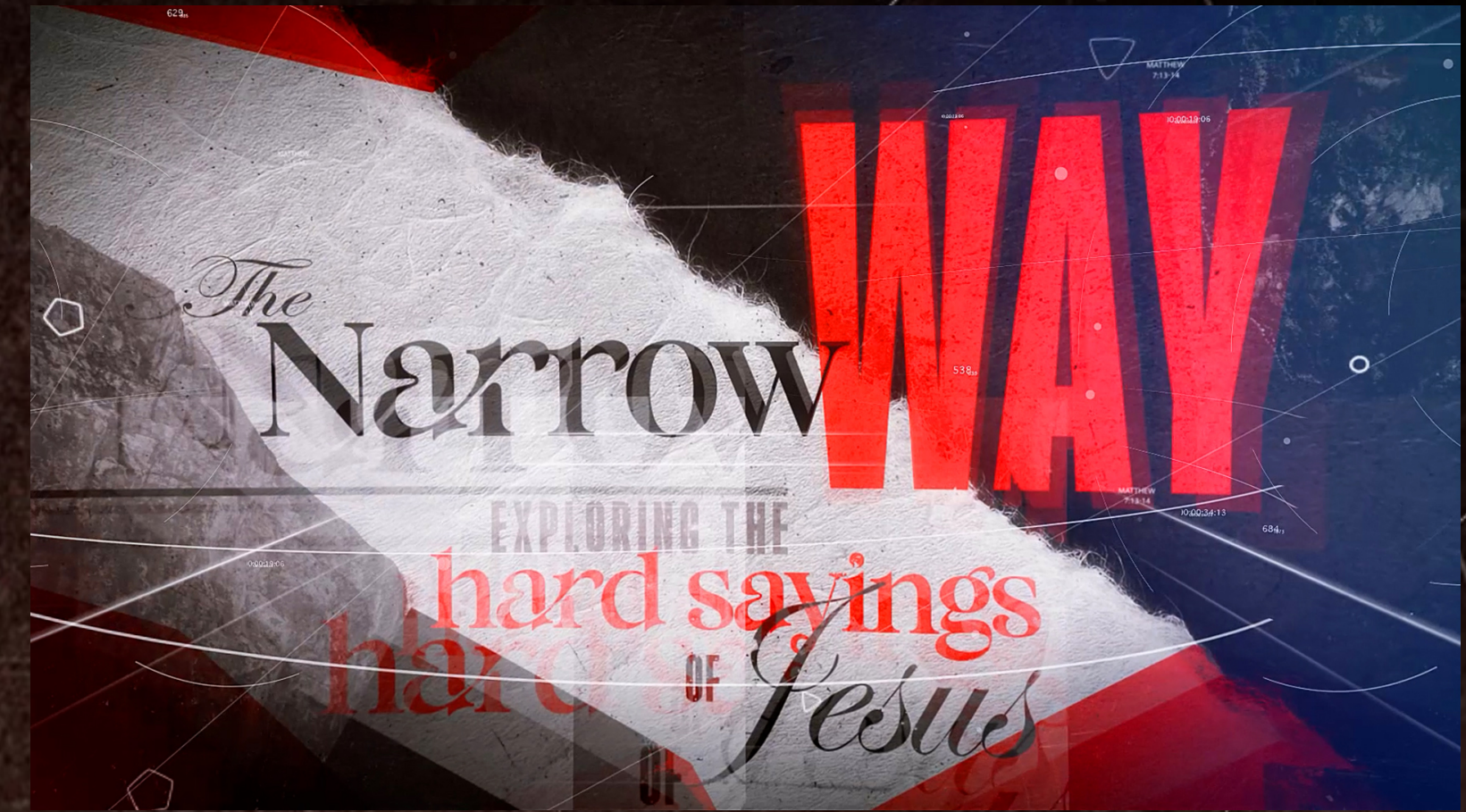


The Narrow Way

Week 6

Turn The Other Cheek



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, December 21, 2025

Theme Verse for the Series:

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For **the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.**

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV



The Narrow Way: Exploring the Hard Sayings of Jesus

Week 6 – Turn The Other Cheek

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An **eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 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.**

And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him **have your cloak as well**. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, **go with him two miles.**”

Matthew 5:38-41 ESV

1. An Eye For An Eye

“You have heard that it was said, ‘**An eye for an eye** and a tooth for a tooth.’”

Matthew 5:38 ESV

“The original law was a fair one; it kept people from forcing the offender to pay a greater price than the offense deserved. It also prevented people from taking personal revenge.”

Warren Wiersbe

The words eye for eye, and tooth for tooth come from several Old Testament passages (Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21); they are called the *lex talionis*, the law of retaliation. This law was given to **protect the innocent** and to make sure **retaliation did not occur beyond the offense**. Jesus pointed out, however, that while the rights of the innocent were protected by the Law, the righteous need not necessarily claim their rights.

Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). Matthew. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 2, p. 31). Victor Books.

Meaning: The allowance of a commensurate response to an injury to prevent excessive retaliation.

2. Do Not Resist

But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil.

Matthew 5:39 ESV

Resist – most translations, simply – do not resist.

To Match With; to come back at him in the same manner with which he is coming at you. The same level or in kind.

Meaning – Stand against but not in same way they're standing against you.

3. Turn The Other Cheek

**But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek,
turn to him the other also.**

Matthew 5:39 ESV

“A man may shoot the man who invades his character, as he may shoot him who attempts to break into his house.”

Samuel Johnson



**Meaning: To overlook an insult for the
sake of Christ**

4. Let Him Have Your Cloak As Well

And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

Matthew 5:40 ESV

Tunic – Long sack-like inner garment made of cotton or linen. Even the poor typically had a change of tunic.

Cloak – A greater, blanket-like outer garment, worn as a robe by day and a blanket by night. Most would have only one of these.

If ever you take your neighbor's **cloak** in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for **that is his only covering**, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep?

Exodus 22:26-27 ESV

“The principle is not primarily the avoidance of lawsuits but a radically unselfish attitude to one’s rights and property.”

R.T. France

Meaning: To give sacrificially to others in radical love for Christ

5. Go With Him Two Miles

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Matthew 5:41 ESV

Forces – angarevo – to compel into service.

Christians will never stand upon their legal rights or on any other rights they may believe themselves to possess; Christians will never think of their right to do as they like, but always of their duty to be of help.

William Barclay

**Meaning: To serve others, even those who
don't deserve it**

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, **live peaceably with all**. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but **leave it to the wrath of God**, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 12:17-19 ESV

Meaning: Allowance of a commensurate response to an injury

Meaning: To stand against but not in same way

Meaning: To overlook an insult for the sake of Christ

Meaning: To give sacrificially to others in radical love for Christ

Meaning: To serve others, even who don't deserve it

The Call Of The Christ Follower

Not taking a commensurate response to injury, but standing against evil by being willing to overlook an insult, give sacrificially to others and serve those who don't deserve it.