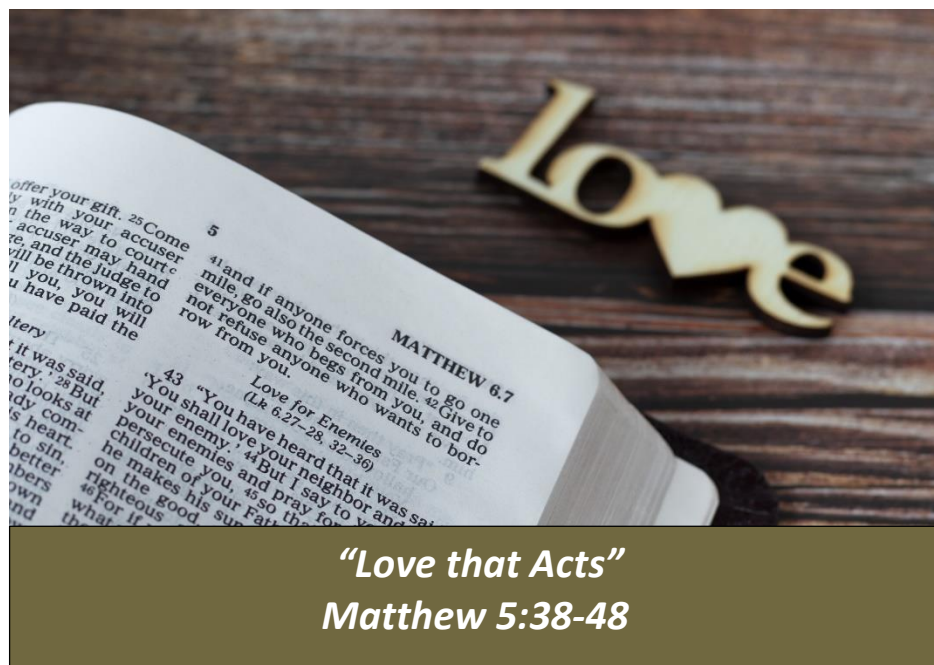


Sunday – May 25, 2025

New Series: “The Flourishing Life”



Revenge. We have all experienced and have all felt the need for it at some point in our lives. TV shows, movies, novels, and revenge is a huge plot line. We follow along and glad at the end when someone, “Gets what they deserve,” or so we feel. It balances our sense of justice, except when it happens to me. How does my view of vengeance compare to God’s?

Key Verse. *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also” (Matthew 5:38).*

From where do I get most of my understanding of scripture? My own reading of scripture or from somewhere else? Teacher? Book? Person?

In this section Jesus is again challenging a popular teaching of scripture versus the actual words of scripture. Read *Matthew 5:38-47*. In your own words, summarize the point Jesus is making.

How does Jesus’ message contradict my understanding of how to treat others?

Read *Deuteronomy 19:18-21*. What is the difference between what it taught there vs. what Jesus says is being taught? Why does it matter?

Read *John 4:7,8; Isaiah 61:8, Amos 5:21-22*. How do these verses taken together give a fuller picture of God’s character? Where do I typically fall?

Read *Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19, Isaiah 61:2*. What do these verse teach about vengeance? How do they compare to my understanding of vengeance?

Read and compare *Matthew 5:43-46* and *Leviticus 19:17-18*. How do these two teachings differ? What is Jesus warning about here?

How do these verses relate to the “Parable of the Good Samaritan?” Who is my neighbor?

Read *Matthew 5:48*. Is God my standard of behavior or do I compare myself to someone else? Who? _____

Jesus’ challenge in *Matthew 5:48* is a reminder how far short any of us fall, and how much we need God’s help to do any of this. Can I take a moment and pray for God’s intervention in my life to live as Jesus is teaching?

THIS WEEK:

- “Do I seek vengeance in my life? How has that worked out for me?”
- “To whom, with God’s help do I need to practice these things this week?”