

JESUS AND THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW / *Matthew 5:38*

What seems to be a case of Jesus contradicting the laws of the Old Testament deserves a careful look. It is too easy to overlook how much mercy was written into the Old Testament laws. Below are several examples. What God designed as a system of justice with mercy had been distorted over the years into a license for revenge. It was this misapplication of the law that Jesus attacked.

Reference

Examples of Old Testament mercy in justice:

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| Leviticus 19:18 | “Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” |
| Proverbs 24:28-29 | “Do not testify spitefully against innocent neighbors; don’t lie about them. And don’t say, ‘Now I can pay them back for all their meanness to me! I’ll get even!’ ” |
| Proverbs 25:21-22 | “If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.” |
| Lamentations 3:30-31 | “Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them. Let them accept the insults of their enemies. For the Lord does not abandon anyone forever.” |