

Can you navigate the difficulties of life?

❖ We need a great teacher

❖ We need a great Savior!

❖ *Jesus is that one and only person who
will accomplish both needs!*

The Sermon on the Mount, or, *Navigating Life*

- ❖ Learning the Christian *walk*
- ❖ Growing in our *faith*
- ❖ Getting closer to *Jesus*

SOTM Lesson 7: Love Whom???

Matthew 5.38-48, NIV

- **38**“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ **39** But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

■ **40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.**

■ 43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

- He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

- **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

- God’s purpose behind this law was an expression of mercy. The law was given to judges and said, in effect,
 - **“Make the punishment fit the crime.”**
- It was not a guide for personal revenge

– Tyndale House Publishers. *Life Application Study Bible, NIV* (Kindle Locations 164284-164285). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Give? And give and give?

- 42 Give to the one who asks you
- Ok, but Jesus also says:
- “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.
– *Matthew 7:6*

so how do you know what and when?

- ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

- Romans 8

General Grace:

- He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous 5.45
- Why?

God's LOVE!

- ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- **¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil**

– John 3

How to handle difficult people:

- 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- 20 On the contrary:

- “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
- if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
- In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”
- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *Romans 12*

Why love anybody??

- Everyone is created in God's image
- Every person has immense value
- God loves every person!!

Our world is lost without

- **The realization that God is real**
- **That Christians actually act like Christ!**

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

■ Really???

■ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

– 2 Peter 3.18