

Sermon Notes
“Love Over Retaliation” (Mt 5:38-42)
May 8, 2022

➤ **Law of Exact Justice (5:33-36)**

Human tendency: Revenge

➔ **Setting limits (Ex 21:24; Deut 19:21)**

➤ **Law of Love (5:37-42)**

Jesus’ nature: Mercy

➔ **Limit of the Cross**

➤ **Love in Times of Rejection**

Surrender

Serve

Discussion Questions

These questions are only a guide. Feel free to share how God has spoken to you, what areas you question &/or do not understand. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Describe the daily circumstances you tend to retaliate in. Are you pursuing righteousness or justice for yourself? If honest, do you seek to gain back more than what you have lost, thereby escalating conflict?

When dealing with these circumstances, are you seeking to act within ‘limits’ of what seems permissible (OT Law) or are you genuinely loving and restoring? How do you tell the difference?

When you look to the cross, how do you see Jesus handling evil and injustice on one hand, and love, mercy and grace on the other? How do you faithfully hold all these in tension in your daily life?

What is the limit of love Jesus displays on the cross? How does that guide you in your daily interactions. What struggles arise? Are there circumstances this teaching doesn’t seem to apply – abuse, war, etc?

As you look forward to this week, in what situation or relationship is what Jesus teaches going to be hardest to live out?

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