



Day One

Listen to the episode. Read the following questions, and write your answers in the box provided.

At 4 and a half months, a human fetus has a reptile's tail, a remnant of our evolution. Maybe that's what I couldn't escape. You can fight a lot of enemies and survive. But if you fight your biology, you will always lose. Yuri. Lord of War. What is your view of human freedom and God's plan for human history? Write some thoughts below about human freedom. With freedom comes responsibility. How do you respond devotionally to God in relation to the freedom you possess?

Reflection: What's your view of retribution, getting your own back? Have you done it, and felt the effects? How did it make you feel? After listening to the episode and reading the passage, bring a particular situation to mind which currently provides temptation to act against someone in retaliation. Ask God for wisdom to know how to respond. Pray for the person who has hurt you. (The next episode addresses loving one's enemies. Read ahead in the Sermon to gain wisdom on loving one's enemies, but act now. Don't wait for the next episode!) Prayer.

Day Two

Listen to the episode. Read the following questions, and write your answers in the box provided.

He gives four descriptions of the way God transforms our relationships by calling us to return evil with good, abuse with goodwill. What happens when we return evil with good, when we respond lovingly to those who hurt us? Write some reflections below.

Reflection: Do not retaliate or resist violently or revengefully, by evil means. If we're called not respond violently or revengefully, then how can we respond to injustice in a manner that reflect the love of God? Today, think of those in your community who face discrimination, and ask yourself how you can respond actively by doing something for them that demonstrate the love of God. Listen to your heart. If you're getting angry and it's turning to bitterness against those who discriminate, then confess it before the Lord, and ask for his compassion for those who are your enemies. Prayer.



deovox individual devotional guide

Don't strike back: Matthew 5.38-42 Week 7

Day Three

Listen to the episode. Read the following question, and write your answers in the box provided.

Generosity. Write a definition of what the word means. Then reflect on your own generosity. Write some thoughts below.

Reflection: The calling then, is to generosity of an other-worldly kind. How generous are you? Write down a list of causes and people to whom you give financially. Write another list regarding your volunteering. How are you giving to other people? If, when you look at the lists, you realize that God is speaking to you regarding your generosity, then write some reflections in the box above. Respond by making a commitment to take action. Remember that this should have nothing to do with guilt, and everything to do with listening to the prompting of God's Spirit. Perhaps talk over what you're hearing with your loved ones, and discuss how you might give more, or volunteer more, if that is how God is leading. Take courage and be bold to respond obediently to God's Spirit. Prayer.