Jesus Points us to Our Father

Matthew 5:38-48 Bethel Bible Church April 26, 2020

A healthy father/child relationship is one way God helps us understand who he is and who we are. God as our Father both teaches us and models for us how to live, especially in extremely hard situations. Jesus uses 6 examples to show us the distinctive behavior expected of Christians. These final two are really hard so He points us to our Father for help and hope.

1. Jesus Points Us to Our Father – those who wrong you . . . 5:38-42

How should followers of Jesus respond when someone treats them badly? What is the Kingdom norm for those times when we are taken advantage of or mistreated?

What you have heard. *You have heard that it was said 38*

What that truth really includes. *But I say to you 39*

How that truth impacts your new life. 39-42 4 illustrations of resisting evil

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 1Peter 2:23

2. Jesus Points Us to Our Father – those who oppose you . . . 5:43-48

How should Jesus followers respond to people who intentionally are against them? They stimulate within you a strong resistance, defensiveness and sense of just anger. What about your enemies?

What you have heard. 43 *you have heard that it was said 43*

What that truth really includes. 44-47 *But I say to you*

How that truth impacts your new life. 48

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son . . . Romans 5:10

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Take Aways *what more are you doing than others?* V.47

Loving difficult people is a distinctive commitment only made possible by a close and vibrant relationship with your heavenly Father.

1. The **source** of loving those who hurt you is your heavenly Father. **Pursue Him!**

2. The **model** for loving those who reject you is your heavenly Father. **Submit to Him!**

3. The **motivation** for loving those who oppose you is your heavenly Father. **Turn and trust Him!**