

YOU+ | Week 6 - Radically Love Others**Message Big Idea**

Disciples of Jesus learn to love others with a humble, radical, self-sacrificing love.

Scripture

Matthew 5:21-48

Points to Keep In Mind

1. The YOU+ life is an invitation to step into the “life and life to the full” (John 10:10) Jesus came to bring. When Jesus walked among us, he taught and modeled this way of life. It’s what we call the YOU+ life, and we experience it by living as Jesus’ disciples. A simple definition of a disciple is someone who hears from God and does what he says.
2. Jesus takes a familiar Old Testament command about murder and deepens it to include anger. He challenges his disciples not to sit back and congratulate themselves that they didn’t murder anyone but to look more deeply into their hearts at the anger that may be stirring there. What Jesus is primarily addressing in these passages is the habit of carrying around with us a “supply of rage,” or contempt for another person, and even malice. As we learn to process our feelings, work out conflicts with others, and even be at peace with ourselves, we can learn to put away anger that hurts others.
3. Swearing oaths might also be seen today when people “swear on their mother’s grave” or “a stack of Bibles.” A more subtle form of oath taking is to use religious language to bypass the critical thinking of others to sound more godly or more informed even though what they are doing might be wrong.
4. The “eye for eye” idea is based on a law found in the book of Leviticus known as the lex talionis (with Leviticus 24:19-20), which means “law according to its kind.” It was designed to curb violence by preventing someone from becoming a self-appointed vigilante who strikes back with a punishment greater than the first offense. If you grew up with siblings and remember how your fights escalated, you can understand the value of this law. Jesus is challenging us to imagine a way of life in which we don’t need to take retaliation into our own hands. He challenges us to take a posture of grace towards the people who wrong us. And he uses four almost laughable situations to drive home his point. The one that is easiest for us to see today is the situation of someone suing you for your shirt. Jesus says, give them your coat as well, which would leave you in the courtroom naked, showing everyone the absurdity of the lawsuit. Jesus’ examples challenge us to be creative when others treat us poorly. Retaliation never gets us anywhere. The only way to break the cycle is by creative grace. This can be hard to do, and we may not want to, but when we decide to act with grace, pray for strength, and are encouraged by others, we can do it.

Next Steps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. Have you read the Community Daily recently? How is it encouraging you and challenging you? You can sign up at communitychristian.org/daily
5. If anyone in your small group is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth
6. Start your pre-work and sign up to have a YOU+ Conversation by visiting: youplus.info