

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO 

Matthew

FROM TAX COLLECTOR TO APOSTLE 

Week 15 - Matthew 5:38-48 - 4/21/24
How to Deal with Your Enemies

Today, we're continuing on in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus is in the midst of teaching what it looks like for people to be a part of the Kingdom of God. Today, we're looking at what He has to say about how we interact with our enemies. Scripture teaches us to:

1. Leave _____ in God's hands
Matt. 5:48-42, Rom. 12:19, Deut. 32:35, Prov. 20:22, 24:29, Nah. 1:2-3
2. Overcome evil with _____
Matt. 5:43-47, Rom. 12:14-21, 1 Thess. 5:15, 1 Pet. 2:20-23, 3:9
3. All God to continually _____ you
Matt. 5:48, Rom. 12:1-2, 2 Pet. 1:10, 2 Cor. 3:18, Gal. 2:20, Ps. 51:10-12

When we deal with our enemies in a Biblical manner, we can better point people towards _____, even in the midst of difficult situations.

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When we deal with our enemies in a Biblical manner, we can better point people towards _____, even in the midst of difficult situations.

Reflecting on God's Word

Getting Started

- Take some time to read over Matthew 5:38-48 and pray.
- Have you ever read or heard about this before? What stood out to you as we were talking about it?
- Take some time to think and pray about who your enemies are. Ask God to point out who you view as your enemies.

Diving In

1. Read over Matthew 5:38-42 again. Here, Jesus calls us to live radically different lives than the world. If we are to accomplish how Jesus tells us to live our lives regarding dealing with our enemies, it is imperative that we leave vengeance and revenge with God's hands. Why do you think it's so difficult for the vast majority of people (even among believers) to live with that mentality?

- What is your knee-jerk reaction when it comes to dealing with your enemies?
- How much does your anger have to do with how you behave towards your enemies?
- How would it change the way you deal with your enemies if you could better leave the vengeance in God's hands?

2. Read over Matthew 5:43-47 again. Here, Jesus takes things to the next level. Not only are we not to retaliate against our enemies, but we are also to take the next step and love our enemies. What does that practically look like in our world today?

- What stops you from loving your enemies?
- What kind of attitudes do you need God to help you to avoid, because they stop you from loving your enemies?
- How would it change your life if you could love your enemies well?

3. Read over Matthew 5:48 again. Here again, Jesus takes things to an even higher level for us. Not only are we not retaliate against, but rather love our enemies, but in addition, we are also to be perfect as God is perfect. Take some time to spend in prayer, asking God to reveal what area(s) of your life you need to hand over to Him.

- Since you have given your life to Christ, how has God changed you?
- How do you think it would affect your relationship with God if you were to continually allow Him to transform you?
- How would it impact the people around you if you were to allow God to continually transform you?

Applying the Scripture

What are your biggest takeaways from this passage of God's Word?

- What practical step(s) do you need to implement in your life to apply what God has taught you in this passage of Scripture?
- How would applying this affect your life and your relationship with the Lord?
- Who can you ask to keep you accountable to applying this to your life?

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