MESSAGE NOTES

Different: How The Church Lives – Part 7

***Love Your Enemies***

**Matthew 5:38-48**

# Matthew 5:38-48 -- New Living Translation:

**38**“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39**But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. **40**If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. **41**If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. **42**Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow. **43**“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. **44**But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! **45**In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. **46**If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. **47**If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. **48**But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:38-42 (NLT) – Understanding what this means in the cultural context of Jesus’ day…

**SOME TAKEAWAYS/APPLICATION:**

1. Jesus does not intend us to take these words in an absolute and literal sense in every situation.

See Matthew 21:12-13, Romans 13:1-5, Luke 22:36, 2 Thessalonians 3:10…

2. Jesus does call us to forsake retaliation and revenge in personal relationships - and to value God and his glory more than our own honor, rights, time, or possessions.

See Romans 12:17-21, 1 Corinthians 6:4-7, Proverbs 20:22…

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)…

3. Jesus calls us to a love that reaches beyond our families and friends to those outside of our group - even to those who disagree with us and seek to do us harm.