
SERMON OUTLINE

Preposterous Grace

Matthew 5:38-48

- I. Unreturned Evil – Replacing our rights with preposterous grace (Matthew 5:38-42)
 - A. The Law allowed limited retaliation to address personal crimes (38).
 - B. Jesus replaced retaliation with grace (39-42).
 1. Accept injustice with exceptional grace (39).
 - Don't retaliate – Turn the other cheek
 2. Show unusual grace and generosity toward those who take advantage of you (40-42)
 - Giving up the legal right to possessions
 - Giving up time – Going the second mile
 - Risking money by loaning willingly.
- II. Unrestricted Love – Replacing revenge with preposterous grace (Matthew 5:43-47).
 - A. The Law acknowledged the right of revenge against Israel's national enemies (43).
 - B. Jesus urges us to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors (44-47).
 1. Because showing grace toward enemies honors God by imitating Him (45).
 1. Because God rewards those who don't limit love to just friends (46).
 2. Because we are identifiable as followers of Christ as we show exceptional grace (47).
- III. Unimaginable Grace – Replacing safe spiritual goals with the goal of holiness (Matthew 5:48).