

October 14, 2018

Eye for Love
Matthew 5:38-48
Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

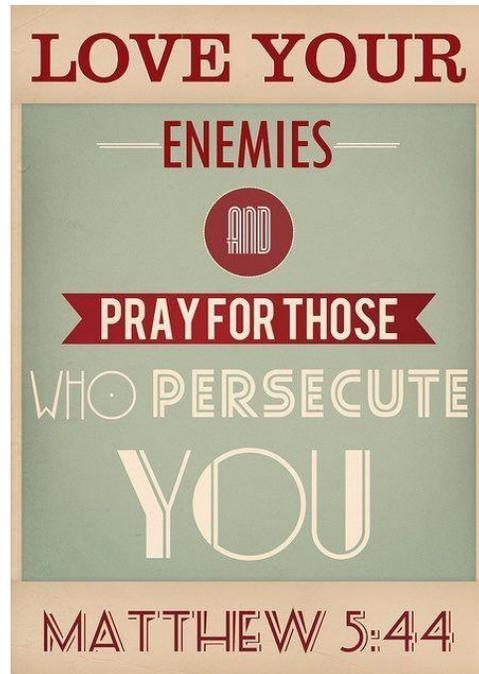
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Loving your enemies is not easy. In our passage this week that is exactly what Jesus tells us to do. He tells us to go the extra mile in helping anyone in need, even those that are persecuting us. For us to truly be set apart by the way we live, if we are going to be different than the rest of the world, then we should love our enemies. When people see that we love those that persecute us they will know that we are not like the rest of the world. And then they will see the love of God in us as God works through us.

Matthew 5:38–48 New English Translation

Retaliation

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 the evildoer. But whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well. ⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and to take your tunic, give him your coat also. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not reject the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘**Love your neighbor**’ and ‘hate your

enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the 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? Even the tax collectors do the same, don’t they? ⁴⁷ And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don’t they? ⁴⁸ So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What does eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth mean?

9. How does this passage relate to self-defense?

10. Does the idea of 'hate your enemy', as seen in verse 43, come from the Old Testament?

11. How is verse 45 related to the question "why do evil people prosper"?

12. In verse 48 we are told to be perfect as God is perfect. Knowing that we cannot be perfect what do you think is Jesus' point?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Are there some people in life that are harder to love? Who and why?

14. Should we give money to everyone who asks?

15. What are some advantages to praying for our enemies other than just obeying God?

16. How can loving others reveal the love of God in your life?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES