

WEEK 10 | MATTHEW 5:38-48

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of His Kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In this series, we are studying Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under His rule and reign, and live as His representatives where we work, live, and play. In Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus gives six antitheses to contrast true and false interpretations of the Old Testament. In today's passage, Jesus corrects misunderstandings of marriage, divorce, and sexual immorality.

“**Antithesis:** the rhetorical contrast of ideas by means of parallel arrangements of words, clauses, or sentences”¹

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

- **Romans 12:14-21**
- **Ephesians 5:1-2**
- **Leviticus 24:19-20**

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group?
2. Why is it that so many have taken these verses to mean that Jesus is contradicting the law?
3. Have there been times when someone has 'turned the other cheek' or 'gone the extra mile' with you? Did it reveal God's heart to you and his love for you?
4. How does Romans 12:19-20 relate to Jesus words in this week's text?
5. Is it possible for us to turn the other cheek and love our enemies by our own merit?
6. Lloyd Jones in His commentary *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, states: "We should not be concerned about personal injuries and insults whether of physical or emotional kind. Our Lord desires to produce in us a spirit that does not take offence easily – That does not seek immediate means of retaliation. He wants us to reach a state in which we are indifferent to self and self-esteem" (Pg. 249). – How might we attain a spirit that does not take offence easily and is indifferent to self and self-esteem?
7. What would it look like for us to love and pray for our enemies within our own daily lives here in SWFL?
8. In verse 48, Jesus tells us "Therefore you must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." The word that Jesus uses for "perfect" is the Greek word "teleio," which also means complete and fully developed. How does living out Jesus commands for avoiding retaliation and loving our enemies allow us to be "complete" within the beautiful kingdom of God?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ Merriam-Webster.com