

## ***Radical Kingdom Love***

Gospel of Matthew, Part 28

Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon outline

### **4 Keys to Understanding Matthew 5:20-48**

1. All the Bible and this passage must be understood in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mt. 5:17)
2. Jesus provides the righteousness that he requires through faith. (Mt. 5:20)
3. The Law is not a way TO life, but a way OF life IN Christ.
4. The Law drives us to the Gospel; the Gospel drives us to one another.

#### **I. Heavenly Trust vs. Worldly Trust (5:38-42)**

- A. The Law was given to restrain violence and revenge (5:38).
- B. The Law was used as a “right” to use violence and revenge.
- C. Jesus explains the Law in light of the Kingdom (5:39, “But I say to you...”) and drives us to the Gospel.
  - 4 areas of our lives in which we do not have to retaliate but trust God.
    1. Our dignity
    2. Our security
    3. Our liberty
    4. Our property

#### **II. Heavenly Love vs. Worldly Love (5:43-48)**

- A. The Command was given to bring blessing to all.
- B. The Command was used to limit blessing to some.
- C. Jesus explains the Command in light of the Kingdom (5:44, “But I say to you...”) and drives us to the Gospel.
  - 3 ways to love our enemies
    1. Prayer
    2. Grace and Mercy
    3. Proactive kindness

### **III. Heavenly Righteousness vs. Self-Righteousness**

- A. Our tendency toward self-righteousness
- B. Our inability to achieve righteousness
- C. Jesus’ willingness to provide righteousness

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. Read Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20. Why did God give these commands to the nation of Israel? How has your view of these commands changed in light of Jesus’ teaching?
2. How did the Scribes and Pharisees pervert the intent of these commands? Have you ever asserted your “rights” when you should have trusted God and let it go?
3. Why do these commands not mean that we should never seek justice?
4. Is there a time in your life when you let God take care of justice when you would have rather sought revenge and taken the matter into your own hands?
5. Why does God want us to love our enemies? How does God reach out to those who hate him? How did Jesus treat those who killed him?
6. Is there someone who loves you even though you have been an enemy to that person?
7. What does it mean to be a son of your Father in heaven?
8. How do you feel when these words of Jesus expose your inability to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect? How does the Gospel change your heart attitude and behavior toward Matthew 5:38-48?