

Questions

1. Read Romans 12:14-21. How do these verses add helpful commentary to Jesus' words in our passage?
2. Who are you most tempted to immediately respond force with force with? Why? How can considering how Jesus responded to you in your sin and how trusting in God's perfect justice change your heart and response to that person?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:19-24. What example did Jesus leave us an example to follow? How did he do what he did? How can we follow his example? (Hint: v.24) Where is the grace in this passage for when we don't follow Jesus' example? (Hint: v.24)
4. What is the relationship between loving God and loving your enemies? Can you love one and not the other?
5. Jesus teaches that love for enemies must not be restricted to feelings, but it must be in actions. Explain in your own words what this means. Why is it important not to limit love to feelings?
6. Why is praying for your enemies so important? How ought it change your heart toward them? What should you pray for your enemies?
7. Does your virtue outstrip nonbelievers? Would others agree with your assessment?

The King's Manifesto

The Sermon on the Mount

Responding to Personal Grievances & Personal Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

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King Jesus calls his people to demonstrate two more kingdom virtues. 1) Kingdom citizens don't need to retaliate when they experience personal grievances and 2) Kingdom citizens are to love and pray for their enemies.

Don't Retaliate (vv.38-42)

Jesus **exposes** our tendency toward being concerned mostly with outward conformity that looks good to others. (v.38)

Jesus **examines** the internal heart obedience and honor that God's righteousness actually demands of us. (v.39a)

Kingdom citizens we don't need to retaliate when we experience personal grievances.

Jesus **examines** the internal heart obedience and honor that God's righteousness actually demands of us. (v.44-45)

Kingdom citizens are to love and pray for their enemies.

Jesus **explains** or teaches what righteousness looks like that exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees. (vv.39b-42)

By trusting in God's perfect justice, whether accomplished through courts, in the final judgment, or at the cross of Christ, as citizens of heaven, we don't need to seek personal justice when we've been wronged; what's more, we can respond with surprising mercy and extravagant grace.

Jesus **explains** or teaches what righteousness looks like that exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees. (vv.46-47)

Kingdom citizens are to indiscriminately love and pray for others, to include enemies, because our Heavenly Father shows common grace to all, both citizens and enemies of His kingdom.

"This simple word more is the [crux] of what Jesus is saying. It is not enough for Christians to resemble non-Christians; our calling is to outstrip them in virtue." – John Stott

King Jesus is calling us as citizens of heaven to love and pray for others, to include enemies, because (to use the phrase from John Stott) we ought to radically outstrip everyone else in virtue.

Love & Pray for Your Enemies (vv.43-47)

Jesus **exposes** our tendency toward being concerned mostly with outward conformity that looks good to others. (v.43)