



Sermon Discussion Guide
4.26.26 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 5:38-48

Note: This discussion guide is designed for both group and individual use. While some questions are written with group discussion in mind, individuals can still use this guide for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer. Simply adapt any group-oriented questions for your own study time.

LOOK BACK - Relationship & Accountability (~15% of your discussion)

→ **Share Life**

- What's something simple you're thankful for right now?
- What's been taking most of your attention lately?
- Is there anyone in your community who needs help right now, and how can our group come alongside them?

→ **Follow Up From Last Time**

- As you think back to last week, what stood out or stayed with you?
- Was there anything you felt invited to try, practice, or pay attention to this week? How did that go?
- Did that show up in any conversations, choices, or moments this week?
- Where did you see God at work - even in small ways?

LOOK UP - Scripture & Discovery (~60%)

→ **Read (twice, in different translations)**

- Read the text you are studying this week in the ESV out loud.
- Read the text you are studying this week a second time in an alternate version.

→ **Retell**

- In your own words, summarize what the author is saying in this passage.

Key Scripture (ESV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- *Matthew 5:38-48*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Jesus calls His followers to respond differently than what comes naturally or what culture expects.
 - Instead of returning harm for harm, Jesus invites us to respond with restraint, generosity, and trust in God.
 - Following Jesus means learning to surrender our instinct to “get even” and choosing a different way.
 - Loving others is not limited to those who treat us well—it extends even to those who oppose or hurt us.
 - Jesus models a response rooted in trust, not retaliation, even in the face of injustice.
 - The way we respond to others reveals what we truly believe about Jesus and His authority in our lives.
 - Growth in this area comes through learning to pause, trust God, and allow Him to shape our responses over time.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

When something frustrating or unfair happens, what is your natural first reaction?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (Does your group understand the message?)

- What did you like about this passage?
- Did you find anything difficult about this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about people?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- In **Matthew 5:38–39**, Jesus contrasts what people had heard with what He now says. What stands out to you about the difference between those two responses?
 - Jesus gives examples like turning the other cheek and going the extra mile (**verses 39–41**). What do you think He is trying to show through these examples?
 - When someone feels wronged, the natural response is often to push back or get even. Why do you think that reaction is so strong in us?
 - In **verses 43–44**, Jesus calls people to love their enemies and pray for those who hurt them. What makes that difficult in real life?
 - Jesus points to God's care for all people, both good and evil (**verse 45**). What does that reveal about how God sees people?
 - This passage challenges the idea of only loving those who are easy to love. Where do you see that mindset show up in everyday life?
 - The message emphasized trusting Jesus in how we respond. What might it look like to pause and respond differently in a situation this week?
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BRIDGE QUESTION

Based on this passage, what kinds of responses does it invite? What direction does it point our lives toward?

LOOK FORWARD – Application & Mission (~25%)

→ **Inside Me**

- Where do I need to bring my sin into the light instead of hiding it?
- What is one concrete step of obedience I can take this week to pursue Jesus in that area?

→ **Who Else?**

- Who might need encouragement that grace is real and change is possible?
- How can I move toward them with love and truth this week?

→ **Pray Together**

- Pray for clarity to see Jesus more clearly and follow Him faithfully.
- Pray for strength to resist anything that competes for our allegiance and next steps.
- Pray for courage and grace to take the next faithful step that God is inviting us into.