

Counter-cultural Lifestyle (Continued)

Matthew 5:41-48

What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of selfishness?

- Matthew 5:41
- What is Jesus talking about when referring to “go an extra mile”?
 - The Roman government occupied Israel at this time, thus Roman soldiers were present anytime people were traveling from place to place.
 - According to Roman law, a soldier could commandeer anyone to carry all their equipment for them, but they could not force them to go more than one mile.
- Why would Jesus encourage them to go second mile?
 - Can you imagine the impression that it would make on the soldier if a person continued on with them even after they had fulfilled their legal obligation?
 - Jesus encourages us to not just comply with what we have to do, but go above and beyond our responsibility and it will make an impression on others!
 - Society today is extremely selfish of two closely related things—time and energy. We are all guilty of this at times. How selfish are we of our time and energy?
- The other thing we are selfish of is our possessions.
 - Matthew 5:40 – This is the same concept! If anyone is taking something away from you, give him that plus more.
 - Matthew 5:42 – We may not always have the money to give to help someone with their need, but let's not be selfish with what God has blessed us with. We need to be a river, not a reservoir, of blessing
 - Is it really worth losing our testimony over some temporal stuff?

What is Christ's counter-cultural instruction for the way we should live our lives in the area of dealing with difficult people?

- Matthew 5:43-44 – We must love our enemies and pray for our enemies.

- My prayers may not change those difficult people, but my persistent prayer for those people will change my attitude toward them!
- In loving difficult people, we are demonstrating the love of God to the world (Matthew 5:45).
- Matthew 5:46-47 – Showing love for one another here in the church is nothing to brag about—anybody can love somebody who loves them. God calls us to love people who hate us and treat us like trash. That is ‘loving’ in a way that is counter to the culture!

God is calling us to live in a way that will be different from everyone else in the world—to live counter-culturally. If I live this way, won't I get trampled on?

- Won't people walk all over me? If I don't look out for myself, then who will?
- People whose lives are not characterized by obedience to God's Word will not understand a counter-cultural philosophy of life.

Counter-cultural Lifestyle: Provision and Principle

Matthew 7:7-12

People will not understand why you are living a counter-cultural lifestyle. In Matthew 7:6, Jesus said, “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.” Thinking back to the question, “If I don't look out for myself, then who will?” we realize the answer to this in Matthew 7:7-11.

What must our attitude be when trying to live a counter-cultural lifestyle? (Matthew 7:7-11)

- Dependency upon God
- Desire for God
- Diligence in Pursuing God

In what way does Galatians 5:22-23 speak into a counter-cultural lifestyle?

How does the fruit of the Spirit contradict the attitudes that Jesus dealt with in Matthew 5?

Anger	(Mt 5:21-26)	Gentleness	(Gal 5:23)
Lust	(Mt 5:27-30)	Self-control	(Gal 5:23)
Divorce	(Mt 5:31-32)	Faithfulness	(Gal 5:22)
Swearing Oaths	(Mt 5:33-37)	Goodness	(Gal 5:22)
Retaliation	(Mt 5:38-40)	Patience / Kindness	(Gal 5:22)
Selfishness	(Mt 5:41-42)	Love / Joy	(Gal 5:22)
Difficult People	(Mt 5:43-47)	Love / Peace	(Gal 5:22)

The simple resolution to all of these things is to live by the “Golden Rule.” What is that?

- “Do to others as you would like them to do to you.”
- When others around you see you act in this way, they will see that you are different!

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