



The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 11 • MAY 31

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever experienced a time where someone wronged you and you loved them anyway?

BACKGROUND

At the time of the Old Testament, Mosaic Law provided civil guidance when a wrong was done to achieve justice and retribution for damages. The challenge of this guidance later came when the scribes and Pharisees extended this practice from the law to personal relationships where revenge and grudges could take place and seen to be acceptable.

Jesus references Leviticus 19:18 to show that the intent behind that Scripture is not to provide an excuse for revenge and grudges, but to love enemies and to pray for them. Both love and prayer are considered actions and it was action that Christ himself took. For it was upon the cross, where he hung, that he forgave those that mocked him because they did not know what they were doing (Luke 23:34). Even in pain and in the knowledge that he would soon die for them; he forgave and prayed for them.

Divine grace. That is loving your enemy, the person that brings you harm. To love them is impossible without God's grace.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:44

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”

READ: Matthew 5:43-48



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. We show we are a child of God by doing what (see Matthew 5:44-45)?
2. What does God provide to both the evil and good (see Matthew 5:45)?
3. What has Jesus called us to be (see Matthew 5:48)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY


How do the following verses drive home the idea of loving your enemy?

- Luke 6:27-28
- Romans 12:14
- Romans 12:20-21




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. How does praying for your enemy change your heart toward them?
2. How does loving your enemy show them that you are a child of God?
3. How does loving your enemies conform us to the likeness (nature and character) of God?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. How can you both inwardly and outwardly love your enemies?
2. Is there a situation today where this topic applies to a personal relationship you have with a neighbor/friend/co-worker, etc.? How have you been encouraged to address this relationship?
3. What is one important point from this study that you hope to apply in the future?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:48
“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)