

# Live With Grace!

## *Matthew 5:38-48*

Welcome back and here we go! Today we continue in this block of scriptures that address heart issues.

murder --- adultery --- divorce --- swearing --- revenge --- hatred

Today, we look at revenge and hatred, or conversely, grace or lack of grace!

### ***Matthew 5:38-48***

- 1) What is the hardest thing to do here?

So, what we have here is *New Revelation*. Those passages from verses 21-48 all challenged the Jewish people. Jesus quotes the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> commandments. Then adds to it. Here He quotes Jewish Law.

### ***Exodus 21:24-25***

He is giving God's instructions, then adds. Hence, *New Revelation*. Jesus moves us from the law to grace!

### ***Matthew 5:38-42***

- 2) What is Jesus really teaching here?

Most people say that this doesn't mean: "let people strike you", and in most cases that is true. But consider Jesus on the way to the cross.

Others say it is an example of reconciliation and concession. Rather, than fight in a court, concede and let God be the Judge. Ultimately, the question is...

- 3) Do you need to fix stuff or can you trust God to?

Why would Jesus say to do these things? Because it puts it in His hands.

### ***Romans 12:9-21***

Here is how Paul expands on Jesus' teaching. Does this help?

**Matthew 5:43-48**

4) When Jesus says “love your enemy”, what does He mean?

Well, first off, who are your enemies? Think about it. Ultimately an enemy is someone or something that steals your peace or threatens your safety.

This block of scriptures is ultimately the epiphany of grace. These are the fundamental verses. Even the Old Testament supports this.

**Leviticus 19:17-19**

You shall not hate.

5) Why is it so hard to be kind to those who hate us or use us?

The truth --- it is counter to human initiative. We want fairness and balance. You strike me. I strike you.

**Romans 5:6-11**

Here we find the answer. Jesus is our example. Die to yourself.

6) Who are you unwilling to die for?

**II Corinthians 5:14-21**

You, we, have a ministry of reconciliation. It is up to us to be ‘Jesus’ and forgive. Show grace. Teach hope. Show acceptance!

- You are a New Creation.
- You are an Ambassador of Christ.
- You have the Ministry of Reconciliation.

Reconciliation starts with a pure heart of forgiveness and grace.

7) Who are those you struggle with the most? (personal)

Let’s pray for us ---- each other, and them!

In Jesus Name.