

**“Demanding My Rights! Beyond Justice to Mercy”**

**Matthew 5:38 – 48**

Community Bible Church  
Sunday, February 19, 2023



You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 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. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:38 – 48)



“You have heard that it was said . . .

But I say. . .”



For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their *hearts*. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and *I will remember their sin no more*.

(Hebrews 8:10 – 12)



“You don’t despise me. You take me into your home. You light your candles for me. Even though I didn’t hide from you where I’ve been or the fact that I’m a poor cursed man.”



“You didn’t have to tell me who you were. This is not my house, it’s the house of Jesus Christ. That door does not ask who enters whether he has a name, but whether he has any pain.”



“Our most important task as disciples is to open the table of welcome to others, not because the table of gifts is ours to give but because we are always already beneficiaries of and witnesses to grace upon grace. When we do this, we say yes to God’s invitation to joy.”

-- Norman Wirzba



“Jean Valjean, my brother, you no longer belong to evil but to good. It is your soul that I am buying for you; I am taking it away from black thoughts and from the spirit of perdition, and I am giving it to God.”



“God shows his love for us in that *while we were still sinners*, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8