Loving the Enemy:

I. Text: Matthew 5:38-48 (NIV)

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Beginning questions regarding Matthew 5:38-48:

1) How do these passages relate to the Beatitudes and the section on Salt and Light?

2) Who is my enemy?

3) Who is my neighbor?

4) How is this a fulfillment of the “Law and Prophets” (Matthew 5:17-20)?

Notes for Inductive Study Approach:

1. See things whole—get a bird’s eye view before a worm’s eye view.


3. Comparisons or Contrasts

Spring 2019 – Schedule for Bible Study Hour:

March 13 Overview: Matthew and the Gospel’s Core (5:1)
March 20 Salt and Light, Blessed and Honored (5:2-16)
March 27 Fulfilling Commandments (5:17-37)
April 3 Maturity on Display: Love Your Enemies (5:38 – 48)
April 10 Now, About Prayer (6:1-18)
April 17 Paying Attention (6:19-34)
April 24 Review Week
May 1 Summing Up: Straight Forward and Simple (7:1-12)
May 8 Summing Up: Being and Doing (7:13-27)
May 15 Summing Up: Our Response (7: 28-29)