



Love Your Enemy

Matthew 5:38-48
July 26, 2026

How do Kingdom people respond to opposition?

Replace vengeance with generosity

Replace hate with love

How do we do THAT?!

Pray

Embrace the family resemblance

What now?

Study Questions to Go Deeper with God:

1. Is your impression of “an eye for an eye” positive or negative? The principle is stated in Exodus 21:24 (and elsewhere in the Old Testament). It was given to restrain vengeance beyond what was fitting. How can this be helpful? How can it be abused?
2. To avoid turning the Sermon on the Mount into a new legalism, how should we take and apply verses 39-42 in practical terms for our world today?
3. The Old Testament nowhere states to “hate your enemies.” It was added to “love your neighbor,” but there are some texts where hatred for enemies can be inferred – like Psalm 139:21-22. After centuries of occupation from foreign powers, can you see how ancient Israel came to add “love your neighbor, hate your enemies”? There are also no commands to love your enemies in the Old Testament (though there are commands to aid them in need – see Exodus 23:4-5). How revolutionary would Jesus’ instruction sound to the original hearers? How does it sound to you today?
1. Review Jesus’ love for His enemies (see Matthew 27; Romans 5:1-11; Luke 23:34; see also His healings throughout all the gospels). How can you love those you consider your enemy today?