

REFERENCE:

Read Matthew 5:43-48 and Luke 6:27-36 open in prayer.

REVIEW: What was one thing from this week's message or scripture reference that stood out to you?

REFLECT:

1. One early Christian teacher said there are three manners of "return" in human relationships - what is Due (return good for good or evil for evil), what is Devilish (return evil for good), and what is Divine (return good for evil). Share about a time when you were on the receiving end of Jesus' command, or were treated "divinely" by someone you mistreated.
2. One writer says this is the most difficult command that Jesus gave His followers. If you agree, why is that? If you don't agree, which command do you think is the most difficult?
3. Read Romans 12:14-21. How does Paul's perspective help you understand Jesus' teaching?
4. What specific situation or person is on your heart as you discuss this command from Jesus?
5. Consider Luke 6:36 and Matthew 5:48. In both of these passages Jesus says that the foundation for this type of self-sacrificing love is the character of God. How does our faith in God help us live out the spirit of these verses?

RESPOND/REINFORCE:

Jesus' directive to us is not just to refuse to retaliate. Instead, it is to do good for those who oppose us. It calls us to take a positive action on behalf of those who stand against us. Think about an area of your life where you experience that kind of opposition because of your faith. Commit to doing something positive on behalf of that person this week. Next week, tell your Life Group what you decided to do and how it went.