



Jesus' gospel is not just the offer of salvation, but the declaration of sovereignty. This is the clear message of his Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to find the truly blessed life by taking a narrow path most won't choose—the way of King Jesus.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by pointing out that *"We live in a world where retaliation and payback is normal... but getting even is not the way to get into the way of King Jesus."* How do you see the principle of retaliation being normalized in our culture, both individually and communally? Follow up: **The King expects his subjects to love "abnormally."** Read **Matthew 5:38-48**. What examples stand out to you the most about how disciples of Jesus should live?

2 **"BUT I TELL YOU..."** As we reflect on the passage above, remember that this text is part of Jesus' longer explanation of kingdom righteousness, a righteousness that surpasses what was commonly taught and practiced (see **Matthew 5:20**). Why is that context important to remember? Follow up: With that in mind, what do you find most difficult about Jesus' instructions in these verses?

3 Rick went on to mention several cautions to be mindful of when you look at this section: (1) Jesus is not *enabling abusers*. (2) Jesus is not *forbidding self-defense*. (3) Jesus is not *affirming weakness*. Why is it so important to recognize these cautions?

4 **KINGDOM LOVE... goes further than "normal."** *Kingdom people care more about repairing relationships than airing grievances.* Looking at **Matthew 5:38-42**, how would you contrast our natural responses in such situations with the responses Jesus expects of us? What is accomplished by turning the other cheek, giving your

coat, or going the second mile? Follow up: When has someone done that for you? How do you sense the Holy Spirit urging you to do the same for someone else?

5 **KINGDOM LOVE... goes wider than "normal."** *Kingdom love is like God's rain—it falls on everybody.* Read **Matthew 5:43-45**. According to Jesus, how are we to treat our enemies and why? Follow up: How does loving and praying for our enemies display our relationship as children of God?

6 **KINGDOM LOVE... is stronger than "normal."** *Kingdom love is much sturdier, much fiercer, much more formidable than normal love.* Read **Matthew 5:46-48**. In what ways is Jesus' command extraordinary? Follow up: Read **Romans 12:17-21**. How do these verses demonstrate that the way of King Jesus is the best way to live? How might living in this way give you opportunity to share with others the reason that you live differently than the world?

7 Rick closed by reminding us that *the King never asks his subjects to do anything he does not first model*. How was Jesus himself an example of the principles he shares in this passage? Follow up: **So don't be a reaction; be a reflection.** How might you reflect Jesus' character when you are mistreated? Who in your life needs some abnormal love? What is one thing you can for them do based on what you learned from this message?

