Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:31-48

Key Verse: 5:44

1. Read verses 31-32. What command of Moses do these verses address? (See Dt 24:1; Mal 2:15,16) Why does he make a concession? How is Jesus’ teaching different from Moses’ teaching? Why is breaking faith such a serious matter?

2. Read verses 33-37. How is Jesus’ teaching on oaths and swearing different from the Old Testament teaching? What is Jesus’ principle?

3. Read verses 38-42. (Ex 21:24) What does Jesus imply about vengeance? About justice? Why?

4. Read verses 43-48. In what way does the Old Testament saying encourage us to live naturally? How does Jesus challenge us to live by faith and overcome natural feelings? How must the Christian life be more radical than the lives of worldly people?

5. What example does God set for us? What should be the goal for which we strive? What is love that it can be commanded?