
Modern Sayings With Biblical Roots

Am I my brother's keeper?

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Genesis 4:9

An unwillingness to assume responsibility for the what one does to another.



Eye for an eye.

"But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."

Exodus 21:23-25

A demand for revenge.

(However, it originally was a statement of justice: that the punishment should fit the crime. The avenging was not to be an act of overkill.)



Fly in the ointment.

Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.

Ecclesiastes 10:1

Anything that hinders or prevents success.



Prophet without honor in his own country.

And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household."

Matthew 13:57

Those who are personally acquainted often fail to recognize one's abilities or accomplishments.



Walking on water.

And in the fourth watch of the night He [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea.

Matthew 14:25

High regard for one who performs particularly difficult tasks.