

Words of the King: Matthew 5:38-48  
Discussion Guide, November 22, 2020  
Next week's text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review: All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. - Matthew 5:37

- How did you live as a person of your word this past week?

**OPEN:**

- Are you a person who naturally seeks revenge?
  - o What is so appealing to us about revenge?

**READ and ASK: Matthew 5:38-48**

- In what ways does this text speak against our natural tendencies?
- What are the drawbacks to an "eye for an eye" mentality?
- Here's a million dollar question that has long been debated: Where do we draw the line between our rights and our responsibility to be forgiving and patient? (what biblical justification do you have for your position?)
- What is the rationale behind Jesus' teaching that love overcomes evil?
- Million dollar question #2: when are we responsible to stop an evil person from committing violent acts? (what biblical justification do you have for your position?)
- If our holy God show grace and mercy to everyone, why is it difficult for us to be like Him?
- What might praying for your enemy change?
- What does it mean for us to be perfect?
- In what particular way do these texts challenge you?

**APPLY:**

- What advice would you give to a kid being bullied at school?
- What grudge or personal vendetta do you need to lay aside?
- How do these texts particular speak to you in this current season?
- How specifically do you need love and pray for an enemy this week?
- NEXT STEP: What act of kindness or reconciliation could you perform by next week to help "bury the hatchet"?

Memory Work:

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:43-45a