

Nonviolent Direct Action

Matthew 5:38-46



GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song**

“We Shall Overcome” [<http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/firstsunday/weshallovercome.htm>]

Refrain:

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, We shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome someday.

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We'll walk hand in hand someday.

Hear the Story...

READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

RESPONDING

- **How should Christians not ‘resist an evildoer’?**
- **What benefit could there be for someone to ‘turn the other cheek’?**
- **Why would offering more than what was claimed by an adversary be an option?**
- **Why go ‘the extra mile’ – especially when compelled to go in the first place?**
- **What does ‘love your enemy’ mean? What example does Jesus use for this?**

SHARING

- **What is your definition of “lex talionis” (“an eye for an eye”)?**
- **Have you ever tried to ‘love your enemy’?**
- **When you are away, how do you manage greeting strangers?**

CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Matthew 5:38-48 [NRSV]

[Jesus said,]

38 'You have heard that it was said,

“An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

39But I say to you,

Do not resist an evildoer.

But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek,

turn the other also;

40and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat,

give your cloak as well;

41and if anyone forces you to go one mile,

go also the second mile.

42Give to everyone who begs from you,

and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

43 'You have heard that it was said,

“You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.”

44But I say to you,

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;

for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good,

and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

46For if you love those who love you,

what reward do you have?

Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?

47And if you greet only your brothers and sisters,

what more are you doing than others?

Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.