



## THE HABITS OF JESUS

# REVENGE REVERSE

(MATTHEW 5:38-42)

### 1 CONSIDER THIS IMAGE

Stare at this image for a full 15 seconds as you consider this question: What's something that someone in my life has taken from me that I can't get back?

### 2 REFLECT

- When someone takes something from you that you can't get back, what makes it hard to recover from that?
- When this happened in your life, how did you respond at first?
- Over time, how have you been able to resolve the feeling you have about what happened?

### 3 READ THE SCRIPTURE

You know that you have been taught, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I tell you not to try to get even with a person who has done something to you. When someone slaps your right cheek, turn and let that person slap your other cheek. If someone sues you for your shirt, give up your coat as well. If a soldier forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles. When people ask you for something, give it to them. When they want to borrow money, lend it to them.

*-Matthew 5:38-42*

## 4 REFLECT

- When you read, “Turn the other cheek,” how do you feel?

## 5 CONSIDER THE IMAGE AGAIN

Again, stare at this image for a full 15 seconds as you consider this question: What’s something that someone in my life has given me that has changed my life?

## 6 REFLECT Ask some or all of these questions, depending on your context and timeframe

- When you look at the open hands in the image, are they hands that give, or hands that take? Explain.
- What or who has made it possible for you to “turn the other cheek” in your life? Whose “giving hands” do you see?
- Jesus is spotlighting an accepted Old Testament standard for revenge and upending it—why?
- We could interpret Jesus’ teaching as a command to offer ourselves as a doormat for others—how is this teaching different from that?



## THE HABITS OF JESUS

# REVENGE REVERSE

(MATTHEW 5:38-42)