

Dealing with Frustrating People in Times Like These

Matthew 5:43-48

4/26/20

If Jesus isn't messing up my life, I'm not doing Jesus right.

"But love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:18 (NIV)

How do I deal with people who frustrate me?

Love them

"But I tell you, Love your enemies..." –Jesus, Matthew 5:44

What kind of love do I show them?

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

Pray for them.

*"But I tell you... pray for those who persecute you" Matthew 5:44
He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:45 (NIV)*

Be different.

"If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that." -Jesus, Matthew 5:46-47

"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." – Jesus, Matthew 5:44-45 (NIV)

For Your Life Group and Accountability Time

What do you miss the most during this "shelter in place time"?

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 5:43-48. Talk about what you see that would be considered 'freeing'?

What is challenging?

When Jesus starts out with "You have heard it said..." he was referring to the skewed teaching of the religious leaders.

-Why do religious people twist words?

-What's the difference between the "letter of the law" and the "spirit of the law"?

What does it mean to be "children of your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5:45)?

Read Luke 10:25-37.

-What happens when, on our own, we define who is "our neighbor?"

-What does it look like to love a neighbor or enemy?

Who do you need God's help in loving now?

What actions can you take tomorrow?