

**Sunday, May 28, 2023**  
Pastor Matt Peek, FBC Moultrie

## **“Hard to Love”**

Matthew 5:38-48

### **Today's BIG IDEA:**

***Disciples of Jesus love difficult people.***

### **1. Our flesh compels us to \_\_\_\_\_ difficult people**

A. We \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ us (v.38)  
(Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:19-20)

B. We \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ us (v.43)  
(Leviticus 19:18)

- *God's law was designed to protect the vulnerable, not to promote vengeance.*

### **2. Our Father compels us to \_\_\_\_\_ difficult people**

A. It's better to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself than to \_\_\_\_\_ your Savior (v.39-42)  
(1 Peter 2:21-23)

- *When we are wronged, our primary concern should be to promote our Savior rather than protect our self-interest.*

B. If we \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' love and forgiveness, we must \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' love and forgiveness (v.44-48)  
(Matthew 6:14-15)

### **But how are we supposed to love difficult people?**

1. Remember your \_\_\_\_\_ salvation story  
(Colossians 1:21-22; Titus 3:3-5; Ephesians 4:31-32)

2. Remember to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit  
(Galatians 5:16-24)

- *It's really hard to hate someone and pray for them at the same time.*

3. Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel  
(Acts 8-9)

4. Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sanctification  
(James 1:2-4)

5. Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's justice  
(Romans 12:14,17,19)

**(Application Questions on back)**

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe a recent time when someone treated you wrongly.  
How did you respond? How do you tend to respond to difficult people?
2. What does "loving our enemies" look like practically? Who are the "enemies" in your life that you need to love?
3. How does Christ empower us to love difficult people? What will it take for us to love difficult people the way Christ does?