

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AOrd7x2017

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

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 an evildoer.** But **if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;** 40 and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; 41 and **if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.** 42 **Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to 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,** 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; **for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.** 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 and sisters, what more are you doing than others?** Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

Word - I/S, Math - I/S, Nature - S, People - , Self -

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	Vs 38 & 43 - you have heard it said	Sometimes we hear things so frequently, they sound like the Peanuts adults. Jesus is offering the old standards with a new wave perspective.	To make this point abundantly clear, say the Lord’s Prayer and sing the Doxology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in another language • in another translation • in a different order of petitions • with pauses between the phrases Basically any way that upsets the usual rhythm
Eye - Visual/Spatial			
Math - Logical/Mathematical	Vs 45 - 47 the illogic of God’s kingdom - risking vulnerability for the sake of the Gospel.	Vss. 46-47 - Here Jesus might say in our usual distribution of love we are using an equation like $1=1$. Big whoop, right?	With a mathematical equation, whatever you do to one side of the equation you must do to the other in order to keep both sides equal. $a+b = 17$

		<p>Maybe even $1+1=2$. No challenge at all. Sad.</p> <p>What he wants us to reach is more like: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$</p>	<p>$a+b-b = 17-b$ $a = 17-b$ This is what you have heard that was said to those of ancient times. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."</p> <p>Things change, however, if you throw infinity in there. $a+b = \infty$ $a+b+5 = \infty$ $a+b+10000000 = \infty$ $(a+b) * 2 = \infty$ $(a+b) * 1000 = \infty$ $(a+b) * 100000000 = \infty$</p> <p>If you consider your relationships as only a human equation, then it is a zero-sum situation where what is done to one must be done to the other. If you consider your relationships as humans plus God (infinity), then it doesn't matter what your opponent does to you. Your side is still infinity.</p>
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p>		<p>Vss. 38-39 - Imagine almost any of our professional sports living by Jesus directions here: particularly football, soccer, hockey, boxing, UFC</p>	<p>See Walter Wink's link below: ask volunteers to demonstrate the "turn the other cheek" saying as it is presented in his article. This may be surprising to some.</p> <p>If you have some actors or perhaps martial artists in your congregation or community who know how to fake a punch/take a punch, invite them to demonstrate vs. 39. Like this or this/this or this (unnecessary)</p>

			<p>vulgarity! [They could go on to vs. 40 with appropriate wardrobe.] Vs. 41 could also be acted out simply, as one character orders the other to a point, and the 2nd goes there and more.</p>
Musical			
Natural			<p>Vs. 45 - Show some pictures of sunshine and some of rain. Imagine yourself, your best friend, and your worst enemy together in each picture. (see also People, Self)</p>
People - Interpersonal		<p>Remember the salt and light from just a few verses ago? This is an example of it. By not violently resisting evil, we show the world a third way of moving through conflict.</p> <p>"The first principle of nonviolent action is that of non-cooperation with everything humiliating." <i>Mahatma Gandhi</i></p>	<p>"Jesus is not telling us to submit to evil, but to refuse to oppose it on its own terms. We are not to let the opponent dictate the methods of our opposition. He is urging us to transcend both passivity and violence by finding a third way, one that is at once assertive and yet nonviolent." ~ Walter Wink</p> <p>Gather in small groups and discuss this quote. Pay special attention to ways that violent reaction to evil perpetuates it. Brainstorm some issues that need a response in our time and what form responding to them as Jesus would expect us to might look.</p>
Self - Intrapersonal			<p>Step 1: Name your enemies (including subsets: rivals, opponents, competitors, siblings, frenemies, etc.) Step 2: Identify and name your feelings toward</p>

			<p>them (more feelings here) Step 3: Repeat Step 2 for your feelings toward yourself Step 4: Take the whole hot mess to Jesus Step 5: Try to imagine Jesus' love for your set of enemies and begin to adopt it for your own.</p>
--	--	--	--