



PART 6... ALL WE ARE SAYING, IS GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Introduction – Famous Names Of The “60’s”

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Gandhi | Matthew 7:24; John 14:15 |
| Leo Tolstoy | St. Francis of Assisi |
| Martin Luther King Jr. | Menno Simons |
| Dirk Willems | Felix Manz; Conrad Grable |
| | Michael & Margaretha Sattler |

Radical Peace, Love, And Truthfulness

Matthew 5:33-48

ANTITHESIS #4 – UNCOMMON TRUTHFULNESS IN A CULTURE OF “SPIN”...

JESUS THOUGHT:
The truth does not have different _____.

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:
Be completely honest with _____ and completely open with _____.

ANTITHESIS #5 – RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE WITH LOVE...

Genesis 4:23-24; Exodus 21:22-25; Leviticus 24:17-20; Deuteronomy 19:15-21;
Proverbs 24:29
Ephesians 6:13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9

JESUS THOUGHT:
Use radical love to _____ the injustice upon yourself in order to help bring clarity to your enemy.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:
The goal of a Christ-follower is not to be what the world calls a “_____” person, but what is so off the charts of human moral categories that they would have no easy word to describe you (except maybe “crazy”).

ANTITHESIS #6 – LOVING YOUR ENEMIES LIKE YOUR NEIGHBOURS...

Loving (only?) Neighbours... **Leviticus 19:18**
Hating Enemies?... **Psalm 5:5; 26:5; 31:6; 139:21-22 VS. Exodus 23:4-5; Proverbs 24:29; 25:21-22; ***Luke 10:29-37**

JESUS THOUGHT:
When you think of sunshine or rain, think of God’s _____ love.

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:
When we live radically loving lives we are becoming more like God.

Conclusion – Recalibrating Our Priorities

Matthew 6:10

Recommendations For Further Study...
BOOKS... *Biblical Pacifism: Second Edition* (Dale W. Brown); *Jesus and Nonviolence* (Walter Wink); *Soul Survivor* (Philip Yancey); and others in our Book Store.
TAPES... *The Upside Down Kingdom* (Series); *Hot Potatoes: Does God Condone War?; War: What Is It Good For?*

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- Explore and discuss this quote by N.T. Wright: *Jesus was saying that the real revolution would not come about through the non-payment of taxes (civil disobedience) and the resulting violent confrontation (war). It would be a matter of total obedience to, and imitation of, Israel's God. Jesus was summoning his hearers to the real revolution, which would come about through Israel reflecting the generous love of Yahweh into the whole world.*
- Take time to review this week’s message and discuss your reactions. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- Within the Christian Peace Movement there are many different schools of thought. For example, some champion peaceful non-resistance of evil based on **Matthew 5:39** (read) which would lead them to be helpful in times of crisis (e.g., dig wells, distribute food and clothing, build shelter, offer medical help, etc.) but not to get directly involved in civil disobedience (sometimes called *the classic Anabaptist view*). Others champion peaceful resistance (or militant non-violence) based on **Romans 12:21** (read) which leads them to be very actively involved in resisting evil systems through non-violent protests, boycotts, and other forms of civil disobedience (sometimes called *the neo-Anabaptist view*). **a)** Discuss how each school of thought would use their key Scripture to inform their specific beliefs and tactics. **b)** Why would these two approaches be considered two wings within the same movement rather than two different Christian movements? **c)** Which wing of the Christian Peace Movement are you more drawn to? Why is that? **d)** How does **1 Peter 2:13-23** inform this discussion?
- Read Jesus’ teaching on inside-out spirituality in **Matthew 6** (yes, the whole chapter). **a)** What verse stands out to you the most. Why? **b)** In what ways is the spirituality of Jesus at odds with *traditional* religion? (List as many contrasts as you can, from this passage and your observations of religion today.)

SO WHAT?...

- Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on **Matthew 6:10** as it applies to *your* life. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
- In what relationship in your life do you think you should learn to turn your cheek, offer your cloak, and go the second mile? Talk about specific ways you might do this, and what the outcome might be.
- Pray for each other regarding your continued spiritual growth during this series.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 16 / 23, 2004