

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (WEEK 8)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MARCH 7, 2010
PASTOR STEVE – LOVING ENEMIES (MT. 5:38-48)

connect

1. What's your name? What was your worst part-time or summer job?
2. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

study

1. Read Matthew 5:38-48.
2. We are taught that we have certain "inalienable rights" in this country? What are they? How do Jesus' words in these verses relate to this?
3. How would Jesus define an "enemy"? How do we get them?
4. Looking at verses 39-42, how would you contrast our natural responses in such situations with the responses Jesus expects of us?
5. In verses 39-42, Jesus suggests that the best way for disciples to "defeat" their enemies is to give up their "rights" and instead take on a spirit of non-retaliation. Which of the four examples Jesus gave would be the hardest for you? Why?
6. In verse 44 Jesus also suggests that we can "defeat" enemies by loving and praying for them. Why would these two things be so powerful in your opinion?
7. How did Steve define "love"? How does this help as we consider "loving" our enemies? Have you ever prayed for your enemy? Why or why not? What would it do to you to start praying for those who oppose you?
8. Read verses 45-47. What are the two reasons Jesus gives for why we should care about loving our enemies? Does this inspire or frustrate you?
9. How was Jesus himself an example of the principles "Do not resist an evil person" and "Love your enemies?"

10. Does all this mean that we are supposed to be doormats for the world to walk on?

11. Read verse 48. What did Steve suggest this means? Do you agree or disagree?

12. Leaders – please be sure to do this question, even if you don't get through all of the questions: Why do you think Jesus addresses this subject? What does Jesus ultimately want for us?

13. Who in your life comes the closest to being an enemy and what can you do to show love to this person?

pray

1. Pray that we would seek to love our enemies and be more Christlike in this area of our lives.

2. Prayer requests – how can you pray for each other this week?