

SHIFT

Shift: Your Advantage (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

No one can take advantage of what you have placed in the hands of Jesus.

Key Scriptures

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:38-42

It is the freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

When we shift our attitudes and actions from the norms of this world to the values of Christ's Kingdom, we find freedom.

We can be free from having our behavior determined by the way we are treated.

If we give our advantage to Jesus:

- **We can be free from taking offense.**
- **We can be free from entitlement.**
- **We can be free from resentment.**

Start talking

- What are some of the unusual "norms" of your family?
- Describe some negative norms from current culture.
- What is the result of living according to those norms?

Start thinking

- Read Matthew 5:38-42. How had the people misunderstood and misapplied God's instruction from Leviticus 19:21?
- How can "turning the other cheek" be a strategy of freedom rather than a sign of surrender?
- What are some ways we are chained and entitled by our "stuff"?
- What does Jesus offer as a solution to entitlement and materialism?
- How does resentment form? What does Jesus suggest as a way forward?

Start sharing

- Which of the three areas discussed—offense, entitlement, and resentment—do you connect with?
- How have you typically responded when each has been infringed upon?
- Pastor Joel summed it up by stating each of these are representations of how to act when we feel taken advantage of. Why do such situation so often bring out the worst in us?

Start doing

- Read Galatians 5:1. Write it down and/or memorize it.
- Pastor Joel closed the message with the following questions: What offense are you holding onto? What entitlement are you convinced you deserve? What resentment have you been harboring? Right now, ask Jesus to shift your attitude toward the freedom He offers. It begins with speaking these things out to Him. Write them down and stick them in your Bible as a reminder to daily and consistently give them away to Jesus.

Closing prayer

Jesus forgive me from the ways I've clung to offenses, held tight to entitlement, and allowed past hurts to become lasting resentments. Please help me to be free from them. Help me to respond as you would have me. Help me to give all of it to you and help me experience your freedom.