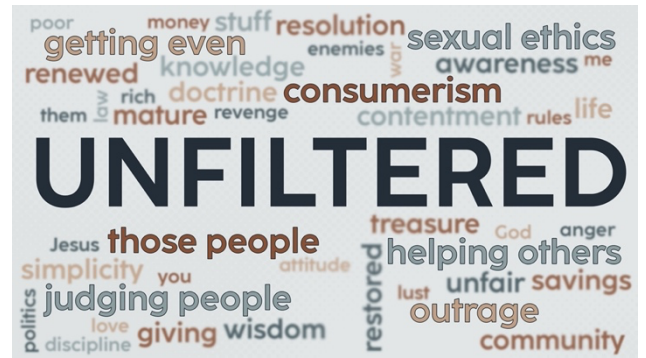


Unfiltered Getting Even

Big Idea:

The first mile is required.

The second mile is transformational.



Introductions: Introduce yourself and share one hope for 2024.

Review Group Guidelines (Attached)

Opening Question:

Share a fight you remember having with a friend or sibling as a kid.

In this series we are looking at several teachings from the sermon on the mount. In this sermon Jesus was teaching in a very unfiltered way, He is directing us to a better way of living and it shakes up the status quo.

Read

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Matthew 5:38-42

1. What is your first reaction to Jesus' words above?
2. What is your concern about living the way Jesus describes?

In the time of Jesus, the Roman empire had expanded greatly. The Romans were very powerful and were rulers over a good portion of the known world at that time, including Israel where Jesus was teaching. All throughout the empire, Roman soldiers had special rights. For example, the people Jesus was speaking to would have been painfully familiar with the fact that if a Roman soldier demanded you carry his gear – you were obligated to carry it or risk prison time or worse. Many people in the crowd had likely been forced against their will to drop everything and submit to a Roman soldier, the invader, and carry his gear one Roman mile. So we can imagine the horror people must have felt when Jesus asked them to *go the extra mile*.

Our natural tendency is to "get even" but instead, Jesus asks us to "go the extra mile."

3. What are some modern-day examples of people going the extra mile?

The second mile is:

- Unranked – the power dynamic shifts
- Unguarded - our walls come down
- Unexpected – no one expects anyone to go the extra mile
- Unasked for – no one requires anyone to go the extra mile
- Uncomplicated – it is about living in freedom
- Unannounced – the extra mile is done behind the scenes

4. Share a time when you saw someone go the extra mile.
5. In our culture of self-care how do we go the extra mile and still honor and care for ourselves? Are these two ideas in conflict with each other?

Read Matthew 5:38-42 again

6. Why do you think Jesus asked people to go the extra mile? In what ways did Jesus demonstrate going the extra mile for us?
7. How do you think going the extra mile transforms us? How is going the extra mile related to our ability to love others?
8. What situation are you in right now where you feel like it's time to go the extra mile?

MICRO GROUP

Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

9. What is your plan to go the extra mile this week? What outcome are you hoping for? What fears do you have?
10. Pray for each other

H2O – Habits to Outcome

Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, community, journaling, serving, sabbath, silence and solitude, etc.) help us to encounter Jesus. Every encounter with Jesus has the potential for **Character Transformation*** and **Calling Activation***. This series will focus on the spiritual habit of **Loving Others**.

Challenge:

Pray every day this week for someone in your life who feels like getting even with.

***Character Transformation** means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

***Calling Activation** means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)