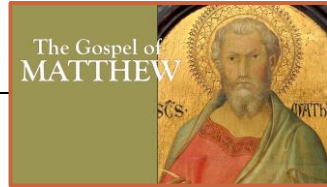


## From Polarization to Perfection Matthew 5:38–48

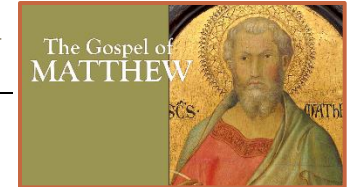
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March 2, 2025



# NOTES

## From Polarization to Perfection Matthew 5:38–48

Suggested Questions for Individual  
Study or Group Discussion\*



- Where in society do you see an us-versus-them polarization into the categories of “friends” and “enemies”?
- *Read Matthew 5:38–48.* What was the original intent of the “eye for eye” command (see Ex. 21:23–24)? What are its limitations and how could it be distorted?
- What do Jesus’ four scenarios (v. 39–42) have in common? How do they illustrate the surpassing righteousness of the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:20)?
- How does loving our enemies show we are children of our Father in heaven? How does this relate to our being salt and light (Mt. 5:13, 14)?
- How would you respond to the objection that Jesus is renouncing both self-defense and the pursuit of justice?
- What kind of person would relate to others as Jesus describes? What thoughts, feelings, decisions, and spiritual habits would characterize a person who lives this way?
- How does Jesus embody in his own life what he asks of his followers here? How does this reveal not only the possibility of following Jesus’ teaching but the purpose behind it?
- What are different connotations of the word “perfect” (v. 48)? In what ways is our heavenly Father perfect? What is Jesus’ invitation to us here? How will you respond?
- Who are your enemies? What makes them enemies? How will you pray for those who oppose you this week? What is a practical way in which you can love them? How can your small group or others support and pray for you as you do?