



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

DERICK BINGHAM B.A.

There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 1992

Subject: 'Should We Turn The Other Cheek?'

Matthew 5:38-42

1. **What is meant by 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?'** (Exo. 21:22-25):
 - (a) It was an instruction to the judges of Israel alone. It defined justice and restrained revenge. There is evidence that even in Moses' time it was not carried out literally, except for murder (Ex. 21:22-25).
 - (b) The error of the Pharisees was that they took the principle from the law courts where it belongs to the realm of personal relationships where it does not belong.
2. **What is implied by non-retaliation (v39-42)?:**
 - (a) Release your right to personal dignity (v39). (Is. 50:6; Mk. 14:65; 15:16-20).
 - (b) Release your right to cling to comforts (v40).
 - (c) Release your right to privacy and selfish schedule (v42).
3. **What is not meant by non-retaliation?:**
 - (a) Christ did not mean that a Christian is a weakling who offers no resistance but rather a person who offers no retaliation (Jn. 18:19-23; Gal. 2:11-14).
 - (b) Christ's teaching is not to be taken as a charter for any unscrupulous tyrant, beggar or thug. He was not encouraging injustice, dishonesty or vice.
 - (c) Christ's teaching was not an absolute prohibition of the use of all force. The state is a divine institution which both punishes the wrong doer and rewards the good. The duties and function of the state are quite different from those of the individual (Rom. 12:17-21; 13:1-4).

'Hate multiplies hate in a descending spiral of violence and is just as injurious to the person who hates as to his victim. Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.'

-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING