



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - October 13, 2024

Setting Kingdom Limits  
Matthew 5:38-47

I. What about Personal abuse? 5:38-42

A. Context – How do you respond to personal abuse that comes from Kingdom living?

B. Corruption - Legal justice excuses personal vendetta.

C. Correction – Be willing to endure the abuse of your rights!

II. What about love? 5:43-47

A. Corruption: Love is limited & hate is acceptable – 5:43

B. Correction: God's love is the limit of ours – 5:44-45

C. Consideration: God commands us to love without limits . . . So? –  
5:46-47

*Setting Kingdom Limits — Matthew 5:38-47*  
*Life Group Study Notes*

1. The personal abuse that Jesus references in 5:38-42 is not a blanket statement covering all forms of evil or abuse. How does the context help us to understand the reason for this abuse?
2. What does “Lex Talionis” mean? Why is this a good and important law set down by God in the Old Testament?
3. How did the Jewish people of Jesus' day corrupt the usage of this law to become a means to retaliate?
4. Which of the areas of abuse mentioned in 39-40 is the hardest for you to endure? Insult, Injustice, Inconvenience or Interest?
5. Is God asking you to be willing to let go of your rights? What do you need to surrender to Him?
6. Have you ever found yourself playing up one side of God's truth, while conveniently ignoring another? How does this contribute to our wrongfully setting limits on our love?
7. The phrase “hate your enemy” is not found in the Old Testament. How do we wrongly get to a place where it is ok to hate one's enemy?

8. Our love is to be motivated by and mirror the love of God. How is God's love poured out on righteous and unrighteous people alike according to this passage?

9. Our love is to exceed that of the world's. This marks us as children of God. How is this displayed in your life presently? Could we convict you of being a child of God by the way you deal with enemies?

10. Is there anyone that you have put into the 'enemy box' that God is asking you to love? Pray for one another for God's grace and surrender of our rights.