

Matthew 5:38-48

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. How can the principle in Matthew 5:38 be a form of just punishment?

No one is punished more than they deserve.

2. What reasons might Jesus have for telling Christians to follow His teachings in Matthew 5:39-41?

His followers need to be peacemakers whenever possible. By doing more than required of us or expected of us we might be able to share with someone the hope we have within us through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. Do you think Jesus meant that Christians should never under any circumstances refuse to give to someone who begs or wants to borrow from you?

No. Jesus expects us to use our commonsense so someone does not take unjust advantage over us or so we do not influence someone to think they do not need to work because they can live just fine by begging or borrowing. Jesus does not expect us to impoverish ourselves by unwise giving.

4. What petitions might some of your prayers to God include when you are suffering persecution?

We can pray that our witness as sincere Christians will lead them to think and come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to use truths from the Bible and our example or words to lead them to saving faith. We might pray for the Lord Jesus to give us courage, strengthen our faith, remind us of truths from the Bible that we need, or our persecutors need, to hear, and for Jesus to save us from persecution—perhaps through the conversion of our persecutors. We might pray for Jesus to help us be His good and faithful servants and friends the entire time we are suffering, and that He would relieve our pain. We might pray for Jesus to work a miracle in the lives of our persecutors and to work a miracle to free us from their persecution.

5. What might you say to someone who always says, “Well, nobody’s perfect,” every time they are confronted with their sinful choices?

We might simply tell them what Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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