



Series: Refined

Sermon: Part 5: Tit For Tat

Date: Sunday, March 16th, 2025

When We Are Offended or Wronged:

- a. We can create mental lists**
- b. We can cancel the person**
- c. We tell everyone else**
- d. We can take vengeance into our own hands**

The _____ says: *“Hate your enemies and destroy them”*

_____ says: *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)*

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:44-45)

Jesus is making it very clear that if we want to understand the heart of God, if we want to follow the ways of God, then our ongoing attitude is to love our enemies and to keep praying for those who hurt us.

*“To return evil for good is devilish, to return good for good is human, to return good for evil is Divine.”
(Alfred Plummer, Theologian)*

If we are new people because of our relationship with Christ, then we are to _____ into this new life - which includes how we respond to others as well.

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. (1 Peter 3:8 NLT)

Peter Instructs Believers To:

- 1. Be of _____ mind**
- 2. Demonstrate _____**
- 3. _____ each other**
- 4. Be tenderhearted or _____**
- 5. Demonstrate _____**



Jesus is living evidence of God’s love.

Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and He will grant you His blessing. For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns His face against those who do evil." Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. (1 Peter 3:9-14 NLT)

The true test of our Christian love is how we respond when we are wronged.

Peter is saying that how we live as believers matters - at all times.

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:15-18 NLT)

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Jesus showed us that His suffering wasn't in _____ and neither will our suffering be in vain.

Bottom Line: *Following Jesus means living like Jesus.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *How is your faith influencing how you respond to others even when you are wronged?*
2. *How is your faith influencing the way you see any suffering you may be enduring?*
3. *How does your faith help you to trust in the God Who is in control?*
4. *When the time comes, are you prepared to share your testimony of what God is doing in your life?*

When people ask, are you able to share about why you live and respond the way that you do?

Songs used in service: Give Me Faith (Elevation Worship), How Deep The Father's Love (Stuart Townend), Jesus Paid It All (The Worship Initiative), I Surrender All [All I Am] (Caleb + Kelsey), Behold The Lamb (Passion & Kristian Stanfill)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?