

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5-7

# THE KINGDOM:

- ▶ Character of the “Blessed”
- ▶ Influence of the light/salt
- ▶ ...but I SAY:
  - ▶ Anger, Lust, Marriage, Oaths...

# RIGHTEOUS RESPONSES

- **Eye for an eye... 38-42**
  - **Typical response was to kill!**
  - **Limits on retaliation...**
  - **Ex 21:12 (\*23-25) - 22:17**
  - **Retribution vs. revenge - Lev 19:18**

# RESIST?

- ▶ Resist the devil, yes!
- ▶ Resist God, NO!!!
- ▶ Evil people – Jesus does not deny evil, nor that we condone actions/behavior
- ▶ Retaliation in excess is not permitted!

# 4 ILLUSTRATIONS:

- **Insulting blow**
- **Suing**
- **Forced service**
- **Begging money**
- **Rom 12:17-21 - leave it to God!**

# LOVE... WHO?

- ▶ Love your neighbor... yes...
- ▶ Hate your enemy? Where...???
- ▶ Lev 19:17,18 – left out “as yourself”!
- ▶ Ex 23:4,5; Prov. 25:21,22;
- ▶ Do we know real “enemies” Ps 139:19ff
- ▶ A grand step above all “law systems”

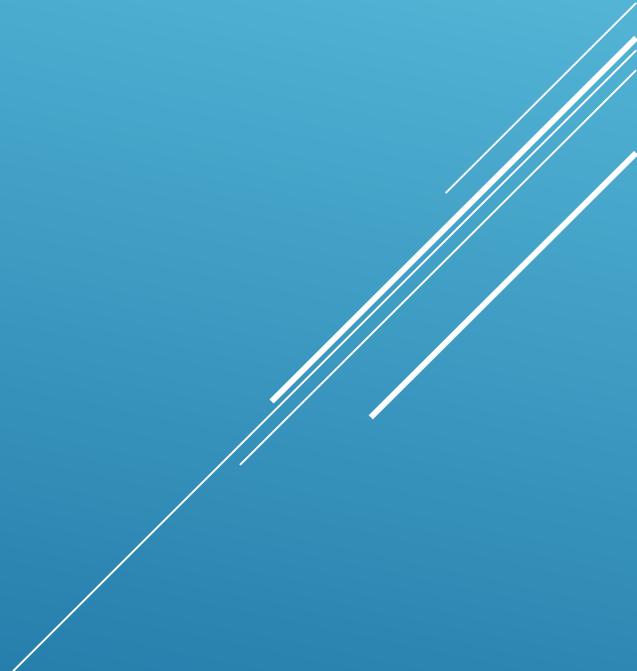
# “BLIND” LOVE

- ▶ **God knows our hearts...**
  - ▶ **Not pick the “who is my enemy/neighbor”**
  - ▶ **LOVE THEM BOTH!!!**
  - ▶ **‘Our’ enemy IS our neighbor? Lk 10:29-37**
  - ▶ **In words, deeds, expense, prayers**
  - ▶ **Rom 5:10 – we were God’s enemies!**

# AUGUSTINE

- ▶ Many have learned to offer the other cheek, but do not know how to love the one by whom they were struck.
- ▶ The key is in intercessory prayer...
- ▶ Is it possible to pray for someone without love?

# CHRYSOSTOM

1. Don't initiate
  2. No vengeance
  3. Be Quiet
  4. Suffer wrong
  5. Give more
  6. Do not hate
  7. Love them
  8. Do good
  9. Pray for them
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# STOTT

“We must not... wait before praying for an enemy until we feel some love for him in our heart. We must begin to pray for him before we are conscious of loving him and we shall find our love break first into bud, then blossom.”

# BONHOEFFER

- ▶ What makes the Christian different from other men is the 'peculiar', the *perissos*, the 'extraordinary', that which is not a matter of course... it is 'the more', the 'beyond all that'... it is the love of Jesus Christ Himself, who went patiently and obediently to the cross.

# “BE PERFECT”

- ▶ **YOU** is the emphasis - *telios*
  - ▶ Lev 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 1Pt 1:16
- ▶ This is our ‘hunger and thirst’
- ▶ All perfection will be related to our ability/willingness to love God’s way....