

**PASTOR:** Kip McCormick

**DATE:** March 2, 2025

**SERIES:** Sermon on the Mount

**SERMON:** The Impact of Your Actions

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:33-48 (NASB)

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING:** Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 19:18; 24:17-21; Deuteronomy 19:21

**MESSAGE TAKEAWAY:** Con If you want to make an impact in this world, put Jesus' words into action.



**SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:**

- Oaths: Jesus is talking about the necessity of integrity with our words.
- Jesus calls for a higher standard of integrity. Integrity matters.
- Jesus is speaking of the Law of Retaliation (Latin: *Lex Talionis* for the two of you who care).
- A Call for mercy and non-retaliation in three areas: turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and give generously.
- Jesus' instruction to "turn the other cheek" is a powerful call to non-retaliation.
- Going the extra mile: Go above and beyond in our acts of kindness and service.
- Giving generously: Jesus encourages us to give with open hearts and hands.
- Jesus is not talking about being a submissive victim to physical, verbal, or sexual abuse, rape, murder, other threats of true harm.
- A radical command: Love your enemy, pray for those who persecute you.
- Jesus expands the definition of neighbor to include even our enemies.
- *Agape* love: One way, no strings attached love that flows from grace and mercy. It's the love God gives us.
- When we love others, we reflect God's love for us. Our relationships with others should reflect our relationship with God.

**Three Practical Steps to Love Our Enemies**

1. **Pray for Them** - One practical way to love our enemies is to pray for them.
2. **Bless Them** - Through our words and actions.
3. **Do Good to Them** - Jesus calls us to actively do good to our enemies.

***"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)***

- When Jesus says, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect," He is calling His followers to emulate God's perfect love as we mature in Him.
- Here's what He's not saying: Be in sinless perfection, be flawless and never make a mistake.

**Being "perfect" means doing your best to:**

1. Imitate God's Love to all people.
2. Grow in maturity in your faith: study and application of God's word in your life.

## (SUPPORTING THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

3. Strive for godly character in your actions, intentions and thoughts.: It means living in a way that aligns with Jesus' character and values.
4. Continue the journey. It's an ongoing process and guess what – you're going to make mistakes – Own it, repent, make amends, move forward.

**CHALLENGE:** If you want to make an impact in this world, put Jesus' words into action.

**QUESTION TO PONDER DURING COMMUNION:** What's my next right step in putting Jesus's words into action in my life?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- These three contrasts on oaths, revenge, and love are extremely challenging. How were you challenged in today's teaching and why?
- Kip mentioned several practical ways we're to live out our oaths – in our marriages, in our financial dealings, etc. Discuss with the group those matters or any others that you can think of when it comes to oaths and integrity.
- Have you ever regretted anything you have said? How can you watch your speech so that you don't say things you will later regret?
- How were they understanding or misunderstanding this phrase "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?" What was the original purpose of this phrase? What can we learn from this about how people sometimes misuse the Bible?
- Do we allow people to do evil things to us?
- Do we allow people to rob from steal from, or abuse others around us?
- Should Christians have been pacifists in WWII when Nazi Germany was committing heinous acts all over Europe? What about other conflicts?
- How can we discern when to "take a stand" and when to "turn the other cheek?"
- What does it mean to love your enemies?
- What specific ways can you show love to people who don't love you?
- How can we possibly be perfect as God is perfect? Since we can't, what hope do we have?

## NOTES:

**Sources:** Oswald Chambers (Studies on the Sermon on the Mount); Douglas Denton (Outlines on the Sermon on the Mount); Jason Dexter (Study on Matthew, Study and Obey [www.studyandobey.com](http://www.studyandobey.com)) Life Application Study Bible (Matthew); Charles Swindoll (Matthew 1-15 New Testament Commentary); Dallas Willard (The Divine Conspiracy).

