

Series: KINGDOM CULTURE

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Buckle your seat belt and open your mind to what Jesus says as you read Matthew 5:43-48, and Luke 6:27-36. It's a dog eat dog world. Get ready to be countercultural.

1. If the Hebrew Bible didn't tell people to hate their enemies, who was telling them that? Which enemies did they have in mind?
2. What's the difference between what Jesus says here and the command to love in Leviticus 19:18?
3. Looking at Luke 6:31, what is the Lord expecting us to do? Conversely, what is not necessarily included in loving one's enemies? Is Jesus asking us to be best friends with people who offend us?
4. Wait a minute! If you literally turn the other cheek after someone has slapped you, won't that only reinforce their already bad behavior? That question raises another: Is the slap on the cheek literal and if not, what is he referring to here?
5. Make this political. Say you're really involved in promoting one candidate over another. How would this passage change the way you talk politics, or should it?
6. If your adult child wanted to marry someone from another party, how would you handle that?
7. What strikes you (get the pun?) about the need to fight for a love for your enemies? And...how are doing pull-ups like loving your enemies?
8. What precise steps, what new behaviors is Jesus expecting from us when someone asks something outrageous of us or is offensive? Can God count on you to learn them?
9. What have we left out that spoke to you?
10. Spend time praying that the way treat people would flip the script in their lives.