

**Message: “Revenge Fantasies”**      February 21, 2018  
Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:17-21  
Pastor Tom

**Introduction**

- ❖ Standard plot: Hero is wronged by a sinister person
- ❖ We love justice with retribution-bad guys get what they deserve
- ❖ Some psychologists say revenge fantasies are good for us
- ❖ We “run” them every time we feel injustice has been done

**I. From embitterment to embodiment**

- Jesus directions in the Sermon on the Mount: hard stuff!
- Revenge is about making ourselves feel better, superior to the offender
- Rather than retaliation, Jesus said: “Turn the other cheek.”
- What may happen when you do that?

**II. Ultimate justice**

- Are Christians to become doormats?
- Jesus asserts this is a position of strength
- His command is a foreshadowing of the cross
- Hard for us to understand that God loves all people (not just Americans, Lutherans, or members of FCLC)
- Jesus asks us to do something that is counterintuitive
- But remember, God is not soft on evil
- St. Paul gives us clear words on this: Romans 12:17-21

**Summary**

- We are not to dish out on our offenders what they deserve
- Do you like that? (I don’t!) But Jesus said it!

**Some application thoughts. . .**