

LOVE IN THE FACE OF YOUR ENEMY

JEN KELLY | JULY 9, 2023

MATTHEW 5:38-48

Introduction

1. Jesus Came to \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus is Using \_\_\_\_\_

In Light of \_\_\_\_\_ - We Lavish \_\_\_\_\_  
(Matthew 5:39-41)

In Light of \_\_\_\_\_ - We Channel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Matthew 5:43-47)

In Light of \_\_\_\_\_ - We Choose \_\_\_\_\_  
(Matthew 5:48)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 5:38-42: What is the consistent thread throughout these verses concerning the standard of Jesus? How does he encourage believers to engage with others? How does he encourage believers to view others?
2. OT Law declared retribution. Read Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:19-21, and Deuteronomy 19:21. How does the standard of Jesus in Matthew resist the standard of life during this time period? How does this standard of Jesus resist the standard of life right now?
3. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus stated that he came to fulfill the law, not to abolish the law. How does this teaching help him to do this?
4. Was Jesus being dramatic with his teachings, or was there a purpose to his hyperbole? Why do you think he chose to teach in hyperbole and parables so often?
5. In light of unfairness, lavish kindness: What are some areas in your life that could use a little more kindness, despite the unfairness? What would it look like for you to show kindness to yourself and/or to others?
6. Read Romans 12: 17-21 and Proverbs 25:21-22. In what ways do these verses exhibit a realistic way for believers to show grace to those around them? How can this exhibition of grace point your accuser toward God?
7. Why is the topic of "Loving Your Enemies" a hard space for some individuals? When it was stated, "We were all at one time Christ's enemy," how did that make you feel? Does this statement shift your perspective of others?
8. Read 1 John 4:7-19. Why do we love? Is love contingent upon anything other than God loving us? Why is loving others, even our enemies, so important to God?
9. In what practical ways can you begin to lavish compassion, channel grace, and choose love this week?