



Message Series Guide

Summer On The Mount

Part 5 – Love Thy Enemy

Loving your enemy is possibly Jesus most difficult teaching in the entire Sermon on The Mount. Over history this teaching has often been misunderstood as “be a doormat”, or disregarded and allowed for people to retaliate. Instead Jesus is calling us to fight evil but with new weapons of love, prayer, and hospitality. Jesus calls us to find a creative third way to resolve conflict nonviolently marked by Christ’s love.

READ:

Matthew 5:38-48 · Luke 6:27-36 · Romans 12 · I Corinthians 13:1-13 · Luke 10:25-37 ·

DISCUSS:

- Who are some of the people or groups that you consider an enemy?
- What are some creative third options?
- Do we often think of Jesus as a particularly smart person?
- What for you personally makes this teaching difficult?
- Share a time when responding in love made a difference in a tough situation.

PRAY:

Pray for someone who you consider to be one of your enemies.

RESPOND:

Create a list of personal enemies or groups of people and commit to pray for them this week. Think and pray about creative third ways to resolve difficult conflicts.

