



Sermon on the Mount: Retaliation, Love, and Enemies

Sunday, November 29th, 2015

In the **Sermon on the Mount**, Jesus is speaking to something we will all be confronted with eventually: facing opposition and enemies. Jesus is redefining how we confront our enemies and exchange fairness for love.

Spend some time as a group defining the word “enemy.”

What constitutes something or someone being identified as an enemy? When is the word “enemy” unfairly used?

Read **Matthew 5:38-48** together as a group.

What common examples does Jesus use to illustrate his teaching?

What is the payoff for putting others above ourselves?

Jesus is calling us to **die to our self-interest**; to be unconcerned with what is only good for ourselves. This places us in a place for God to provide for our justice.

As a group, identify some practical ways we can practice letting others win? These responses may be both personal to individuals and common to everyone.

Our love needs to go further than what you want and even **further than what is reasonable**.

Where have you seen someone love in the face of great opposition?

We are still called to confront evil and injustice, but not from a heart of hatred or vengeance.

How do we differentiate between our human longing for fairness and God’s call for us to love our enemies? How can we put aside revenge and embrace love?