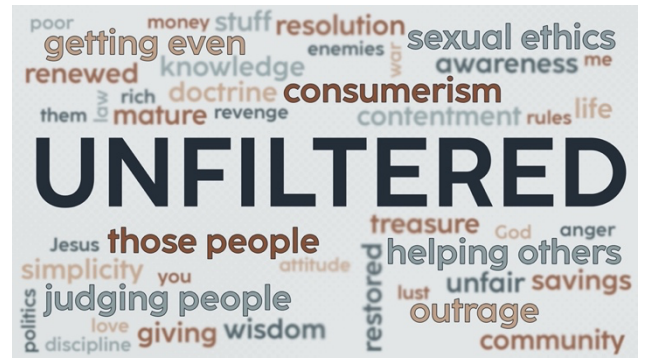


Unfiltered Those People

Big Idea:

Loving “those people” can transform my life and change the world.



Opening Question:

Who is your favorite villain in a TV show or movie, someone you just love to hate?

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, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:43-48

1. What is your first reaction to Jesus’ words above?
2. Share some common examples of “enemies”?
3. Share an example of a personal enemy, someone you struggle to love.

Enemies can be individual people or whole groups of people. They can be organizations like governments or religious groups. Google says an enemy *is an individual or a group that is considered forcefully adverse or threatening.*

4. What is the scariest part about loving our enemies? What gets in the way of us loving our enemies?

WHY should we love our enemies:

- To be like God – perfect – meaning complete
 - To be sons and daughters of God – see Luke 6:35-36
 - To overcome evil and hatred – hate affects me more than the object of my hate
5. Which of the above 3 “whys” is most compelling for you?

HOW should we love our enemies:

- Bless them – see Matthew 5:44
- Do good to them – this has the potential to transform you and your enemy
- Pray for them – invites the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit

6. Which one of the above “hows” do you want to lean into this week as it relates to your enemy(s)?

We are not called to love our enemies with emotion, but with will. But perhaps our emotion will follow the will.

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.

7. Last week we made a plan to go the extra mile in one area of our life. How did that go for you?
8. Who is an enemy(s) that God is prompting you to love. Make a plan to love, bless, do good to, or pray for them this week. Share your plan with the group.
9. 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 feel 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)