"Remaining Committed to Love" **Matthew 5:38-48** **preached Sunday 10/23/22 at CAW**

I. Instructions for When We Are Cornered (38-42)

A. The accepted practice of the world (38)- "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

2 REASONS THIS WAS EMPLOYED:
1. To act as a deterrent against improper interaction between people
2. To limit the punishment against an offender when he acted improperly

B. The expected practice of the Christian (39-40) - "But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil."

1. When you are insulted, yield yourself (39) - "But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

2. When you experience injustice, submit yourself (40) - "And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well."

3. When you are intruded upon, give of yourself (41) - "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

4. When you are inconvenienced, deny yourself (42) - "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you."

II. Instructions for When We Are Attacked (43-45)

A. The commonly accepted attitude (43) - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

B. The King's clear command (44) - "But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

C. The reason for the shift (45) - "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."

God chooses to be good in accordance with His nature regardless of the party with whom He is interacting.

IV. Instructions for When God Challenges Our Thinking (46-48)

A. Consider the conditions for the giving of your love (46) - "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?"

B. Consider the conditions for your acts of kindness (47) - "And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?"

C. Consider what type of person you resemble (47b) - "Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"

D. Consider the changes you must make today (48) - "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

How do you respond to those who insult you? How do you respond to those who ignore you? How do you respond to those who betray you? How do you respond to those who hate you? How do you respond to those who violate your rights? How do you respond to those who take from you? How do you respond to those who have sought to ruin you?

The answer for the Christian is that you are to love them. The power to do so is in you in the person of the Holy Spirit. The foundation for doing so is that all sinners, including you, have insulted Christ, have ignored Christ, have betrayed Christ, have lashed out at Christ, have hated Christ, have violated the righteousness of Christ, have taken from Christ, have devalued Christ, and have sought to ruin Christ. And yet He loves you.