

# Matityahu 5m

## v38

'you have heard' - you have received this tradition or law

i4i – Sh'mot (Exodus) 21:24(25) vaYikra (Leviticus) 24:19 D'varim (Deuteronomy) 19:21

*lex talionis* (Latin) law of revenge

By Yeshua's time, this was understood to mean you would pay damages for the injury.

Mishnah Baba Kama 8.1

If a man wounded his fellow he thereby becomes liable on five counts: for injury, for pain, for healing, for loss of time and for indignity inflicted.

This very similar to modern civil law.

## vs39-42

"Do not resist evil" Whether the 'evil' is deliberate or accidental; even if it isn't your fault.

Case 1 (v39) Unwarranted aggression.

Why the right cheek?

Mishnah Baba Kama 8.6 If a man cuffed [punched] his fellow he must pay him...one hundred zuz (\$25.00 1933). If he slapped him he must pay him 200 zuz (\$50.00). If (he struck him) with the back of the hand he must pay him 400 zuz (\$100.00).

This would be payment for 'indignity inflicted'.

Assuming the attacker is right handed, the blow would have been a back-handed slap, the most insulting kind of attack.

There appears to be no differentiation for personal or religious persecution.

Case 2 (v40) Actions against you where you are liable.

When you do owe something to another person, do everything you can to appease him, and if necessary, go beyond what you think is fair to achieve resolution of the matter.

Case 3 (v41) Oppressive obligations to government.

A Roman soldier had the right to demand a non-Roman carry his stuff for one mile.

Going the 'extra mile' prevents any charge of lawlessness.

Even if the obligation is considered oppressive (taxes, fees, regulations), we are to fully comply and even exceed the demand.

Case 4 (v42) Personal loans and charity.

Why would this be considered evil?

"Evil", in the sense that giving away your money or possessions reduces your net worth.

HaShem will see your good deeds and reward you. Do not refuse to help the poor or aggressively seek repayment of a loan.

Bottom line: See Romans 12:17-21, quotes from D'varim (Deuteronomy) 32.39-41 and Mishle (Proverbs) 21-22. Let God be your defense and let Him be the responder.

You belong to Him, so He has the right and duty to respond on your behalf! See Romans 14.4.