**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr April 23, 2023**

**Jesus Teaches Us How To Relate To Others**

Matthew 5:33-48

**Key Truth:** Following Jesus is more than just believing in Him; it’s applying His teachings to your everyday life.

1. Jesus commands His disciples to be people of integrity.

 A. Don’t speak rashly. Proverbs 12:18-22

 B. Live a life of integrity so that your words will be enough.

 Colossians 3:9-10

2. Jesus commands His disciples to people of peace and

 kindness.

 A. Don’t seek personal vengeance on your enemy.

 Romans 12:18-21

 B. We must not to retaliate when we are humiliated or

 insulted. 1 Peter 2:21-23

 C. We should overwhelm our enemies with kindness.

 Proverbs 19:11

3. Jesus commands His disciples to love the unlovable.

 A. Pray good blessings for your enemies.

 B. Do good acts of kindness toward your enemies.

**What We Learn:**

1. Following Jesus’ teaching on loving our enemies is

 the ultimate test of godliness and spiritual maturity.

2. Living like our Heavenly Father is only possible through the

 empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the presence of Jesus.

3. Living like Jesus will cause you stand-out in a world filled

 with hate, anger, and injustice. Philippians 2:14-16

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Trust God with your offenses. Choose to forgive the person who has wronged you. Commit to being a blessing, for those in your life this week.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Why do you think Jesus brings up the topic of promises in His Sermon on the Mount? Why did Jesus care about His children keeping their promises?

Read Matthew 5:38-39: How do verses 38-39 imply that we must deny our “right” to personal justice?

Read Romans 12:18-21: How do these verses challenge us to trust God with every offense made against us?

What are some practical ways to turn the other cheek in today’s culture?

Why do you think it is so hard to love our “enemies”?

Read Romans 5:10: Why is it important to recognize we are all hard to love at times? In what ways have you been an enemy of God? What did Jesus do for us even when we were His enemies?

Have you sought revenge with anyone in your life? If you feel comfortable sharing, what was it that led you to that response? How would Jesus want you to respond differently after hearing the truth of His Word?

Is there one relationship particularly difficult for you right now? Pray and ask God to bless that person this week.