

Love Your Enemies Matthew 5:38-48

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Supplemental Scripture

Exodus 21:23-25 James 4:7 Hebrews 12:1-2 Hebrews 10:14

Discussion Questions for Personal Life and Community Gathering

1. **Accountability.** Take a few minutes at the beginning or end of group time and discuss how your life has changed this week based on the teachings of Christ. How did you live differently? How have your perceptions changed? How did your reactions change? What did God point out in your life or in what areas did He convict you? Has repentance occurred? If so, in what areas of your life?

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2. **What Jesus Taught.** Read Matthew 5:38-42. What did Jesus teach about retaliation?

Read Matthew 5:43-48. What does Jesus teach about our relationship to our enemies in verses 43-45. How about our behavior in verses 46-47? What are we called to in verse 48?

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3. **What Jesus Meant.** How does Matthew 5:38-42 compare to the law (Exodus 21:23-25)? Discuss the relationship of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:38-44 to the cross. How does that relate to us?

Compare the meaning of Matthew 5:39 ("do not resist the one who is evil") with the idea of resisting temptation in James 4:7.

Discuss the implications of Jesus teaching on loving others in Matthew 5:45-47.

What does Jesus mean in Matthew 5:48 (Hint: Hebrews 10:14)?

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4. **Application.** How do you typically respond to your enemies with your thoughts? With your deeds? How do you harmonize a courageous gospel-centered life with submission to persecution from your enemies? How did Jesus do this? How does the cross flavor your life?

How does your response to your enemies make you salt and light?

In light of this passage, how are different from the world? How are you the same? Spend some time evaluating any convictions from the Holy Spirit here and share in group time.

How do you or can you live Matthew 5:48 in connection with Hebrews 10:14?

Prayer: Pray that God will give you great humility and courage as you deal with a world that is broken and dark. Pray that you will be able to live a life of carrying your cross daily so that persecution and suffering would not be such a burden but a joy. Pray that Summit Crossing will be a place that not loves or greets those who love us back, but a place that truly is salt and light; a place that opens its arms to the city and the world to love without concern of anything in return. Pray that we will take glory in the cross, our perfection in His life.

Next Week: The Law Fulfilled/Anger/Lust, Matthew 5:17-30