Matthew 5:38-48

Intro:

A. **The context of these verses is that of having a righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees. V.20**
    1. περισσευω = "to be over and above a certain measure." (here the scribes and Pharisees)
    2. Theirs was a law righteousness, the letter of the law. This righteousness is to be from the heart by faith.

B. **These verses have to do with personal insults or injury**
    1. They speak to one's ego.
    2. We do not have to insist on our just rights.
    3. Romans 12:17-18

I. The Disciple And Personal Injury Or Insult (minor).

A. **"ye have heard that it hat been said, An eye for an eye, ad a tooth for a tooth."**
    1. Leviticus 24:19-20
    2. <u>blemish</u> = "flaw," "spot".
    3. "If anyone disfigures another, as he did, so shall it be done to him." - AAT

B. **"But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil…"**
    1. <u>resist</u> = ανθιστημι = "to set one's self against"
    2. <u>evil</u> = ο πονηρος = "the evil"
    3. James 4:5 - "…**resist the devil and he will flee from you."**
    4. 1 Peter 5:8-8 - **"whom resist steadfast in the faith…"**
    5. Do not save face in circumstances like this.

C. **"…but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."**
    1. <u>smite</u> = ραπιζω = "to rap", "box on the ears", "to cuff," or strike with a stick."
    2. "…slaps you on the cheek." - Wms

II. The Disciple And Other Minor Problems.

A. **"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." V.40**
      1. <u>sue</u> = κρινω = "begin a lawsuit"
      2. "to take your shirt, let him have your overcoat also." (the value of these is minor.)

B. **"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." V.41**
      1. <u>compel</u> = αγγαρευω = "to forcibly impress someone into service"
      2. This could be the courier of a king or a soldier in the Roman army moving from one duty station to another.

C. **"Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not away." V.42**
      1. <u>ask</u> = αιτεω = "to ask"
      2. <u>borrow</u> = δανιζω = "to lend mone"
      3. "give to the man who begs from you."
      4. "do not refuse to lend money to those who ask of you."

III. <u>The Disciple And One's Enemies.</u>

A. **"ye have heard that it hath been said," v.43**
      1. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor…"
      2. <u>neighbor</u> = πλησιos = "close-by", "near"
      3. …and hate thine enemy."
      4. <u>hate</u> = μισεω = "to hate"
      5. <u>enemy</u> = εχθρos = "odious', "an adversary"
      6. Deuteronomy 23:5-6

B. **"But I say unto you…" v.44**
      1. "Love your enemies…"
      2. "Bless them that curse you…"
      3. <u>bless</u> = "to invoke God's blessing on a man"
      4. <u>curse</u> = καταραομαι = "to wish or pray against anyone"
      5. "do good to them that hate you…"
      6. "…and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

       7.   <u>pray</u> = προσευχομαι = "to pray to God"

       8.   <u>despitefully</u> = επηρεαζω = "to use threats"

       9.   <u>persecute</u> = διωκω = "to cause to flee"

C.   They should love as God loves. V.45
1. We are His children we should love as he loves.
2. He sends rain on the just and unjust.
3. He sends the sun to shine on the evil and the good.

D.   To love those who love us is the usual. V.46
1. There is no reward for this.
2. Even tax collectors do this!

E.   They should warmly welcome everyone. V.47
1. <u>salute</u> = ασπαζομαι = "to draw to one's self."
2. The tax-collectors warmly welcome their friends.

F.   Such actions are the sign of spiritual maturity. V.48
1. <u>perfect</u> = τελειοs = "what has reached it end, term, or limit." "complete," "full", "wanting nothing"
2. "Be then complete in righteousness" – Bas
3. "you must become spiritually mature" – Nor