Sermon Notes

Oct 4, 2026

The Mount: Oaths & Eye for an Eye

Key Scripture:

Matthew 5:33-42

When we feel _____ our natural instinct is to build a _____,

but Jesus invites us to build a _____ instead.

The _____ uses your _____ as a _____ to _____.

Jesus uses _____ as a _____ to _____.

_____ goes the first mile because they _____ to, but

_____ go the second mile because they _____ to.

Application

1:

2:

Notes

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Jesus' call to love enemies is not an impossible standard meant only to remind us of our failure. It is a genuine invitation to participate with God in building a community worth living in.
2. The word "perfect" in Matthew 5:48 carries the same meaning as "complete" in 1 Corinthians 13. Jesus is not demanding flawless behavior. He is calling us to a whole love that extends even to those who have hurt us.
3. Ephesians 6:10-12 reminds us that our struggle is not ultimately against other people. The people who wound us are themselves victims of a spiritual darkness they may not even recognize.
4. We live in an increasingly disenchanted world, and that disenchantment seeps into the church, making it harder to believe that a cosmic spiritual battle is more real than what we can see and touch.
5. When we pray for and love difficult people, we are the ones who change. Our vision shifts. We begin to see others and the world more clearly, moving closer to the face-to-face clarity that awaits us in eternity.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dusty acknowledged at the beginning of the sermon that not all wounds are equal. Without sharing more than you are comfortable sharing, has there been a person or situation in your life that made this kind of love feel especially difficult?
2. Dusty described the Sermon on the Mount as Jesus inviting His disciples to help build a world they would actually want to live in. How does framing it that way change how you hear His teaching on loving enemies?
3. Ephesians 6:10-12 describes our real struggle as being against spiritual forces rather than against other people. How easy or difficult is it for you to genuinely believe that about someone who has hurt you? What gets in the way?
4. Dusty talked about the West becoming a "disenchanted" culture and how that mindset can quietly seep into how we read and live out Scripture. Have you noticed this in your own thinking or in the church?
5. The airport story in the sermon invited the group to notice how quickly we move to judgment. What does it look like to pause and consider what spiritual battle another person might be caught in, rather than simply evaluating their behavior?
6. Dusty pointed out that Paul uses the word "complete" in 1 Corinthians 13 and Jesus uses the same word in Matthew 5:48. How does understanding "perfect" as "complete" or "whole" change the way you hear Jesus' command? Does it feel more or less reachable?
7. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that we currently see only a partial reflection, but one day we will see fully. How does that future hope shape the way we are called to love now, even when we cannot see clearly?
8. In the story of Billy with Jesus, Billy's understanding of "Jesus is always with you" shifted from a warning to a word of comfort and promise. Has your understanding of a familiar truth ever shifted in a similar way during a difficult season? What changed?
9. Dusty closed by saying, "You love them and you pray for them and you love them and you pray for them and they don't change, you change." Have you experienced this? What did that transformation feel like?

Practical Applications:

1. Pray "Lord, help me love who you love the way you love", daily.
2. Reframe one difficult person. Choose one person who is hard to love and intentionally shift your internal narrative. Ask: What spiritual battle might they be caught in that they cannot see clearly?
3. Pray blessing over someone who has hurt you. Take five minutes each day this week to pray specifically for them. Ask God to give them what they need, to bless them, and to be present with them. Pay attention to whether your heart shifts over the course of the week.
4. If you are carrying a wound that feels too heavy to hold alone, take Dusty's closing encouragement seriously. Identify a shepherd, elder, pastor, or trusted fellow believer and take the step of letting them in.