

DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

→ **Show no mercy! The retribution system of the old law is flipped upside down.**

- Micah talked about the natural emotion/desire to seek revenge when we have been wronged. This was certainly the case for the nation of Israel.
 - READ Deut. 19:21; further study - Exodus 21-22; Leviticus 24
 - The Torah makes it clear: what a person did wrong needs to be undone by doing the same wrong back to them in order to bring balance to the social scale of justice.
- However, Jesus' posture was the opposite.
 - His teaching/law was show mercy...and unravel the system of retribution that permeates our society. Stop vengeance in its tracks by resisting evil with love.
 - This is hard; but, how can we avoid violence, absorb injustice and live in light of what the kingdom is like?
 - READ Romans 12:9-21 to get a head start.

→ **How do we love our enemies (irritants)?**

- READ Matthew 5:43-48
- Micah said this on Sunday: people will know we are Christians by our love...when we confess who our enemy is and begin to love them as our neighbor.
- Think about this for a moment: in Jesus day "enemies" were the Romans and "neighbors" were sympathetic Jews. People loved their neighbors in such a way that is clearly expressed nonlove for Romans.
- We do this too. We love our neighbors (expressly those who are easy to love) in such a way that it is a powerful damnation of other. We do this in socially acceptable ways like exclusion, criticisms, and slander.
- So, who are your enemies (irritants)? Really. Spend some time discerning this.
- Now, *how can you turn your enemies into your neighbors?*