

## **Sermon-Based Questions**

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### **The Sermon on the Mount: Radical Love**

Matthew 5:38-48

#### **Introduction:**

1. Describe a time when you experienced radical love from someone—undeserved generosity, a gentle answer, or extravagant service.

#### **Read Matthew 5:38-48**

2. What is your usual first response when someone wrongs you? Remember an incident when you responded with retaliation. How could you respond with radical love next time something like this happens?

#### **Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 8:5-8, 12-14**

3. The Samaritans weren't considered in the same "tribe" as the Jews and they avoided each other. But what did Jesus want the disciples to do? How did the Samaritans respond when a deacon and then apostles brought them the gospel?

#### **Application:**

4. How can you radically love someone you disagree with by using the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25) in relating to this person:

love

joy

peace

forbearance

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control

#### **Prayer**

5. Specifically ask God to fill you with radical love for someone you strongly disagree with.

### **Lectio Divina:**

1. Reading: Have someone from your group read each passage aloud.
2. Meditation: Spend an entire minute in complete silence, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
3. Sharing: At the leader's signal, invite group to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
4. Repeat: After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
  1. What did you hear and what seems important?
  2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
  3. What does it make you think of from your life?

### **Matthew 5:38**

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 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. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

### **Matthew 5:43**

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.