

**Action and Reaction**  
*Three Principles that Work*  
Matthew 5:38-41

**Introduction**

● Action and Reaction

1. Physics – For every action there is an e\_\_\_\_\_ and opposite reaction
2. Sinful human nature – For every attacking action there is a g\_\_\_\_\_ reaction.

● As is made plain in verse 38 by Jesus's words (*you have h\_\_\_\_\_*), the traditional interpretation of Lev 24:17-20 (*an eye for an eye...*) was:

1. Personal retaliation was NOT to be a g\_\_\_\_\_ reaction
2. Personal retaliation had to be e\_\_\_\_\_ to the offense.

● A closer look at Lev 24:17-20

1. It does not say that the i\_\_\_\_\_ person does the punishing.
2. The Mosaic Law was given to Israel when God ruled them as k\_\_\_\_\_ - Penalties for violating civil and criminal laws were to be applied by s\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Num 15:32-36).

● Jesus counters this interpretation with, *but I say to you...* (remember He is the W\_\_\_\_\_ of God and so what He speaks is pure truth – Jn 1:1; 14:10; Mk 13:31; Jn 17:17) – *Don't resist an evil person.*

1. Resist – literally means *to stand against*. In this context it has an intense flavor – exacting r\_\_\_\_\_ (see TEV translation)
2. Evil - this could be translated either as referring to a person or to the thing done. Either would make sense.

**The other-cheek principle (39b)**

● What Jesus does NOT mean:

1. That you cannot d\_\_\_\_\_ yourself
2. That are to t\_\_\_\_\_ the attacker

● What Jesus DOES mean

1. The problematic situation – *if someone s\_\_\_\_\_ you*
  - a. The Greek word does not refer to a v\_\_\_\_\_ attack.
  - b. It only refers to a s\_\_\_\_\_ open-handed slap, not several slaps.
2. The peaceful solution – *Turn the other to him also* (Picture in your mind how the head turns not to l\_\_\_\_\_ at the offender, but farther so as to expose the other cheek so you can w\_\_\_\_\_ away).

**The only-covering principle (40)**

● The problematic situation – *If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt* (a legal battle you cannot win, but an unethical action)

1. Some translations wrongly read c\_\_\_\_\_, (that's worn over clothing).
2. Some translations say t\_\_\_\_\_, which can either be a coat or a loose fitting shirt according to the English dictionary

3. This Greek word refers to the article of clothing that is worn next to the s\_\_\_\_\_.

●The peaceful solution – *let him have your coat also*.

1. This refers to the o\_\_\_\_\_ piece of clothing
2. Most people in Jesus's day only had \_\_\_\_ coat.
3. The Law in Ex 22:26,27 states that if a coat is taken as collateral for a loan, the creditor is to return the coat each night to the person since that is his only c\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Jesus command has the most basic meaning of letting g\_\_\_\_ and can mean (1) let him have the coat also; or (2) leave behind the coat also.
  - b. In light of the Law, Jesus is saying to leave it (implying, with the judge for the person to pick up
  - c. Since this person was Jew and had to keep the Law, he would have to r\_\_\_\_\_ it to the person he took advantage of, thus reminding him of his unethical lawsuit.

●Application

1. If someone takes up a legal but unethical battle against you that you cannot legally win, don't f\_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. Leave them a r\_\_\_\_\_ of their unethical behavior (e.g. a letter stating that they won on the law but lost on ethics, but you forgive them).

### **The extra-mile principle**

●The problematic situation – *Whoever forces you to go one mile*

1. This is a picture of a Roman s\_\_\_\_\_ forcing someone into service while on the march (e.g. Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry Jesus's c\_\_\_\_\_ - Matt 27:32).
2. It would be a mistake to (1) r\_\_\_\_\_ (2) be bitter and c\_\_\_\_\_

●The peaceful solution – *go with him two miles*

1. This fosters a g\_\_\_\_\_ relationship
2. Next time the soldier asks, he will not be demanding but cordial.

●Application – when anyone in authority demands you to do something don't just do the m\_\_\_\_\_, do more than is expected.

### **Conclusion:**

●Physics – for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

●Sinful human nature – for every attacking action, there is a greater and more severe reaction.

●Christian living – for every wrong action upon you, there must be a l\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_ reaction.