

Be Perfect

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. Introduction

Question: How?

II. Refuse to Retaliate

III. Choose the way of Mercy and Love

a. For example:

i. Turn the other cheek

ii. Offer your cloak as well

b. Train Smarter, not Harder

i. God's grace is opposed to earning not effort

ii. The Holy Spirit is your personal Trainer

iii. The Christian Life is received not achieved

IV. Be Perfect

a. Two little words: esesthe teleioi

b. In light of the cross

V. Conclusion: Here's my chance!

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. Share a time when you wanted to give up but are now really glad you didn't?
2. What is the most intense training you have experienced? How has it changed your life?

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. What do you think is the hardest part of living into the teaching of Matthew 5:38-48?
2. Can we be people who both turn the other cheek and support restraining evil through physical power? Why or why not? [Make sure to use the Bible to justify your position.]
3. How can we train ourselves to be people who turn the other cheek, give our cloaks as well, walk an extra mile and pray for our enemies?
4. If Jesus isn't calling us to live without mistakes, what is the main thrust of his call to be perfect?
5. As we talk about training to become a person who follows Jesus and refuses to retaliate and instead is committed to choosing the way of mercy and love, why is it "most important" to remember that the Christian life is "received not achieved?"
6. How did God speak to you through this teaching?
7. How can we pray for one another?