



STUDY GUIDE

April 14, 2024

Message Series:

You've Heard it Said

Message Title:

Going the Extra Mile

Teaching Pastor:

Bryan Pope

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Do you have any friendly competition/rivalry in your life?

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to imagine sitting at the feet of Jesus as He is teaching us a new way of thinking and living. No matter how long we have followed Christ, help us to keep a fresh perspective, eager to grow. We acknowledge that You have the power to open our minds and hearts and allow us to receive Your truths. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

- Is there someone who you consider a rival or enemy who you have had considerable challenges with, in your life?
- Describe a punishment you have received in your past, either childhood or adulthood.

"If I list my sins, and imagine the punishment for those sins, there is no way I could withstand the punishment, and thank God I don't have to, Jesus paid my price. And because that price was paid and mercy was rendered when I didn't deserve it, the challenge of Jesus' words are not a grouping of abstract ideals; it is a journey towards sharing that same mercy with those around us." -Pastor Bryan Pope

- Share about a time you were surprised by grace from someone toward you and/or when you were the one extending grace.

Read Matthew 5:38-42.

- Do you have any objections to the course of action Jesus outlines in these verses? What objections? Why?

If someone tells you to go one mile, go with him two. Jesus makes this statement in reference to Roman soldiers, who could command anyone at any time to go one mile with them, carrying their gear. Jesus says, "Don't let this get to you, but seize the opportunity to show the better way." We often want to do the bare minimum, but Jesus calls us to a deeper level of commitment, showing our love for Christ in every area.

- "Where do you find this principle hard to apply? At home? At work? In friendships? With our families? How do we seize the opportunity to practically live out the gospel, to go beyond what is asked of us?"

Watch and Discuss Video: (Running time 14 min./15 min. discussion)

- Describe a time when a stranger was completely rude or disrespectful to you. How did you respond?

Read Romans 12:17-18 & Matthew 5:7-11.

- Do you consider yourself a peacemaker? Why or why not?
- These beatitudes call for an active response – to be merciful, to be pure in heart, to be a peacemaker. Where might God be calling you to be more merciful or pure, or to work for peace? How might we be called, as a church, to bring about peace?

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read Proverbs 25:21-22 & Luke 6:27-36.

- What is your experience in praying for your enemies? How regularly do you do that? What do you pray for them? How have you experienced God at work in this way?

“Love does not retaliate, even if it is our right to do so. Where we fall short Jesus did not, when we could not save ourselves, he did, when we should have faced the punishment of our actions, he pardoned us. His grace did not end that day on the cross; it is always available to those who ask for it, learn from it, and strive for a better and right way of living. Our job, our mission, is to extend that grace, not just to the brokenhearted but to the hard-hearted. To look past our rights, our comforts, and our preferences, giving ourselves up to show the world a better way, the way. And in doing so we could open the doors to an eternity-altering journey, not just for some but everyone.” -Pastor Bryan Pope

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so incredibly grateful for Your instruction in how to live. Help us to heed the instruction in Your Word and be strengthened, wearing the full armor You have given us, and to stand firm in our faith trusting You to fight the battle. Thank You for using us to be a light in this world, even to our enemies. Teach us to go the extra mile, even for them. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.