

When a Small Loss Presses the Heart

If someone takes something that's yours, don't demand he return it.

LUKE 6:30

Written by Bill Perkins

Someone takes something small.
You notice it later—
and a quiet pull
toward fairness begins.

Jesus speaks into that moment
but doesn't crush the feeling
or tell us the loss doesn't matter.
He speaks to the instinct
that rises when something small
goes missing.

Torah—the Old Testament law
God gave through Moses—
guards what a person needs to live:
a tool for harvest,
a cloak for the cold,
anything essential for survival. (Ex. 22;
Deut. 24)

Jesus isn't undoing that.
He isn't asking the poor
to give up what keeps them standing.
He's naming a different kind of moment—
where the loss is real
but the danger isn't.

This command sits among other teachings
about pressure and slight:
a slap meant to insult,
a demand meant to inconvenience,
a request that interrupts your plans.

Each one touches the same nerve
and asks what happens inside
when someone takes from us.

Jesus is forming a new instinct
that doesn't turn a small loss
into a larger wound.

If the thing taken is essential,
we speak.

We restore what matters
and protect what keeps us alive,
without becoming the aggressor.

If the thing taken is small,
we let the moment pass.
We allow mercy to rise
where fairness once stood,
and let the King shape our response.

Scripture holds stories of deeper wounds—
Joseph, David, Jesus Himself. (Gen. 37–50;
1 Sam. 24, 26;
1 Pet. 2:23)

These are huge losses
that reshape lives.

Yet they reveal the same heart
Jesus calls for in small things:
a heart that doesn't retaliate,
trusts the Father,
and stays open
when fairness tightens.

Where do I feel the pull toward repayment
when the loss is small?

This passage invites us to trust
that small acts of grace
shape the heart that
Jesus fills with mercy.

Father, teach me to
loosen my grip on repayment
and quiet the reflex to demand.
Let mercy rise where fairness once ruled.

Lift me into Your light,
and let Your heart become mine.
I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.