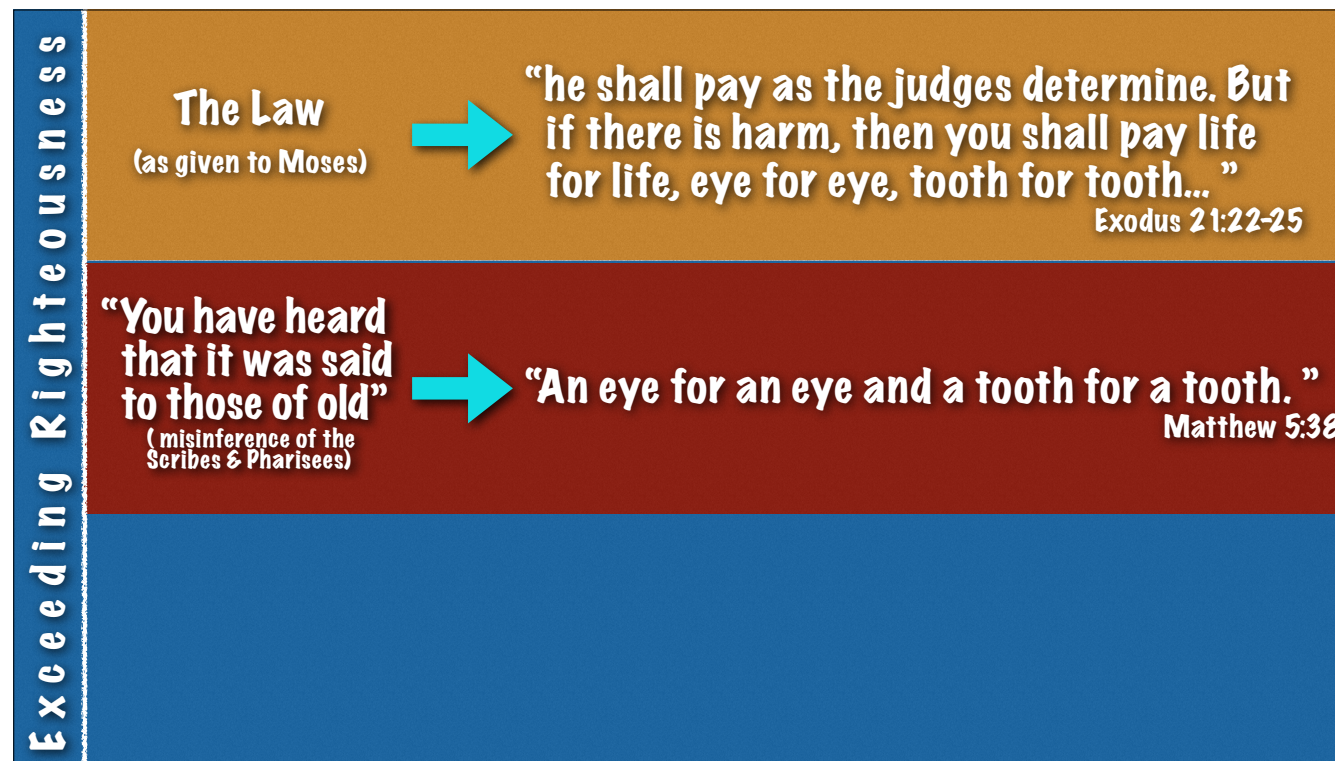
- Fourth Example of True Righteousness: Matthew 5:38-42
  - This one we struggle with.

**Exceeding Righteousness**

**The Law**  
(as given to Moses)

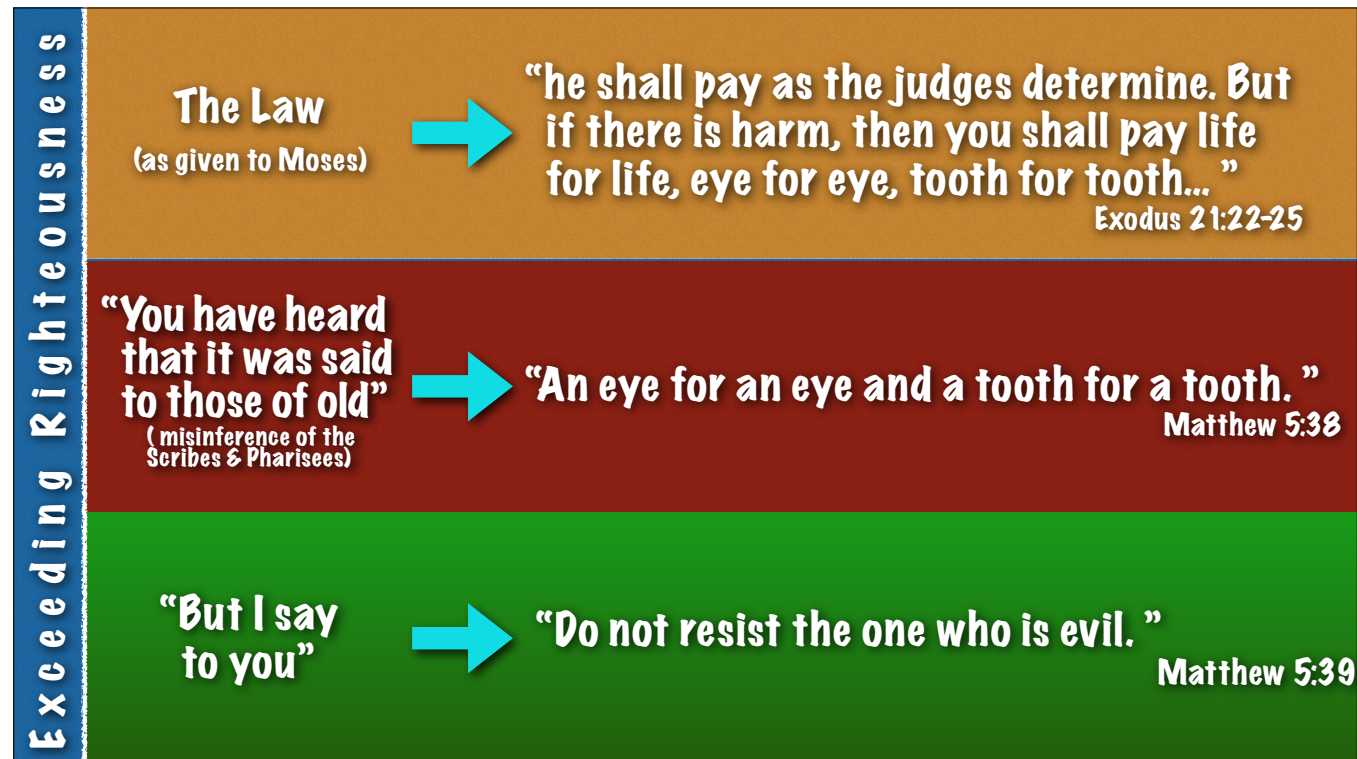
→ “he shall pay as the **judges** determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”  
Exodus 21:22-25

- 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.



- 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.'

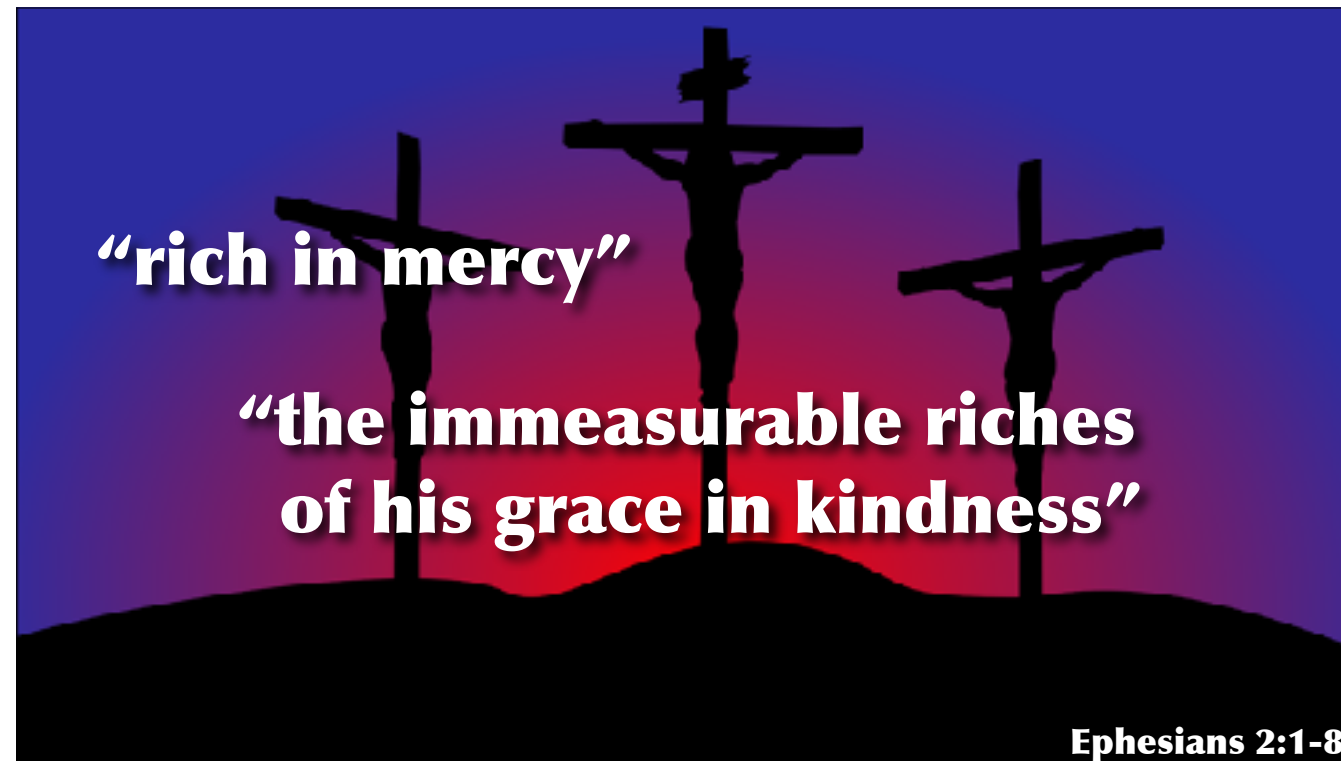




- Do not resist (withstand, oppose) the one who is evil
  - Turn other cheek
  - Sued, give cloak and tunic
  - go two miles
  - give to the one who begs
  - don't refuse the one who borrows



- 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.



- Matthew 5:7: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."
- James 2:12-13: So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



# **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**



**James 2:13**

- Mercy triumphs over judgment
  - We tend to easily condemn others, especially bad people
    - John 7:24: Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”
    - Matthew 7:2: For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

# **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**



**James 2:13**

- Good at judging, condemning
- Vengeance is the next step after judging (I have the right...)
- To choose mercy rather than to condemn is much better.
  - Yet such a concept is so far removed from how we tend to think because of how the world (and Satan) have warped our thinking.
  - Instead let's remember the mercy of our Father.

**But if you judge the law, you are not a  
doer of the law but a judge.  
There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.  
But who are you to judge your neighbor?**



**James 4:11-12**

- James 4:11-12 (ESV) 11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

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**James 4:11-12**

- Recognize that I am not THE judge... I'm a doer, just like my brothers.
  - Doer... sometimes, other times I'm a violator of the law.
  - I'm just as guilty of breaking law as brother



**But if you judge the law, you are not a  
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There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.  
But who are you to judge your neighbor?**



**James 4:11-12**

- Unfortunately, I tend to judge others more harshly for their sins than I judge myself for my sins.
- This is much like the Scribes and Pharisees

**But if you judge the law, you are not a  
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There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.  
But who are you to judge your neighbor?**



**James 4:11-12**

- Romans 2:1-3 (ESV) 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

**But if you judge the law, you are not a  
doer of the law but a judge.  
There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.  
But who are you to judge your neighbor?**



**James 4:11-12**

- One judge!
  - save and destroy
  - Consider what He did in order to save!
  - Waiting for all men to come to repentance
    - 2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**But if you judge the law, you are not a  
doer of the law but a judge.  
There is only one lawgiver and judge,  
He who is able to save and to destroy.  
But who are you to judge your neighbor?**



**James 4:11-12**

- Not an implicit approval of the wrong when we show mercy.
  - Judgment - vengeance
  - Mercy - repentance
- Who are you to Judge neighbor?
  - Nobody...
  - Who am I to show mercy???
    - I have been shown mercy!
    - I must choose to be merciful.





- James 2:12-13: So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- What does it mean to be under a law of liberty?



- How does liberty help me with not wanting vengeance?
  - Because my Father is merciful to me when I opposed Him and provided the way of salvation, I too must be merciful to those who oppose me, pointing them to the way of salvation.



- I can choose mercy or vengeance.
- I can choose to help or to harm.
- I can choose to shine, or further the darkness of the world.



- Galatians 5:13-15: For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.





- Be merciful instead of vengeful.
- How?
  - Paul helps us understand: Romans 12

# Repay no one evil for evil

**Romans 12:17-21**

- Romans 12:17-21 (ESV) 17 **Repay no one evil for evil**, but **give thought to do what is honorable** in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Repay no one evil for evil**

**overcome evil with**

**good**

**Romans 12:17-21**

- Romans 12:17-21 (ESV) 17 **Repay no one evil for evil**, but **give thought to do what is honorable** in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Repay no one evil for evil**

**overcome evil with**

**do  
what is  
honorable**

**good**

**Romans 12:17-21**

- Give thought to do what is honorable
  - Our thoughts must lead us to do what is right...
  - Knowing that God knows heart of the bad one; he will judge
  - What is the honorable thing to do?
    - Is it the works of the flesh, or the fruit of the spirit?
    - Mercy and kindness of God.



- Live peaceably with all
  - Includes the evil!
  - Try to live in harmony
  - Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**Repay no one evil for evil**

**overcome evil with**

**do  
what is  
honorable**

**live  
peaceably**

**if  
hungry...  
feed**

**good**

**Romans 12:17-21**

- If hungry... feed
- If thirst ... give drink
  - Eating together is often seen as fellowship, relationship
- Overcome evil with good.





- Heap burning coals (Proverbs 25:21-22)
  - But... what it does not mean is that I'm getting even with the one who did evil (that's still vengeance!)
  - maybe... do good knowing God will deal with them justly (punish) (But is that still a vengeful attitude?)
  - maybe... like God, we give time for them to repent (and opportunity) for them to repent



- 22 He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” 23 So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.



- Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Do not resist the one who is evil.**

*Matthew 5:39*

**overcome evil with good**

**Roman 12:21**

- Do not resist the one who is evil
- Overcome evil with God
- Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- Kindness, honorable, peaceable, feed

**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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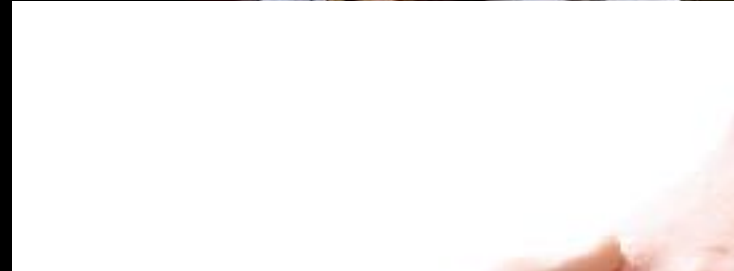
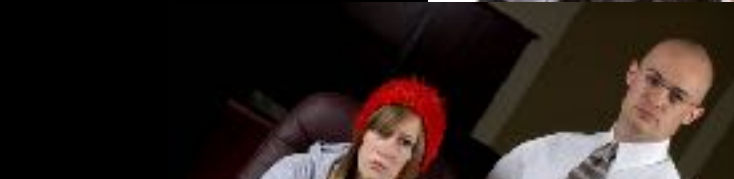
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## God Is Merciful! part 2

Matthew 5:38-42

Synopsis: Turn the other cheek. So well known, 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. In this portion, we'll learn that mercy triumphs over judgment and that we are to overcome evil with good.

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