

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: June 29th 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Warfare

Introduction: This section of the Sermon on the Mount is perhaps the easiest to understand and the most difficult to put into practice!

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Read: Matthew 5:38-48

Reflect:

- Read Leviticus 24:17-21.
 - How does Jesus' teaching subvert this Old Testament law.
 - Which seems more fair, Leviticus or Jesus' approach?
- No-one disagrees that Jesus' instructions are deeply challenging, so why does he take this line? Discuss amongst yourselves - and are there any clues here:
 - Matthew 5:3-10?
 - Matthew 5:13,14?
 - Matthew 5:44 and especially 45
 - John 18:36
- What is lost to the world if Jesus' followers, the community of the King, treat their enemies as everyone else does (i.e. if the 'salt loses its saltiness' or the 'lamp is put under a bowl' - 5:13-16)?
- How does Jesus model his own teaching? See
 - Philippians 2:5-8; Acts 8:32-35
- Read Romans 12:17-21. Ask people to share how this might relate to their own life in their Frontline at the moment. Leave time to pray for one another in the light of what is shared.

Optional:

- What does Revelation 12:10,11 imply about the way in which the first Christians responded to Jesus' teaching about enemy love? What were the weapons they used against their enemies according to v11?)
- Some Christians have tried to 'get around' the challenge of Jesus' teaching to say this is only applicable to our 'private' lives, but that in our 'public lives' we can take a different view and fight back (this view goes back to the reformer Martin Luther) e.g. whilst we should not kill our personal enemies, if they are 'enemies of the state' we can legitimately use violence against them. Is there any evidence

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

in the passage that Jesus is drawing a distinction between 'private' and 'public' enemies?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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