

Say What!?

Matthew 5:38-42

Language

- “Within the Bible, as within literature in general, there exist two main kinds of language: referential language and commissive language.” (A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible by Robert H. Stein)

Language

- Referential - to pass on information and facts. To describe. Appeals to the mind.
- Commissive - goal of evoking decisions, conveying emotions, eliciting feelings, arousing sentiment and affecting change. Appeals to the heart.
- Literal and figurative language.
- Hyperbole - exaggeration
- Not to be taken literally, but seriously.

Hyperbole - exaggeration

- You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. (Matt. 23:24 NIV)
- Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.“ (Matt. 19:24 NIV)
- Statement is literally impossible.

Hyperbole - exaggeration

- "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-- yes, even their own life-- such a person cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14:26 NIV)
- Matthew 6:5-13
- Statement contradicts other Bible passages.

Hyperbole - exaggeration

- Matthew 5:38-42
 - "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" (Jn. 18:23 NIV)
- "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." (2 Thess. 3:10 NIV)
- Romans 12:9-21