

**The Sermon on the Mount**  
**Lesson 7**  
**Matthew 5:38-48**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what God says about treating others and loving your enemies.

- Intro:
1. How do you treat others who use you or treat you poorly?
  2. What about your enemies?
  3. Today, we'll see what Christ says about how we are to treat these individuals.

**S1-Matthew 5:38-48**

The 2nd Mile Teaching

v.38 - "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." – the old law teaching (Ex 21:23-25; Lev 24:19-20; Deut 19:21).

- Repayment regarding mistreatment of others was strong.

The Old Law showed no tolerance for wrong doing.

**S2- The 2nd Mile Teaching**

v.39 – "But I say to you" – Christ was raising the bar; repayment was not to be taken into the hands of the Christian, but was to be left for the Lord (Romans 12:19-20).

**S3-"But I say to you..."**

v.39 not to resist an evil person

The idea of "resist" here is not to avoid a person because they are evil; but instead you may be able to help them...

Evil doesn't have to be wicked – it can in this context refer to a person who sometimes takes advantage of others or mistreats others. As we see from what Christ says following this phrase

**S4-"But I say to you..."**

v.39 whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

This doesn't have to mean a literal "slap". In context, it seems to refer to the willingness take abuse without actually inviting it. Christians are often abused and have to "turn the other cheek" again and again to those who mistreat you.

**S5- "But I say to you..."**

v.40-42 Sue you; take away your tunic; compels you to go one mile

Some would say a Christian is supposed to just lay down for others; however in reality it doesn't mean Christians cannot defend themselves. Christians are to take the course of action that will not bring reproach upon themselves or the church.

**S6-"But I say to you..."**

v.40-42 Sue you; take away your tunic; compels you to go one mile

Sometimes that means taking a more difficult road:

Give things away or allow things to be taken to avoid strife;

Help someone who often takes advantage of you

### **S7-Loving Your Enemies**

“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”

This is an excerpt from the Old Law.

Their enemies were often those who were not followers of God; though this was not always the case.

### **S8-Loving Your Enemies**

“But I say to you love your enemies...”

This was Christ again going further than the old law.

Christians were not to hate their enemies, but we're to love them.

Christ, then gives examples of those who are often our enemies.

### **S9-“But I say to you, love your enemies...”**

Who? v.44

Those who curse you

Those who hate you

Those who spitefully use you and persecute you

How do we love them?

(Bless them) - Do not speak poorly of them, do good to them, & pray for them.

### **S10-“But I say to you, love your enemies...”**

Why? v.45

“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” – sons and daughters of God are the faithful and obedient of God.

God gives good to the just & the unjust; “for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (v.45b)

### **S11-What reward have you...**

“If you love those who love you?”

Tax collectors do the same (not a compliment)

“Great the brethren only”

Tax collectors do the same

### **S12-You shall be perfect...**

Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

The person who does as Christ instructs can be a great example and will be pleasing to God.

Christians can be perfect here in the sense that they treat everyone well – even those who abuse them.

Just as our heavenly father does.

### **Concl:**

#### **S13-What about you?**

Do you do those things which Christ commands?

As an obedient Christian you must treat everyone well.

### **3. Full Invitation**