

Leviticus 24:19-20

If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him-- fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.

Now how is that for a devotional verse as we get close to the weekend? Some of you are loving this verse right now, because someone has done you, or someone you know wrong, and when you read this verse you think that the bible is condoning revenge.

Well, I hate to burst your bubble, but when I read this verse, that's not how I interpreted it. No, I don't see it as a way to get revenge on someone. Rather its showing what the consequences are if you do something to someone. When they read this, it should make you stop and think about what the consequences are to what you are thinking of, or about to do to someone else.

An example would be, suppose you were thinking about robbing a bank. So you are making all your plans on how to do it. You write out the floor plan of the bank, look at where all the security cameras are, what the note will say that you hand to the bank teller, if you need to buy a gun or not, and you now have it all worked out.

But then you start to think about what will happen if you get caught. So now you are thinking about having to go to jail, and what can happen to you in jail, and how long will you be there, and you would think that you would no longer have the freedom to go watch a movie, or go to grab a bite to eat with your friends or spouse, or even have the privacy of a shower. So the consequences outweigh the possibility that you will succeed in robbing a bank. So you drop the whole idea of robbing a bank.

But as you read though the Old Testament and the laws God gives to Moses and the children of Israel. He not only says what not to do, but He also shows the consequence if you do these things.

Here is one example.

† ***Leviticus 6:1-5 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely-- in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering.***

Or how about this one:

† **Leviticus 20:10** *The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.*

Remember Jesus also spoke about *an eye for an eye* as well.

† **Matthew 5:38-42** *You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

Notice that Jesus did not use the eye for eye law as a teaching on how to get revenge, but He actually taught the opposite of how the people were using this verse to get revenge, and He turned it into loving someone who seems to be unlovable. And Jesus clarifies it even more in the verses right after this.

† **Matthew 5:43-45** *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

So instead of thinking of how to get revenge on that person that has done you, or someone else wrong. Maybe turn it around and do what Jesus says to do “*pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*” Then watch and see what the Lord will do through you.