

“Pure Radical Love and Charity”. Part 8. Matthew 5:38-48 6:1-4
Series: “Pure Discipleship in a Corrupt World.” The Sermon on the Mount
March 21, 2021 Rev. Dr. Scott Arnold. First Baptist Church. L.A.

Key Thought: Pure discipleship follows the Spirit of God’s law and commandments to experience and demonstrate God’s radical love, this is accomplished by respecting and treating all life and relationships as sacred. Jesus calls for a higher standard of loving God and our neighbor by introducing a vision of God’s love for all people, even one’s so called “enemies”. Pleasing God brings a heavenly reward greater than public acclaim or social status. Love triumphs over sin and evil.

- I. Jesus taught pure radical love and non-violence (38-42)
 - A. Non-violent resistance breaks the cycle of retribution. (38-39)
 - B. Graciousness breaks the cycle of greed. (40)
 - C. Patience and perseverance builds friendships (41)
 - D. Generosity builds good will for all (42)
- II. Jesus taught pure radical neighborliness and charity (43-48)
 - A. Radical love for all people that mirrors God’s love (43-45a)
 - B. Radical vision from Jesus shows His Father’s mercy (45b)
 - C. Radical charity involves unconditional love (46-47)
 - D. Be perfect through loving as God’s love perfects (48)
- III. Jesus taught disciples purity of motive and service (6:1-4)
 - A. Do what is right when no one is looking (1)
 - B. Serve the needy without fanfare. (2-4a)
 - C. Trust that God is pleased with compassionate service (4b)

Application Point: The Call of God our Heavenly Father is to believe in Jesus Christ and follow His lead in love. If we love God, we can overcome hatred and fear. The death and resurrection of Jesus was God’s loving and unselfish gift of grace leading to new life born of God’s Spirit.

40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:38-48 NIV)

6:1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 5:38-48; 6:1-4 NIV)

Questions:

1. How does Jesus teaching on loving neighbors and enemies challenge you the most?
2. Share examples of unconditional and sacrificial love others have shown to you. How has Jesus shown God’s grace to you?
3. One definition of character is “a person will do the right thing when no one is looking”. How does this relate to Jesus teaching on loving your neighbor and not announcing your acts of kindness?