

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

RADICAL LOVE

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The Chapel

October 20, 2024

PERSONAL STUDY _____

Scripture Passage: Matthew 5:38-48

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS _____

Directions: Use this for your personal devotion time and/or to prepare for your Small Group discussion. Read the passage and record your observations.

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage? _____

2. What main life application question does the passage address/answer? _____

3. What is one way you can apply it this week? _____

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GROUP STUDY

Directions: Use **BOTH** the personal and group questions for your group's discussion.

OPENER – Who's your favorite New Testament character (besides Jesus!) that showed radical love? How did they show it?

Q1 – Radical Love Transcends Justice

Key verse: Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

- How do you react to insults and humiliation? What verses remind you to resist these responses? (Use a concordance or search app to help.)
- How has someone demonstrated Kingdom grace and love toward you? In what ways did this love cause you to pause, ask forgiveness and change?
- Generosity can feel unnatural in our culture and human nature. Share a time when you saw God at work through the generosity of someone going above and beyond the recipient's request. What was the impact?

Q2 – Radical Love Transcends Tribalism

Key verse: Matthew 5:46-47 46 "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

- How do you / can you engage in conversation and friendship with people you disagree with?
- How can you serve one of the "others" this week? With your small group?

Q3 - APPLY THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Key verses:

Matthew 5:44-45 "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- Put a few of your "enemies" and "the different" on your prayer list. Pray for them.
- Pray for yourself – your responses, your approaches to mend or build relationships based upon Christ's way, not culture's way.
- Confess any sin you are now more aware of.
- Thank God for His generous love, for Christ's forgiveness, for His invitation to come daily and gain strength to love others the way His followers do.