



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **A Taste of the World to Come**
Series: **Upside Down Kingdom**
Text: **Matthew 5:38-48**
Speaker: **Rob Songer** Date: **March 8, 2026**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘**Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.**’ 39 But I tell you, **do not resist an evil person.** If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 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.** (Mt 5:38–48).

- Everyone who came to hear Jesus teach on the hillside that day had a clear sense of **what “kingdom” meant to them.** For most everyone in that day kingdoms were all about _____ and _____!
- Jesus came **establishing a Kingdom** that was unlike anything the world had ever known. Imagine a world that had no plans for _____ and no desire for _____.
- Retaliation is a natural response to our _____ nature. **But not natural to the Kingdom of God.**
- Sometimes retaliation is loud and sometimes it is silent, but it _____... _____ looks like Jesus, and it _____... _____ delivers peace and promise of the life we were created for.

“An eye for an eye, makes the whole world blind.” Gandhi

- In a kingdom of **nonviolent resistance**, the 1st mile we are _____, but the 2nd mile we are _____ and there are no boundaries to this way of living and the extraordinary grace of the Kingdom of God that is being poured out in a broken and hurting world.
- Resistance without _____, Dignity without _____ this is **the way of the Kingdom of God**.
- Every time **we resist rather than retaliate**, every time **we love rather than hate**, _____ of the world that is coming to those around us.

Questions to consider in the week ahead.

- **What do you think people in Jesus' day imagined when he spoke about the coming of the Kingdom of God?**
- **To what degree were they able to conceive of a spiritual kingdom of heart soul, mind and strength?**
- **Did they perhaps imagine a mixing of the two kinds of kingdoms, with a physical kingdom surrounded by great walls, and supported by a great army that provided for and protected the citizens of the spiritual kingdom within? What would that kingdom look like?**
- **Do people today imagine somewhat the same thing? In what ways? What are the potential consequences of doing that?**
- **What does it mean for you today to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God?**