

Loving our Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48 [Page 1503]

Prayer Concerns:

Surrendering the right to revenge. [38-42]

Instead of getting even, we're to...

1. Return _____ with _____
2. Relinquish our _____
3. Go the _____
4. Lend without _____ in _____

Loving our enemies. [43-48]

We love our enemies with our...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The call to Christian maturity. [48]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Can you recall a time when you attempted to get even with someone? How did that work out?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 5:38-48

1. Jesus' quotation of "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth" comes from Exodus 21:24. How would this instruction to Israel's judges clarify the meaning of justice? How would it also limit the extent of retaliation?
2. Looking at verses 39-42, how would you contrast our natural responses in such situations with the responses Jesus expects of us?
3. What is accomplished by turning the other cheek or going a second mile?

4. In what situations might Christ's commands apply today?
5. According to Jesus, how are we to treat our enemies and why [44-45]?
6. Does all of this mean Christians are to be doormats for the world to walk on? Explain.
7. Reread verse 48. How might you reflect your Father's character when you are mistreated?

Taking it Home:

1. Are you struggling with a desire to seek revenge for a wrong that's been done to you? In prayer, surrender your "right" to revenge.