

**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.

<sup>39</sup>But 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.

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

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. ... <sup>19</sup>Do 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. <sup>20</sup>On 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." <sup>21</sup>Do 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!)

<sup>40</sup>"And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ... <sup>42</sup>Give 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.

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