Series: Upside-Down Kingdom
Passage: Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday: June 2, 2024

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

Love Your Enemies

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you,
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in
heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the
same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1. Who would you consider your biggest enemy?

2. How does Jesus require His listeners to adjust their thinking (verse 44)? How does this change reinforce the general intent of Jesus' sermon?

3. How does praying for our enemies change our heard towards them?

4. According to verses 46-47, how should our conduct with our enemies differ from the world around us?

5. If you honestly assess your heart, who are you more likely to love with regard to gender, race, economic statues, political affiliations, religious beliefs, etc.

6. How can you both inwardly and outwardly love your enemies?

7. What is the relationship between loving God and loving your eneimes? Can you love one and not the other?

8. In verse 48, Jesus calls his followers to be perfect. Is it possible for us to be perfect? Does Jesus expect us to attain complete perfection? If not how are we to understand this verse (and why would Jesus say it)?