

# INSIDEOUT

## LIVING LIFE ON A DEEPER LEVEL

Part 6 – A Love Beyond Normal  
Matthew 5:38-48

May 8, 2016  
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### I. Introduction

*Matthew 5:38–48 “You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an **evil** person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup> And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons 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. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

### II. WHO WOULD QUALIFY AS AN **ENEMY**?

A. *Luke 6:27–28 “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”*

1. An enemy is someone who **hates** you. (Luke 6:27)
  2. An enemy is someone who **curse**s you. (Luke 6:28)
  3. An enemy is someone who **mistreats** you. (Luke 6:28)
- B. Jesus describes this in Matthew 5:39 to be an **evil** person.

### III. IF I LOVE SOMEONE WHO IS AN EVIL PERSON, WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

A. Loving an enemy will cost **revenge**. (Matthew 5:39)

1. *Matthew 5:39 “But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”*
2. This statement of Jesus has nothing to do with government protecting its people; it has nothing to do with defending your family against some thief or would be murderer. What Jesus is talking about has to do with a one on one attitude of revenge and retaliation against people in our **everyday** life.

B. Loving an enemy will cost **possessions**. (Matthew 5:40,42)

1. *Matthew 5:40, 42 “And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”*
2. Jesus was saying, “Love gives up **things** for people.”
3. Love sees temporal possessions for what they are, **temporary**.

C. Loving an enemy will cost **attitude**. (Matthew 5:41)

*Matthew 5:41 “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”*

### IV. **LOVE** THOSE WITH WHOM YOU STRUGGLE.

A. *Matthew 5:44–48 “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons 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. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what are you*



