



# Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

July 23rd

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:43-48

## **Love your Enemies**

1. In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus commands his followers to love their enemies. How does this teaching challenge our natural inclinations and societal norms regarding enemies and hatred?
2. According to Jesus, what is the motivation behind loving our enemies? How does this differ from the typical reasons people might have for showing kindness or forgiveness?
3. Can you think of a personal experience or situation where it would be particularly difficult to love your enemy? How might applying Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:43-48 change your perspective in that scenario?
4. How does Jesus exemplify loving his enemies throughout his life and ministry? What can we learn from his example in our own interactions with those we consider our enemies?
5. Jesus tells his disciples to be perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect. What does it mean to be perfect in the context of loving one's enemies? Is such perfection really possible?
6. Discuss some practical ways we can demonstrate love towards our enemies. How might these actions impact both us and the individuals we are trying to love?
7. How does loving our enemies align with Jesus' overall message of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation? How might this teaching transform not only our personal relationships but also our communities and the world at large?
8. Reflecting on Matthew 5:43-48, what implications does this teaching have for our attitudes and behaviours towards people with different political, religious, or cultural beliefs? How can we bridge divides and promote unity through love?