

MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 5:38-39
 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Don't get mad. Get even!

This common adage reveals our propensity towards vengeance. We want those who hurt us to hurt too – preferably worse than we are. In the Old Testament, God sought to restrain our tendency toward excessive vengeance by laying down the "eye for an eye" principle. This statute meant that no more should be exacted from a violator than that which was commensurate with his transgression. It wasn't long before this principle was perverted into meaning every wrong should be avenged. Taken to

an extreme, this mentality could lead to a vengeful spirit – the desire to exact punishment for any and every wrong. This approach warps us into cold, cruel beings constantly calculating how we can get back at those who wrong us. We end up leaving broken, hurting people and relationships in our wake.

Jesus provides a radical alternative to this carnage that challenges us to the core. He declares that instead of pursuing vengeance, we should accept being wronged quietly – even leaving ourselves open to more injustice! This is a hard pill to swallow. We feel inadequate to practice it. Yet that is the standard for Christ-followers. And obedient followers are empowered by Christ to do His will. He intends to transform our spirit and attitudes. He desires to develop in His followers a heart that is not so focused on personal revenge, but one that is bent towards reducing violence by refusing to respond to violence with violence. He is not saying there is no place for justice, or righting real wrongs. But He is advocating that we resist the temptation to heap violence upon violence as we pursue an unending cycle of retribution. He is telling us that we can kill the cycle of violence by

choosing to refrain from vengeful responses.

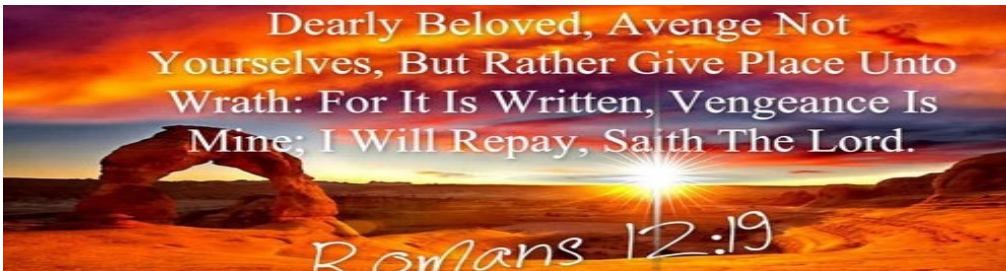
What is our heart's attitude towards being wronged? Are we quick to strike back? Or are we able to take a wrong, even a grievous wrong, and "turn the other cheek"?

Like Christ, we can demonstrate to a traumatized world the beauty of grace and mercy instead of anger and vengeance. Followers of Christ can take the temperature down, not by forcing change on others, but by changing how we respond to personal injury. We can do this because we can lean upon God's enabling grace. May God help us to be people who can turn the other cheek...

God bless you,

Pastor James

I WILL REPAY, SAYS THE LORD



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p>	<p>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p>
<p>February 2 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>February 21 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p>February 7 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p>
<p>February 11 (in-person) & February 12 (online) Sign up at the information center or online to join. email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.</p>	<p>February 5 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p>February 7 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Explore **Mountain Stream classes** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream begin this Sunday February 7th at 10 am. Please sign up to attend.
- Help Streamside Camp prepare for Winter Blast! Volunteer to help clear some trees and lumber, Fri. & Sat February 5th & 6th. The project begins at 10 am Friday. Lunch will be provided on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. If you would like to stay over Friday night, free accommodations are available. Please contact Pastor James at 570 856 3310, or Frankie Cid at 570 856 7749.
- Support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos' Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Take a baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash, or a check and return it to Lori by Feb 14
- **Online Growth Groups begin the week of February 7th.** Please sign up at the Information Center or online to join a group.
- We would like to have an in-person Growth Group on Thursdays. If you are interested please let us know either by email, or through the contact form on our Website.
- **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website under **ABOUT** at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!