C nnect Groups

Discussion:

Read Matthew 5:43-48

1. Pastor Mark used an illustration in his opening about Pikes Peak and Mt. Everest. He said the commands of Scripture sometimes seem like trying to climb Pikes Peak (14,000 ft. above sea level). But the gospel towers above them like Mt. Everest (29,000 ft. sea above sea level). How is this an encouragement to you?
2. The people had heard (according to v. 43) to love their neighbors and hate their enemies. Jesus responded to that with one command: love your enemies. In other words, love your neighbor even if he or she is an enemy. What kind of enemies was Jesus talking about?
3. Looking at v. 44, v. 45, and v. 47-48, who all could be categorized as an enemy? Is it easy to love people who are like this toward you?
4. What does loving an enemy look like? How can you begin to show love to those who have hurt you or wounded you in the past?
5. Read Matthew 5:11-12. What is the council from these verses to help put our minds on the Mt. Everest of the gospel, versus the Pikes Peak of the command?