

Resisting Revenge and Loving Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

#8 Sermon on the Mount

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Loving Enemies

So far in the Sermon on the Mount: Chapter 5			
1-12: Beatitudes	13-16: Salt and Light	17-20: What is true righteousness?	21-48: Six Examples
Marks of a Christian.	Effect of Christians on the world.	Christians need greater righteousness than Pharisees	What is the greater righteousness behind the law?

An overview of Matthew 5:21-48	
Old Testament Law	Jesus's Call to Greater Heart-level Righteousness
21-26: Do not murder	Resist anger—pursue radical forgiveness
27-30: Do not commit adultery	Resist lust—pursue radical purity
31-32: Issue divorce certificate	Resist divorce except for sexual immorality—pursue radical life-long marriages
33-37: Do not break oaths to God	Resist lying—pursue radical faithfulness to your word
38-42: Law of Retaliation	Resist revenge—pursue radical self-denial
43-48: Love your neighbor	Resist hatred of enemy—pursue radical love of all people

Resisting Revenge

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Monday: Read Matt 5:1-48 and trace the theme of righteousness. How does the righteousness which faith in Jesus provides contrast with the righteousness of the Pharisees? How does Philippians 3:9 inform your understanding of the righteousness Jesus provides us?

Tuesday: Read Matt 5:38-48. What two major topics does Jesus address? How do his demands relate to Matthew 5:1-20?

Wednesday: Read Matt 5:38-42. What was the original context and purpose of the eye for eye, tooth for tooth restriction? What three examples of application does Jesus give? Do Jesus' commands apply to individuals and not governments? How does 1 Peter 3:8-9 inform your understanding of Jesus' commands?

Thursday: Read Matt 5:43-48. Does the Bible ever teach to hate your enemy? What does this reveal about the Pharisees? What motivation does Jesus give for us to express radical love? How does Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:10 shape your thinking about loving others?

Friday: Read Matt 5:48 and Matt 5:1-47. Discover Jesus' meaning of righteousness and how we can obtain it. How does Ephesians 4:32-5:2 inform your answer?

Saturday: Read Matt 6:1-18. Identify the major theme and the primary motivation for obedience Jesus gives us. Pray and bring a friend with you to church tomorrow.