

## The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1 (9 of 10)

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, November 2nd, 2025**



### Sermon Series Summary

Matthew 5-7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus went up a mountain and a large crowd gathered to hear him preach a powerful message—proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and casting a vision of what it looks like to live in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and our enemies. These three chapters contain the core of Jesus’ teachings and his most well-known sayings, including some of the most rigorous ethical demands in the Bible. Join us for Part 1 of this series (Sept 7-Nov 9), as we explore the message and implications of Jesus’ invitation to enter the narrow gate and follow him.

**Sermon Title:** Non-Retaliation and Enemy Love

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 19:18; Deut. 7:1-4; Matthew 5:38-48

**Sermon Focus:** In Matthew 5:38-48, Jesus reveals his deeper wisdom from the Torah as it relates to retaliation, justice, and nonviolent resistance to injustice. Jesus gives us several examples of what this looks like and then tells us that the true children of God are those who love their enemies and pray for those who oppress and persecute them. In the ninth message of our series, Pastor David helps us understand what Jesus means and then he invites us to accept the call to creative non-violence and enemy love.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 5:38-48 silently and then have someone read it out loud in your group. What do you find most challenging about this teaching?
2. Beginning with Exodus 21:23-25, God gave the Israelites a law that was originally intended to limit retaliation (i.e., the law of retaliation) and ensure that people wouldn't take revenge or escalate harm and violence to their neighbors (e.g., the story of Dinah and her brothers in Genesis 34). Unfortunately, it is our fallen human impulse to take revenge and get even with someone, which usually means doing more to them than what was done to us. How have you seen this at work in your life, in our families, in our country, and our world?
3. It has once been said that if we literally and consistently enforced the practice of "eye for eye and tooth for tooth" we would all be blind and toothless. The point is that a law meant to limit retaliation cannot create real peace between parties. That is why Jesus calls us to go beyond this thinking to God's deeper wisdom. How have you seen God's love, mercy, and grace stop the tit-for-tat game? How have you seen acts of love and forgiveness change lives and relationships?
4. Jesus said that his followers should not resist evildoers by matching what they have done to you (Matt. 5:39). Was it helpful to hear Pastor David explain that Jesus is not calling us to be doormats, but to resist in love through creative non-violence? Consider the *three* examples Jesus gives in his own day. What might it look like today to follow the principle that Jesus sets forth in each example?
  1. **Turn the other cheek:** an act that refuses to be shamed and insists that your enemy recognize your dignity and treat you as an equal; it says, "What makes you think you're better than me and can treat me like that?"
  2. **Give them your coat:** an act that draws public attention to the injustice and allows others to see how evil the perpetrator's actions are; it involves a willingness to suffer so that injustice can be exposed and condemned.
  3. **Go the extra mile:** an act that says, "Even if you treat me like I'm your slave, I'm going to humanize you through an outrageous act of love and generosity." This selfless action has the potential to make an enemy a friend.
5. LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION: How is the Spirit inviting me to embody the radical love of Jesus to my family, friends, neighbors, and enemies this week? Be specific about what God is saying to you. And then close in prayer together.