

**COMING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT:
A KEY TO REVIVAL AND REFORMATION OF SOCIETY
KINGDOM LIVING SERIES
A STUDY OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

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TEXT: Matthew 5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.⁴¹ Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.⁴² Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

INTRO: Some of the greatest social changes in modern society were brought about by the principles of the Sermon on the Mount, but more specifically by this passage in Matthew 5:38-48. Three come to mind: First, Mahatma Gandhi, who was an attorney and was deeply impacted by the Sermon on the Mount, although he didn't convert to Christianity, used the principles to bring about a peaceful Independence of India from the British rule. Second, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the leader of the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s, brought about tremendous civil rights change for the African Americans in our society. Finally, Bishop Desmond Tutu was the spiritual catalyst behind Nelson Mandela and the peaceful end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994, when everyone predicted bloodshed and a violent civil war. Jesus has been transforming the world for the past 2,000 years and will continue to do so ultimately when He comes the second time; until then, He has taught us His way of transforming the world.



I. COMING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT OF INJUSTICE AND VIOLENCE

A. Matthew 5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.” Retaliation just perpetuates the violence. That is the world’s system.

1. When you are hit on the right cheek, the backside of the other person’s right hand hits you. This was not only violence done to you, but it was also an incredible insult. You didn’t hit a person with the backside of your hand unless they were inferior to you (i.e., a child, woman or slave).

2. By turning the other cheek, you are saying, “You can hit me if you like, but now as an equal, not as an inferior.”

3. You are sending a message of dignity, human worth and justice.

B. BY GIVING HIM BOTH YOUR TUNIC AND OUTER CLOTHES, YOU SHAME HIM WITH YOUR NAKEDNESS

1. **Matthew 5:40** “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt [tunic, underclothes], let him have your coat [other clothes] also.”

2. You are exposing the person of greed, cruelty, selfishness and injustice.

C. BY GOING THE SECOND MILE, YOU ARE FORCING THE ROMAN SOLDIER TO BREAK THEIR ONE-MILE RULE

1. **Matthew 5:41** “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

2. The Romans prided themselves with law and order. They hated corruption from the government officials. In many ways, the Roman system of law and order has impacted the U.S. Ultimately our legal system is based on Judeo-Christian values, but we have emulated the Roman system of order.

3. When you go two miles, the Roman system is compromised.

II. COME IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT BY LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

A. Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the



same? ⁴⁷ **If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?** ⁴⁸ **Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”**

1. Love of enemies is perhaps Jesus’ teaching that is most famous and most violated.
2. Forgiveness as we know it did not exist in ancient Greece and Rome.
3. German political theorist Hannah Arendt, the first woman appointed to a full professorship at Princeton University, claimed that forgiveness and love of enemies is a distinctively Christian contribution to the human race: **“The discoverer of the role of forgiveness in the realm of human affairs was Jesus of Nazareth.”**
4. Pastor Wadie, a Muslim, came to Christ as he read these words. At that time, he was a waiter, and a patron gave him a New Testament in Arabic. He said, “No human can come up with these words. This is the Word of God!”

B. LOVING PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE

1. DECAPOLIS

2. Mark 4:35 Late that day he said to them, “Let’s go across to the other side.”

3. The other side of the lake was the region of Decapolis, the “ten cities.” This was largely enemy territory. Its inhabitants were pagan people. At the time of Christ, a legion of 6,000 Roman soldiers lived in Decapolis. It is said that Decapolis was filled with pagan temples featuring exaltations of violence or sexual expression and greed. Moreover, the pig, the most unclean animal in Israel, was bred there for feeding of the soldiers. The Jews regarded the other side as the place where Satan lived. It was dark, evil, oppressive and demonic. No one would go to the other side.

4. There is no crowd when He goes over to the other side. Only the Gerasene demoniac meets him. He casts out a legion of demons, they go into 2,000 pigs, and the herds rush over the cliff and fling themselves into the sea and drown.

5. The people beg Jesus to leave the region (Mark 5:17). He does leave, but before He leaves, He commissions the former demoniac.

6. Mark 5:18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the demon-delivered man begged to go along, ¹⁹ but he wouldn’t let him. Jesus said, “Go home to your own people. Tell them your story—what the Master did, how he had mercy on you.” ²⁰ The man went back and began to preach in the Ten Towns area about what Jesus had done for him. He was the talk of the town.



7. By Mark 6:53, Jesus comes back, a mass of people show up, and they have so much faith that Mark says in **Mark 6:56: “Wherever he went, village or town or country crossroads, they brought their sick to the marketplace and begged him to let them touch the edge of his coat—that’s all. And whoever touched him became well.”**

8. **One man’s testimony brought revival to the ten towns of the Decapolis.**

9. SAMARITANS

10. But Jesus loved and accepted the Samaritan woman in John 4.

11. **John 4:39 Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman’s witness: “He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!”** ⁴⁰ They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. ⁴¹ A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We’re no longer taking this on your say-so. We’ve heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He’s the Savior of the world!”

12. It is interesting that the two of His followers who brought salvation and transformation to a whole region were people who were despised by the Jews.

C. LOVING PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE

1. **Love of enemies is perhaps Jesus’ teaching that is most famous and most disobeyed.**

2. **The Democratic Party or the Republican Party, especially the leaders of the party** — The Lord convicted me for not praying for President Obama. Sue and I repented and started to pray for him and the Democratic Party.

3. **LGBT+ COMMUNITY.** Lou’s dream of the next great harvest being among the gay community.

4. **THE MUSLIM**

5. **THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

D. WHO IS YOUR ENEMY?

1. People you hate or dislike.

2. It could be your spouse.

3. **People are not your enemy. The Enemy is the enemy.**

III. HOW TO LOVE YOUR ENEMY

A. RECEIVE GOD’S LOVE



1. 1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

B. DON'T EXPECT AN UNBELIEVER TO ACT LIKE A BELIEVER UNTIL THEY BECOME A BELIEVER

C. BLESS YOUR PEOPLE THAT YOU DISLIKE BY DOING SOMETHING TANGIBLY GOOD TO THEM

1. Corrie ten Boom and the Nazis.

2. My dad with the Japanese people.

3. The story of the Korean Christian father who adopted the Japanese soldier who had killed his son.

CONCLUSION: Jesus turned the other cheek. He gave His tunic and outer garment. He went the second mile to the cross. And He died for us while we were enemies of God.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were *enemies* we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

His act was so revolutionary that Christianity is now the largest faith in the world. Give your life to the God who loves you.

