

Leaving a Legacy of Love
Part 7: A Loving Response
Matthew 5:38-48

How can we offer a loving response to those who insult us?

1. Hold Up: when someone insults or offends you, don't insult them back.

³⁹But I tell you, do not resist [fight with] an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." Matthew 5:39

Solomon said, "Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult" (Proverbs 12:16). Peter said, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing" (1 Peter 3:9).

2. Step Up: pray for and meet your offender's needs.

⁴¹"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ... ⁴⁴love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:41,44

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. ... ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17,19-21

3. Free Up: be financially generous towards all (yes, even them!)

⁴⁰"And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ... ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:40,42

➤ v. 40: When you are in the wrong, give above and beyond what is required to make it right (like Zacchaeus; Luke 19:8).

➤ v. 42: When anyone asks you for help, show them practical compassion. Jesus isn't asking us to be financially irresponsible; rather, He is telling us not to be **stingy**.

4. Rise up: we are never more like our Father than when we show love to our offender.

⁴⁴"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. ... ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:44,48