

COMPLETE LOVE

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 6

The Passage

Matthew 5:38-48

Questions

What do you love the most? Is it a person, an activity, an ice cream flavor?

What is an example of where Jesus tells the crowd to do something differently?

How can our family start to love people in a new way?

Prayer

God... we love you so much. We confess as a family that sometimes it is very hard to love those around us. But you call us to a new standard and we want to follow that in our lives. Help us to live out your picture of this new, more complete love.



The Story

Have you ever wondered why love is such a subject in today's world? It seems like every movie that is not about super heroes and the world ending tomorrow is about love. Love really is the standard for all of us. Deep down, each of us wants to feel love. We want people to love, ideals to embrace, and the all important confirmation of having others love us back. But love does not always look like a movie. What are we to do, as members of this new kingdom, when those around us take advantage of our love? In Matthew 5, Jesus takes some time to address this problem. But like all the words of Jesus, he is careful to set a new standard. Rather than telling us to protect ourselves by keeping love to to those who appreciate it, Jesus calls us to a grander, more complete love. This complete loves looks like mercy, specifically to those who don't really deserve it. This complete love looks like forgiveness, forgiveness for those who have hurt us in truly unforgivable ways. This complete love looks like patience, patience to continue caring no matter the context. This complete love looks like generosity, the giving of ourselves no matter what. Honestly, this standard is impossible. How can broken people like you and I possibly love this way? There really is only one way for us to measure up to the standard of this new love. We must learn to love by relying on Jesus himself. As both the standard and the answer, Jesus is calling us to love in a new way by leaning on him. He is our only way of truly loving those around us.



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