

## Small Group/Sermon Notes for The Greatest Sermon Ever: Part 2

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Part 2: Love Your Enemies**
- Jesus now deals with various specifics that mirror some of the 10 Commandments.
- Today we deal with Jesus' fulfillment of "Do Not Murder."
  - Jesus raises the bar. **Matthew 5:21-26.** (Discuss the following ideas.)
    - **V21-22.** This is a mighty challenge...to see people as God sees them.
      - Jesus sounds pretty serious about this. (fires of hell??)
      - John was serious about this too. **1 John 4:20-21.**
        - To love God is to love God's ways. His ways are to love your brother.
        - Sometime it works like this, **Luke 23:33-34.**
    - **V23-24.** Interesting. Get right with people first?????? Then God???
      - Religious observance can't make up for a dark heart. (Pharisee)
      - If this goes too far God is disgusted by it. **Isaiah 1:10-17.**
    - **V25-26.** You initiate fixing the problem. You be the peace maker.
      - The relational parallel to **Proverbs 18:9.**
  - Let's jump forward in the chapter where this topic is picked up again.
  - Eye for eye. **Matthew 5:38-42.**
    - Victim/enabler/doormat types feel guilty for not being more of a victim/enabler/doormat!!
    - Dark hearted user/abuser types think "Yes! If only they would go the extra mile for me!"
    - Balance this with these things Jesus also said **Matthew 7:6, Matthew 7:15, Matthew 10:16.**
    - So, what does this mean? Discuss the following.
      - It means YOU be the one to stop the cycle of violence, darkness, and evil.
      - Sometimes, to stop the cycle, you have to absorb some evil. :\
        - Don't be the victim, be the bigger person. In your divine strength turn the other cheek!
  - Jesus is not finished with this topic yet. One more step up is coming. **Matthew 5:43-48.**
    - Wow. Earlier Jesus said our righteousness must surpass that of the religious elite. Here he says our righteousness must surpass that of this dark world.
      - That seems reasonable. Followers of Christ should live at a higher standard than those who do not answer to God.
      - They are friends with their friends and enemies with their enemies.
      - We are called to be friends to both our friends and our enemies!
        - This command will help you tell the difference between your sinful nature and the Holy Spirit within you.
        - How far are we going to get if we can't figure out "love your brother.?"
    - Jesus expects us to actually do this, not simply know we should, not, and just rely on grace.
  - In the last verse Jesus said, **Matthew 5:48.**
    - This normally is followed with a "well, good luck with that."
    - How is it at all possible that we could get to this place as we grow in our faith?
    - Here is how I see it: to stand up under this command we just be standing on the right foundation.
      - Be perfect. This starts with being perfectly forgiven. Perfectly included. Perfectly adopted. Perfectly loved.
      - Be perfect. Then, share what God has done for you with others.
    - "Freely you have received, freely give."
      - Receive first. Then you have something to give.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!