



THURSDAY 09.02.10

Matthew 5:43-47

By the time we reach these short verses in Jesus' sermon, we may be tempted to believe that Jesus has not only lost touch with reality but is directing us to live in a foolish and dangerous way. When we remember that Jesus himself not only had enemies but that they ultimately condemned him to his death, we are reminded that he took these words very seriously in his own life.

- Is there someone in your life with whom you find yourself in some sort of conflict?
- If anyone with whom you are in conflict with now or in your past comes to your mind, Jesus provides a specific prescription for addressing what may be a nagging concern for you. He says to pray for those who persecute you. What do you think would happen if you took Jesus' words to heart today?



FRIDAY 09.03.10

Ephesians 4:24-32

In our text for today the Apostle Paul is illustrating the types of behaviors that should be reflected in the new Christian community at Ephesus. In each of these areas we find Paul mirroring what God had said to the Israelites thousands of years ago and what Jesus also shared in his teaching. Treat others as God has treated you. As you grow in your love for God, your love for others should grow as well.

- In these seven verses Paul provides instructions to the believers at Ephesus which were meant to restrict their behaviors as well as prescribe certain behaviors for them. Take a few minutes to write down all of these instructions. In which of these areas do you find yourself struggling today?
- According to what you have just written down, in what area do you need to grow in your ability to love others?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Coffee with Pastors Mike and David*

Scripture: **Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 28:16-20**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God,
love others and serve the world.*

Our strategy:

- Get people moving;
- Embed the Bible in everything;
- Create ownership;
- Pastor the community and the world.

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Introduction

Our church exists to “*make disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God, love others and serve the world.*” The first two words of that phrase really define for us what the church is all about, making disciples. The second part paints for us a picture of what a disciple looks like. A disciple is someone who loves God, loves others and serves the world. In our GPS readings last week we looked at five scriptures which focused on loving God. This week we are looking at what the Bible says about loving others.

When Jesus was asked to identify the single greatest commandment, he actually provided two answers — loving God and loving others. As you read through these scriptures this week, wrestle with the deep connection that exists between these two commandments. According to the Bible, we cannot do one without the other. If you want to grow in your love for God, it will always require you to grow in your love for your neighbor.

God, we confess to you that we sometimes find it easier to love you than we do our neighbor. We struggle with forgiveness. We wrestle with letting go. We forget that grace received should always lead to grace shared. Forgive us, God, for this sin and inspire us to see our neighbor through your eyes. Thank you, God, for loving each of us in spite of these, our sins. Help us to love like you love. AMEN.



TUESDAY 08.31.10

Leviticus 19:33-34; 25:35-42

The first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah, record the origin of the Israelite people. Leviticus contains the law given to the descendants of Abraham following their rescue from Egypt and during their resettlement into the Promised Land. These detailed instructions were meant to shape the life of Israel around their relationship with God and their calling to be a witness to other nations.

- Why do you think God directed the Israelites to care for outsiders and the poor among them in this way? In what way do acts of compassion connect with our respect for God?
- Throughout Leviticus we find God reminding Israel that they had been rescued from slavery. In this section God essentially says “treat others as I have treated you.” Do you believe that remembering who you once were helps you in learning to love others? In what way?



MONDAY 08.30.10

I John 4:7-12

In our GPS readings last week we looked at the core value of our faith which is defined by Jesus in the 22nd chapter of Matthew. When asked to identify the greatest commandment, Jesus pointed towards love as the primary practice of our faith. In John’s first letter he contends that our knowledge of God is directly connected to our practice of loving God and others.

- John goes beyond simply saying that God thinks love is a good idea. He says that God is love. Love is not God’s recommendation; it’s central to God’s character. Why might John think it’s important for us to see God in this way?
- According to verse 12, how does our practice of loving others affect our own heart and life? How would you describe the benefit that love has created in your life?



WEDNESDAY 09.01.10

Matthew 5:21-24

Matthew chapter five is the first of three chapters dedicated to what is commonly referred to as Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. In this section we find Jesus reinterpreting the law originally given to the Israelite people. Consistently, Jesus teaches that our outward expression is a reflection of our inward intention.

- In these verses Jesus addresses our inward intention by talking about anger. Do you think anger is always bad? Do you think we can make a distinction between anger that seeks to protect others and anger that seeks to cause harm to others?
- Jesus says to leave your offering at the altar if there is a brother who has something against you. How do you think God feels about our conflict with others? Why would Jesus recommend that reconciliation with a brother needs to precede reconciliation with God?
