LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

Enemy Love & Radical Grace

Matthew 5:38–48 | November 8, 2026

THE QUESTION

When someone treats me like an enemy, will I still respond as a child of my Father?

1. RELEASE THE RIGHT TO GET EVEN

Matthew 5:38–39

> Someone else's sin does not have to determine the kind of person I become.

2. PRACTICE A GENEROSITY THAT COSTS YOU

Matthew 5:40–42

> The first mile may be required. The second can be freely offered.

3. LOVE BEYOND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU

Matthew 5:43–47

> A greater love begins to displace a lesser desire.

4. BECOME LIKE THE FATHER WHO LOVED YOU

Matthew 5:48

> We don't obey to convince God to love us. We learn to love because we've been loved.

> “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” — Romans 12:21

NOTES

THIS WEEK

Take some time this week to return to these questions. Don't rush to answer them. Invite God to reveal what is happening in your heart.

1. Where am I still holding on to the desire to get even?

Is there a conversation I keep replaying, a wrong I want someone to pay for, or a relationship where I am keeping score?

2. What would it look like to seek someone's good without excusing what they've done?

Consider how love, truth, appropriate boundaries, and reconciliation might fit together.

3. What desire am I feeding that keeps me from loving as Jesus loves?

What am I getting from holding on to resentment? What would it look like to desire becoming like Jesus more than being vindicated?

4. Am I more concerned with being right or becoming like Jesus?

How might remembering that I am a child of my heavenly Father change the way I respond to someone who has hurt me?

PRACTICE

Read Matthew 5:38–48 and Romans 12:17–21 again this week.

Think of someone you find difficult to love. Begin praying for their genuine good, even if your feelings have not changed. Ask God to begin rearranging the desires of your heart.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus calls us not only to refuse retaliation but to love our enemies. What is the difference? How does the Father's love for us make this possible?

NEXT WEEK

The Audience of One — Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

NOTES