



Daily Bible Reading Plan

Matthew 5:38-42

Monday, October 5, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: The Old Testament principle of “an eye for an eye” was intended to establish justice and prevent excessive punishment. Jesus calls His followers beyond personal retaliation. He teaches us not to respond to personal wrongs with a desire for revenge. This does not mean ignoring injustice or allowing people to harm others. Rather, Jesus addresses our personal response when we are wronged.

Apply: How do you normally respond when someone hurts, insults, or treats you unfairly? Ask God to help you respond with grace rather than retaliation.

Respond: Ask God to give you a heart that responds to others with grace and for wisdom when you experience unfair treatment.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: Jesus uses a striking example to challenge the instinct to retaliate. When someone insults or mistreats us, our natural response may be to strike back with our words or actions. Jesus calls us to demonstrate self-control and grace instead. Our strength is not demonstrated by getting even. Sometimes strength looks like refusing to escalate a conflict.

Apply: Think about how you respond when someone says something hurtful to you. What would it look like to respond differently the next time you are insulted or provoked?

Respond: Pray for self-control when others provoke you. Ask God to help you respond rather than react. Pray for opportunities to demonstrate Christlike grace.

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: The desire for revenge can easily control our hearts. We want others to experience the same pain they caused us. Scripture, however, calls us to leave ultimate justice in God's hands.

Forgiving someone does not mean pretending that wrong behavior was acceptable. It means refusing to allow revenge and bitterness to control our response.

Apply: Is there a wrong that you are still carrying because you want someone to “pay” for what they did? Give that situation to God and ask Him to help you respond in a way that honors Christ.

Respond: Ask God to help you surrender your desire for revenge. Pray for freedom from bitterness and resentment. Ask God to help you trust Him with justice.

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: Jesus moves from retaliation to generosity. His followers are not to live with clenched fists, constantly protecting what belongs to them. We are called to be generous and willing to help others.

This does not mean that wisdom and healthy boundaries are unimportant. Instead, Jesus challenges the selfishness that says, “What is mine is mine, and I owe you nothing.”

Apply: Look for an opportunity today to be generous with your time, attention, possessions, or resources.

Respond: Ask God to give you a generous heart. Pray for awareness of people who need encouragement or practical help. Ask God to help you hold your possessions and resources with open hands.

Friday, October 9, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: Jesus describes a situation in which someone could be compelled to carry something for another person. Instead of doing only what is required, Jesus tells His followers to willingly go beyond what is expected.

The principle is simple: disciples of Jesus should be known not merely for doing the minimum but for serving others with a willing heart.

Apply: Where are you tempted to do only what is required? Look for one opportunity today to “go the second mile” by serving someone without being asked.

Respond: Pray for eyes to see opportunities to serve others. Ask God to help you serve without needing recognition.

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

Explain: The world often says, “Get even.” Jesus says, “Respond differently.” The world values retaliation, self-protection, and getting what we deserve. Jesus calls us toward grace, generosity, humility, and trust in God.

This kind of response is not weakness. It requires strength that comes from trusting God rather than insisting on having the last word.

Apply: Reflect on these questions

- How do I respond when I am wronged?
- Do I tend to seek revenge or reconciliation?
- Am I willing to serve when it is inconvenient?
- Am I generous with my time and resources?
- Where do I need to trust God rather than take matters into my own hands?

Choose one specific way you will practice Christ-like grace this week.

Respond: Pray for courage to serve others sacrificially. Ask God to help you trust Him with situations you cannot control.

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:38-42

At the end of this week, ask yourself:

When I am wronged, do my responses look more like the world's desire for revenge or Jesus' call to grace?