



Sermon on the Mount Series

LOVE YOUR ENEMY

It is the Godly thing to do

Course Text: Matthew 5:38-48

©2013 Trish Carden

The theme of the 5th chapter of the Sermon on the Mount is to avoid moving in the direction of sin. Jesus is encouraging His listeners that they can avoid sinning by not allowing themselves to get close to it. In Matthew 5:38-48 He is teaching that we can avoid hurting others and even murder by loving others, even if you don't want to.



Lesson Topic

Lesson 1 - The Perfection of Love

Lesson 2 - The Preeminence of Love

Lesson 3 - What "They" Said

Lesson 4 - The Limits of Love

Lesson 5 - Love your Enemy

Suggested methodology for each course:

1. Allow time for greetings and fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the text aloud from the Bible one question at a time.
5. Answer and briefly discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. Repeat 4 & 5 for all questions except the "Think & Pray" questions.
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This gives the Holy Spirit a time to speak, so don't rush it.** The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving. Others can look at the "For Further Thought" questions while waiting for everyone to finish.
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer, when provided, are just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

Copyright Information

All content of this training course not attributed to others is copyrighted, including questions, formatting, and explanatory text. **Copyright © 2014 by Thor F. Carden. All rights reserved.**

Illustrations and Photographs by Trish Carden Copyright © 2014 by Patricia S. Carden.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Course Logo by Troy Cunningham Copyright © 2014 by Troy Cunningham.
All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.lovebiblestudy.com/Troy/art.htm>

Illustrations by Jeff Larson Copyright © 2000-2014. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
<http://www.thebackpew.com>

Illustrations by Michael D Waters Copyright © 2006-2014. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.joyfultoons.com>

NASB or **NASV** (New American Standard Bible) Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

NIV (New International Version) Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

----- PRICE INFORMATION -----

This material is provided at no cost to those in jail or prison or those ministering to them. You have permission to print and copy these course materials as much as you like as long as you keep this page intact with the contents. Although we are a ministry, we are not a non-profit organization. If you are not in jail or prison or at least using this with someone who is incarcerated, we expect to be paid, to help finance our ministry to those who are behind bars. We suggest two different ways of determining the price.

(1) Take up an offering from the students at the end of the course, and send it to us.

OR

(2) Pray about it and pay us what God tells you to send.

Of course, we have designed the website so that there is nothing to stop you from just downloading and printing the course. If you think it is worth nothing, why are you using it? If you think God would have you take or teach this course and you have no money to pay for it, I urge you to reconsider. If God does not want you to use this course He might be trying to let you know that by withholding funds. Or He might have some other purpose, like teaching you to humbly ask somebody else to fund it. Or maybe something else, but if we worship the same God, He would not have you just take it without regard to our wishes. We hope to make enough money to continue producing and providing these lessons. If God does not bless this ministry with financial encouragement, we will take that as pretty strong evidence He does not want us to make any more of these lessons available.

We prefer that you mail us a check, but you may also pay by credit card via PayPal.

Love Bible Study

PO Box 1075

Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1075

Paypal information at

<http://www.LoveBibleStudy.com/price.htm>

Lesson 1 - The Perfection of Love

Please read Matt 5:38-48 and answer the following questions:

[1A] What is to be given in exchange for an eye? _____

[1B] If someone slaps us what are we to do? _____

[1C] If someone sues us for our shirt, what should we give them? _____

[1D] If someone forces us to walk a mile, how far should we go? _____

[1E] If someone asks us for something, what are we to do? _____

[1F] Who was it said we should hate? _____

[1G] Who did Jesus say we are to love? _____

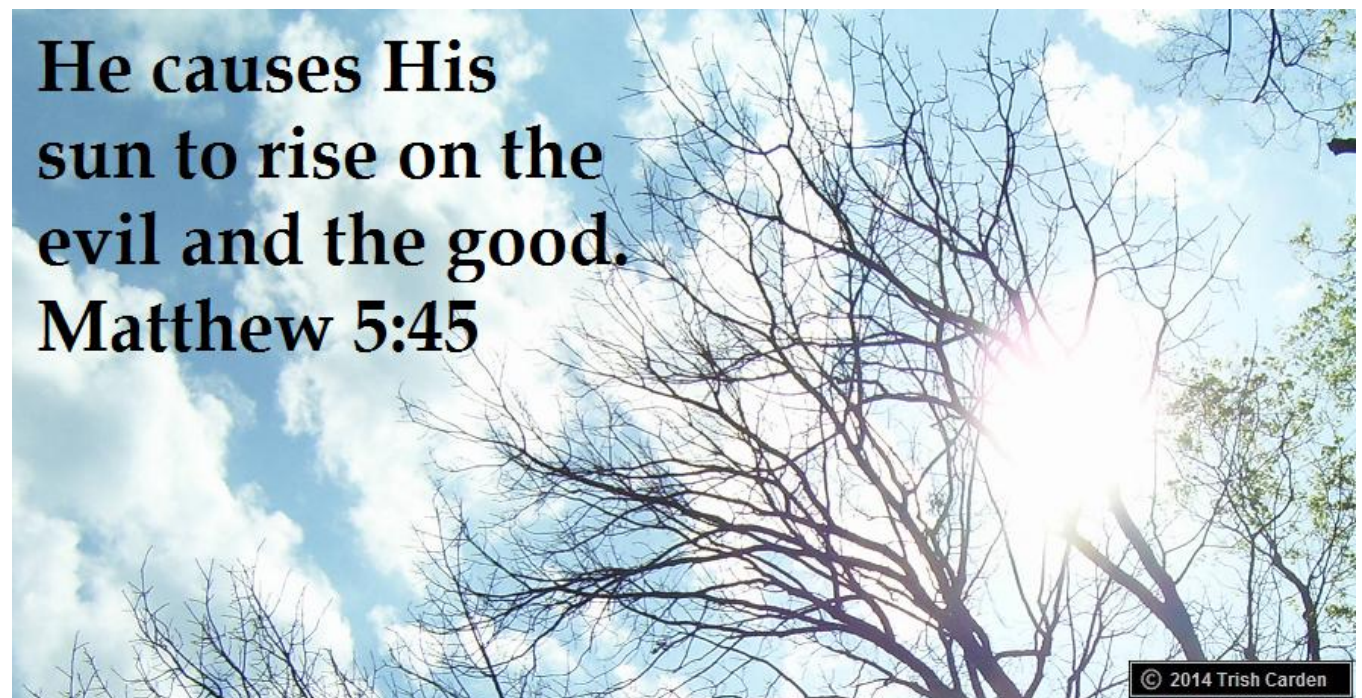
[1H] Who does God bless with sunshine and rain? _____

[1I] Who does not love those who love them? _____

[1J] How perfect are we supposed to be? _____

[1K] What does Matt 5:48 mean? In what way are we supposed to imitate God? How can we do that?

Think and Pray _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 1 - The Perfection of Love

Please read Matt 5:38-48 and answer the following questions:

- [1A] What is to be given in exchange for an eye? An eye Mt 5:38
 [1B] If someone slaps us what are we to do? Offer them the other cheek Mt 5:39
 [1C] If someone sues us for our shirt, what should we give them? Shirt and coat Mt 5:40
 [1D] If someone forces us to walk a mile, how far should we go? Two miles Mt 5:41
 [1E] If someone asks us for something, what are we to do? Give it to them Mt 5:42
 [1F] Who was it said we should hate? Our enemies Mt 5:43
 [1G] Who did Jesus say we are to love? Our enemies Mt 5:44
 [1H] Who does God bless with sunshine and rain? The evil and The good Mt 5:45
 [1I] Who does not love those who love them? No one. Mt 5:46-47
 [1J] How perfect are we supposed to be? Perfect as our Heavenly Father Mt:5:48

[1K] Matthew 5:48 says, "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." The word "perfect" is from the Greek word *teleios*. It is the same place we get the prefix of the words telegraph, telephone, teletype, telepathic, telescope, etc. It basically means "the end." In the context of Mt 5:48 it could be translated "perfect," as in "without flaws," or complete, as in "it is *done*, take it out of the oven." The same word is in 1st Cor 2:6 but is often translated "mature" instead of "perfect." It is translated "perfect" in James 3:2 where the perfect man can control his tongue. There are over a dozen similar usages in the New Testament. (Mt 19:21; Rm 12:2; 1Cr 13:10; Ep 4:13; Phl 3:15; Col 1:28, Hb 9:11)

Whether it means "without flaw" or "finished" we are still in the same fix. How are we to be perfect as God is perfect? Or even begin to think of ourselves as finished? However, there is some help in the Greek. "Therefore you are to be perfect ..." sounds like it is a command, but it is not. It is in the future tense, not the imperative mood. It is an exhortation not a law or rule. It is a goal not an expectation of us. The Lord is the one who perfects us. (See 1 John 4:17 and Hebrews 12:2) It is more of a prediction of the results of obeying what went before, rather than something we are supposed to try to do.

Perhaps we could say we are perfect in God's eyes, which is all that really counts, since our sin is hidden by the blood of Jesus Christ. If that is so then because God has put His faith in us, we should try to live up to it, knowing that we will not see ourselves as God already sees us, until we meet him at the end of the age.

But perfect is not something we can do. It is not an action, it is the result of some action. What action? It is talking about loving like God loves. Why else start Mt 5:48 with the word "therefore" unless it was talking about what was said immediately previous to it? If we can love our enemies, as God does, we become more like Him. This is something we can do. No matter what other mistakes we have made, are making or are going to make, we can take positive action on behalf of others, and we can do so without regard to how we feel about them. Love is an action, not a feeling.

For further thought:

- (1L) Can Christians achieve sinless perfection in this life? (See 1 Cor 10:13)
 (1m) How can James 1:4 and James 3:2 both be true?
 (1n) Compare Romans 7:15-20 and 1st John 4:15-17. Are they saying the same thing?
 (1o) Discuss the use of the Greek word *teleios* (translated perfect, complete or mature) in Mt 19:21; Rom 12:2; 1Cor 13:10; Ep 4:13; Philip 1:6 & 3:15; Col 1:28, and Hbr 9:11.

Lesson 2 - The Preeminence of Love

[2A] Please read Matthew 22:34-40. Please briefly summarize the two great commandments:

Please read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer these seven questions:

[2B] Where does love come from? _____

[2C] Who or what is God? _____

[2D] What happens if we love one another? _____

[2E] What does love prevent or cast out? _____

[2F] Who loved us before we loved? _____

[2G] If someone says they hate another but claim to love God, what are they? _____

[2H] Is it optional for followers of God to love others? _____

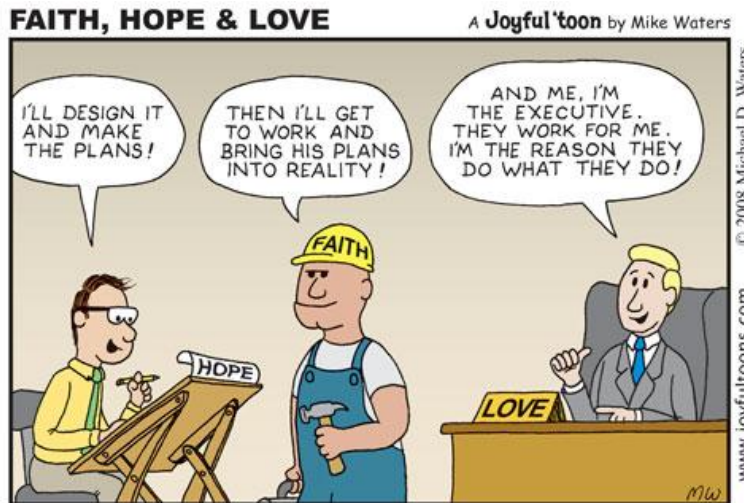
[2I] According to 1 Peter 4:8 what does love cover? _____

[2J] According to Isaiah 25:8 who dries our tears? _____

[2K] According to Revelation 7:17 who dries our tears? _____

[2L] According to Revelation 21:4 who dries our tears? _____

[2M] According to John 3:16 what caused God to give His Son? _____



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV

[2N] 1st Corinthians 13:13 says "But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." Why is love the greatest of the three? Why tell us love is the greatest?

Think and Pray _____

For further thought:

(2o) Compare 1 John 4:20 with Matthew 5:44? Are they similar or different? Why?

(2p) What does "God is Love" mean?

(2q) Is Revelation 7:17 and Revelation 21:4 talking about the same event?

(2r) What does Jude 1:21 mean?

(2s) Is love an action or a feeling?

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 2 - The Preeminence of Love

[2A] Please read Matthew 22:34-40. Please summarize the two great commandments.

Love God more than anything.
Love others as we love ourselves.

Please read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer these seven questions:

[2B] Where does love come from? God 1Jn 4:7

[2C] Who or what is God? God is love. 1Jn 4:8 & 1Jn 4:16

[2D] What happens if we love one another? God abides in us, and His love completes us 1Jn 4:12

[2E] What does love prevent or cast out? Fear 1Jn 4:18 (There is *teleios* again from lesson one.)

[2F] Who loved us before we loved? God 1Jn 4:19

[2G] If someone says they hate another but claim to love God, what are they? A liar 1Jn 4:20

[2H] Is it optional for followers of God to love others? No, it is a commandment 1Jn 4:21

[2I] According to 1 Peter 4:8 what does love cover? A multitude of sins

[2J] According to Isaiah 25:8 who dries our tears? God

[2K] According to Revelation 7:17 who dries our tears? The Lamb

[2L] According to Revelation 21:4 who dries our tears? God

[2M] According to John 3:16 what caused God to give His Son? His love for us

[2N] The Bible does not explain why love is the greatest explicitly. God says it is the greatest, so that settles the matter. Millions of Christians have lived productive and happy lives without ever even considering this question. We need to be careful not to be carried away by curiosity or depend on the results of our speculations. However, is it possible that the Bible does answer this question implicitly for those with ears to hear?

In Matthew 22:34-40 Jesus Christ gives us the two greatest commandments about loving God and loving each other. There is nothing in these two commandments about faith or hope, so perhaps this is what makes love the greatest?

In 1 John 4:7-21 we are told twice that "God is love." There is no statement anywhere in the Bible that says anything about God being faith or hope. Since God is love, perhaps that is why love is greater than faith or hope?

In Isaiah 25:8, Revelation 7:17 and Revelation 21:4 our tears are dried by the Lord, our hopes will be realized in heaven, and our faith fulfilled by God. We have no further need of faith and hope. Love on the other hand will continue for ever. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." So love also preceded faith and hope in time. Perhaps love is greater than faith and hope because it lasts longer, both in the past and the future? (God is love and He is the first and the last.)

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." It is God's love for us that saves us and creates in us faith and hope, which in turn cause us to respond to God with love. Perhaps since love is the cause and faith and hope are the effects, it is the greater?

Love is greater than faith and hope with regard to its impact. Faith and hope is almost exclusively for ourselves. Sometimes it shows enough to inspire and encourage others, but is that really doing anything? Love is an action word, a supernatural action word. 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love." 1 Peter 4:8 says, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." Love casts out fear. Love covers a multitude of sins. Our love prompts us to show others God's love. Perhaps love is greater than faith and hope because it does more?

Lesson 3 - What "They" Said

[3A] Read Leviticus 19:18. Who are we to love? _____

[3B] Compare Leviticus 19:18 with Matthew 5:43. What is the same and what is different? _____

[3C] Does Matthew 5:42 agree with Deuteronomy 15:7-11? _____

[3D] How are Exodus 21:24 and Matthew 5:38 alike? _____

[3E] How are Leviticus 24:19-20 and Matthew 5:38 alike? _____

[3F] How are Deuteronomy 12:21 and Matthew 5:38 alike? _____

[3G] According to Deuteronomy 32:35 whose responsibility is vengeance? _____

[3H] Ex 21:24, Lev 24:19-20 and Deut 19:21 all clearly say, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Is Jesus contradicting them in Matthew 5:39 when He says, "But I say to you . . ."? Explain.

Think and Pray _____

For further thought:

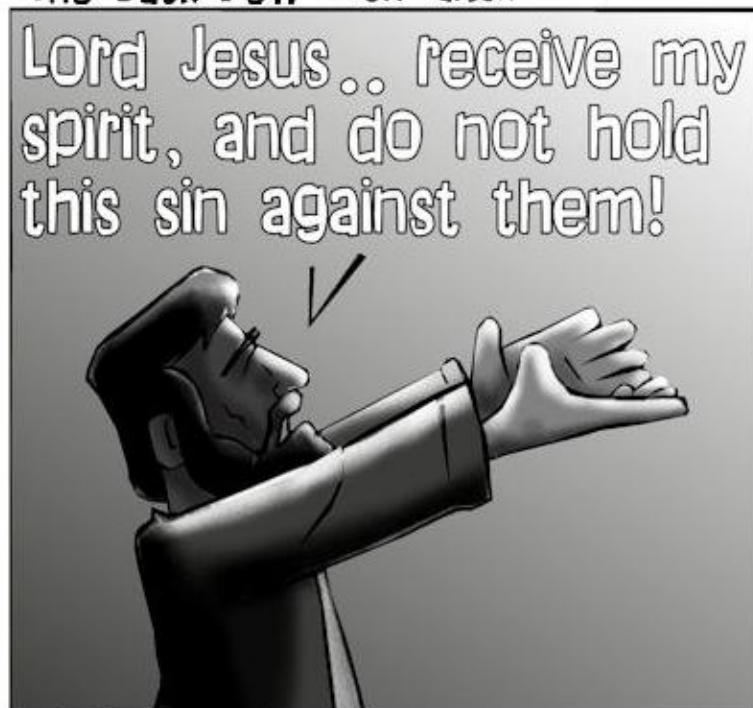
(3i) Compare Leviticus 19:2 with Matthew 5:48. Are they the same or different? Why?

(3j) Doesn't Deuteronomy 23:3-6 and Ezra 9:12 instruct us to hate our enemy as was claimed by "them" in Matthew 5:43?

(3k) Compare Matthew 5:44 with Acts 7:54-60? Is Stephen doing as Jesus said? How do you know?

(3l) Compare and discuss Matthew 5:43; James 2:8-13; Romans 13:8-10 and Galatians 5:13-14

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



If 'Success in Life' is measured by what is accomplished in the face of adversity then Stephen is one of the great men in church history. **Acts 6:8-7:60**

-----ANSWERS-----

Lesson 3 - What "They" Said

[3A] Read Leviticus 19:18. Who are we to love? Our neighbors

[3B] Compare Leviticus 19:18 with Matthew 5:43. What is the same and what is different?

"Love your neighbor" is the same. "Hate your enemy" does not appear in Leviticus. (In fact, "hate your enemy" does not appear anywhere in the Old Testament and only here in the New.)

Leviticus 19:18 was being abused by having stuff added to it. The Old Testament said they were to "love your neighbor." The "but hate your enemy" part had been added and was not what was meant at all. Neighbor means the people around you. That is where your enemies are. They are your neighbors. If they aren't around you, at least in some sense of the word, then they don't know you and are not your enemy.

[3C] Does Matthew 5:42 agree with Deuteronomy 15:7-11? Yes

[3D] How are Exodus 21:24 and Matthew 5:38 alike? Eye for eye, tooth for tooth

[3E] How are Leviticus 24:19-20 and Matthew 5:38 alike? Eye for eye, tooth for tooth

[3F] How are Deuteronomy 12:21 and Matthew 5:38 alike? Eye for eye, tooth for tooth

[3G] According to Deuteronomy 32:35 whose responsibility is vengeance? The Lord's

[3H] In the Matthew 5 passage Jesus quotes twice from the Old Testament. These were two quotes that were being abused. The first one about an eye for an eye, etc. was being taken completely out of context. It was being used to justify personal revenge, when in context it is clearly talking about the government taking action against criminals. Leviticus 19 was talking about the law of the land, not personal revenge. (See Deut 32:35)

The other one, as we have seen, they were just adding stuff to it that was not there. A similar thing has happened with a modern proverb. "Don't get mad" has evolved into "Don't get mad, get even." Adding "hate your enemy" sounded clever to them, but it has no Biblical basis.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The public display of the 10 commandments was considered a violation of the 'Separation of Church & State' by the Mt. Sinai civil Liberties Union MSLU.

Ex 24

Lesson 4 - The Limits of Love

Read Matthew 5:38-47 and answer the following questions:

[4A] If you turn your other cheek and it gets slapped also, what does Jesus say you are to do then?

[4B] When someone takes your shirt, you offer your coat, and and after taking it then they want your shoes, what does Jesus say you are to do then? _____

[4C] After you have gone the second mile, what does Jesus say you are to do then?

[4D] When you pray for those who persecute you, what does Jesus say you are to ask for in their behalf?

[4E] What does Jesus say is the reward for the tax collectors for loving those who love them?

[4F] In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, who is denied food? _____



[4G] Based on Matthew 5:38-47. How much should we do of what others ask us to do? What are the limits, if any? How can we feel love for evil people who hate us and God?

Think and Pray _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 4 - The Limits of Love

Read Matthew 5:38-47 and answer the following questions:

[4A] If you turn your other cheek and it gets slapped also, what does Jesus say you are to do then?

He doesn't say

[4B] When someone takes your shirt, you offer your coat, and after taking it then they want your shoes, what does Jesus say you are to do then? He does not say

[4C] After you have gone the second mile, what does Jesus say you are to do then? He does not say

[4D] When you pray for those who persecute you, what does Jesus say you are to ask for in their behalf?

He does not say

[4E] What does Jesus say is the reward for the tax collectors for loving those who love them?

He does not say

The Bible is not a book designed to have a rule and regulation for every situation. You have to do some thinking in order to be able to apply what Jesus is preaching.

[4F] In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, who is denied food? Those who will not work. 2Th 3:10. It is talking about avoiding people who lead “unruly” or “undisciplined” lives. The reason? To bring them to repentance. (See 2Th 3:14-15) They are not to be treated as an enemy but admonished as you would a loved one who was being unwise.

[4G] Remember the theme of this chapter is to avoid the edge – to keep from committing sin by running the other direction, instead of seeing how close you can come to it. It uses a lot of a figure of speech called hyperbole or exaggeration to make a point. Jesus did not mean for people to rip their eyes out to avoid adultery. Clearly you are not going to feel and act towards your enemies as you would members of your own family, but that is the direction you should go, instead of in the direction of personal revenge.

"Do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." What would you do if someone you loved slapped you? Wouldn't you take a good bit of punishment before you began to retaliate against your grandmother? Why not others?

"If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also." What if someone you loved sued you? Wouldn't you give up a lot to avoid a lawsuit with your children? Why not others?

"Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two." Notice it says two, not three. It is not talking about being a door mat. It is talking about not guarding everything you have with closed fists and an angry countenance. Relax and let some things just happen. Usually it is about stuff that is going to rot and ruin anyway.

When Jesus tells us to love our enemy He is not talking about feeling affection for these people. You can not control how you feel. However you feel, is the way you feel. It is talking about how you act. It is talking about what you say. When lost people act like lost people, we should be kind to them, say nice things to them, pray for them, give them things, etc. We need to act loving. Why should we let something they do or say or think prevent us from being nice to them?

For further thought:

(4h) How do Matthew 18:15-17 and Matthew 5:38-47 compare?

(4i) Discuss the meaning of 2 Thessalonians 3:6

(4j) Discuss the meaning of Romans 16:17

(4k) Discuss the meaning of 1 Corinthians 5:11

(4L) Is Matthew 18:21-35 explaining our options regarding forgiveness. Why?

Lesson 5 - Love your Enemy

What do you think non-Christians believe is the main teaching of Christianity? When I was researching this lesson I ran into a place where it said that when they interview non-Christians, Hindus and Moslems and the like, about what they think Christianity is about, this is what they most often say. Not the gospel, not about Jesus Christ, not about going to church, but about loving your enemy. This is what they think is our main teaching.

Read Romans 12:14-21 and answer the following 4 questions:

[5A] What are we to do for those who persecute us? _____

[5B] Are we required to be at peace with all men? _____

[5C] What are we to do with a hungry enemy? _____

[5D] What is our means of overcoming evil? _____

[5B] Read 1 Samuel 12:23 Who are we sinning against if we fail to pray for people who annoy us?

[5C] Why do we persist in hoping that lost people will not act like they are lost? _____

[5D] What does Matthew 5:46-47 mean?

Think and Pray _____

For further thought:

(5e) Talk about a time when you received love or forgiveness from someone when you did not expect it.

(5f) What are some of the things that you find really annoying about some of the people you know? How are you going to love people who do these kinds of things?

(5g) If someone asked you what this course was about, how would you explain it?

(5h) What have you learned from this course that you hope you will always remember?



This weeks sermon on Love by Pastor Gus became obviously compromised when **Mt. 5:46** reminded him of his upcoming IRS audit.

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 5 - Love your Enemy

[5A] What are we to do for those who persecute us? Bless not curse Rom 12:14

[5B] Are we required to be at peace with all men? No, only if possible Rom 12:18

[5C] What are we to do with a hungry enemy? Feed him Rom 12:20

[5D] What is our means of overcoming evil? Good Rom 12:21

[5E] Read 1 Samuel 12:23 Who are we sinning against if we fail to pray for people who annoy us? God

[5F] Why do we persist in hoping that lost people will not act like they are lost? I don't know When a child misbehaves we realize they are a child. When a baby makes a mess, we are not surprised. Why are we surprised when lost people do evil? They are lost. What else are they going to do?

[5G] Jesus was listing people He knew His listeners hated or held in contempt. Even tax collectors and foreigners are nice to people who are nice to them. Nothing special about that. If you are going to be any different than everyone on the face of the globe, being kind to people who are kind to you will not get it done.

Just because God saved you before He saved them does not mean you are better than them. It has no more significance than being in front of someone in a line at the store waiting to check out. It just means you got their first. Jesus Christ died for your enemies just as much as He died for you. You better not be trying to keep that a secret from them!

I know they are hard to get along with. I know that they give you the creeps. I know their manners are offensive. I know they rub you the wrong way. We can't do anything about how they act, what they say, or how it makes us feel when they misbehave. We can control how we act and what we say. There is no excuse for not being nice to them.

You never know when your test might come. I have a friend who flies planes for Delta airlines. Most of the time he doesn't do very much. He is a senior pilot, and the work the computers don't do, the co-pilot does. He makes a lot of money. He has explained to me that he earns his money in a few moments a year. Every now and then something goes wrong and he has to know what to do instantly. There is no time to look it up in the flying manual. Maybe it is a computer glitch or equipment malfunction. He has to react to it in a moment or many lives are lost.

In the same way your "love test" may come in an unexpected place and time.

My further thoughts:

(5h) We got a testimony from an inmate Bible student not long ago. He talked about how he was in a pod with 5 or 6 other men and when one of them did not get his linens, it was him that the guard believed, making a comment about his integrity and honesty. That was a turning point for him. It turned out the guard was also a minister and the inmate came to Christ.

What if the guard had not been loving his neighbor?

The lost are all around us. Just like that airline pilot above never knows when the moment is going to come when he must act to save lives, we never know when our moment will come where we must act to help save a soul by loving them.

(5i) There is no limit to people's pet peeves. One of mine is people who refuse to communicate about conflict. I never have been able to figure out how they think the conflict can be resolved if it is ignored.

We can't love annoying and hateful people without His help. With God all things are possible. If we are to love our enemies, or even our neighbors we need the Holy Spirit acting within us. Jesus explains it. "So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." God who made these lost people in his own image loves them. How are they ever going to know that, if you don't show them?