

The Summit

Sermon on the Mount Series – Part 10

Scripture text – Matthew 5:38-48

Introduction

- Admission: I continue to struggle with this passage and its implications.
- Many consider it the summit or high point of Jesus' _____ teaching.
- John Stott: *"Nowhere is the challenge of Jesus' teaching _____, and nowhere is the _____ of the Christian life more obvious."*

An Eye for an Eye

- This was a command to Israel's _____ that the punishment they impose be _____ to the crime.
- By the time of Jesus, the requirement was extended to _____ citizens and they were encouraged to take matters into their _____ hands.
- In response, Jesus makes a stunning statement: "Do not _____ an evil person."
- The principle:
As Christ's followers, when injured or harmed by another person, we are not to _____ or take _____.
- This goes against our _____ to strike back.

Hate Your Enemies

- Jesus turned this around with the command to _____ our enemies.
- Love has 3 elements:
 - 1) I am _____ you.
 - 2) I am _____ you.
 - 3) I am striving _____ God's purpose for you.

continued on reverse side

- The key to loving our enemies is to _____ for them.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer:
“This is the supreme command. Through the medium of prayer, we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and _____ for him to God.”

Law & Gospel

- By the grace of God, we both _____ to obey and are _____ to obey.
- We don’t function in our own _____, but in the strength that God provides us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Authentic Christianity

- Authentic Christianity isn’t self-_____ or even self-_____, but self-_____.
- This is what Jesus is _____ for in both sections.
- Jesus’s desire for us is that we reach a state of relative _____ toward self.
- Jesus not only taught this, he _____ it (I Peter 2:23).

Family Questions

1. Who’s an enemy we can pray for?
2. How have we been mistreated? How should we respond in light of Jesus’ teaching?

Who’s Who in Today’s Message

- John Stott (1921-2011) – evangelical scholar and writer of one of the best commentaries on the Sermon on the Mount.
- Scot McKnight (1953-) – professor of New Testament at Northern Baptist Seminary.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) – German theologian & Nazi dissident.
- Rachel Hollis (age unknown) – best-selling author & motivational speaker.