

Matthew 5:38-48 (10/13/2024)

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Matthew 5:38-48

1. The instruction of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” was given to the authorities (not individuals) to maintain justice (Deuteronomy 19:20-21). What do you think is the benefit of such instruction for a society?

2. Human tendency is to see revenge when we have been wronged. What does scripture say about revenge in Luke 18:7 and Romans 12:19?
Have you ever been tempted to retaliate and do these scriptures comfort and help you?

3. When Jesus refers to the action of someone slapping you, He is talking about insult and slander. Name some of the ways people insult and slander others today. How do you avoid “slapping” another person and how should you respond when you have been “slapped”?

4. a) How does God treat His enemies and for what purpose (Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17; Romans 2:4)?

b) Discuss how Jesus responded to His enemies when He was falsely accused, beaten, insulted, and crucified.

5. Give examples of how believers can love their enemies? What do you think is the impact of loving your enemies on them and on you?

6. Jesus says we “must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). However, everyone falls short (Romans 3:10, 23) so, how is it possible for us to be perfect (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:22)?