KINGDOM *of* HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Matthew 5:33-48

(Sermon from Sunday 28 May 2023, Justin Tamlin)

This week we don't have sermon-specific notes for CG leaders, but following are a list of discussion questions based on the passage, from Daniel L Akin's book 'The Sermon on the Mount'.

1. Why do we lie or tell partial truths? What underlying motivations cause this, and what does this say about the human heart?
2. Is there a difference between retaliating against evil with violent aggression versus self-defense or protecting one's family? How can you distinguish between the two?
3. Someone may not always literally slap you, but are you still tempted to retaliate when someone has embarrassed, insulted, or mocked you in other ways? How might you be tempted to return a "slap"?
4. How can you apply Jesus's teaching about the shirt and coat if you are not being sued?
5. Do you have any examples in your life of someone who exemplified what it looks like to live the way Jesus describes in these verses?
6. What are some specific ways in your life where you can "go the extra mile" this week or this month for those whom you might consider your enemy?
7. Are you inclined to be generous to those who tell you they have a need? If so, what makes you generous? If not, what keeps you from being generous?
8. If the righteousness Jesus requires can only come through faith in him, why does he require that you live the way this chapter teaches?
9. Imagine if Jesus did not call you to love and pray for your enemies. What might this change about the gospel you have now? In light of this, why is loving and praying for your enemies a good thing?
10. This chapter teaches that "love for enemies is not restricted to feelings of benevolence." Explain in your own words what this means. Why is it important not to limit love to feelings?
11. How does praying for our enemies change your heart toward them? Is there someone you can pray for right now?
12. What should you pray for your enemies?
13. Because sin affects us all, every person is more disposed to loving some people over others. If you honestly assess your heart, who are you more likely to love with regard to gender, race, economic status, political/national affiliation, religious belief, etc.?
14. Do Christians ever treat one another as if they are enemies? Are Christians ever preferential toward one another in their love? How SO?
15. How can you both inwardly and outwardly love your enemies?
16. What is the relationship between loving God and loving your enemies? Can you love one and not the other?
17. How does your love for God fuel and empower your love for your enemies?