



Love Is A Battlefield

"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 an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two." **Matthew 5:38-41 (NASB)**

We win the battle when we dethrone ourselves and let Jesus rule.

...(there) was no one as handsome as Absalom, so highly praised; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no defect in him.

2 Samuel 14:25 (NASB)

Two Major Mistakes:

"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..." **Matthew 5:43-44 (NASB)**

Signs of a Needy Ego:

The Sign of True Spiritual Maturity:

"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" **Matthew 5:46 (NASB)**

We win the battle when we no longer need the admiration of others.

The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. Proverbs 13:3 (NASB)

Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you." And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice." 2 Samuel 15:3-4 (NIV)

The Ingredients for Rebellion:

Two Destructive Habits:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22 (NASB)

We win the battle when we serve God first then focus on the demands of life.

For your servant made a vow while I was living in Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.' 2 Samuel 15:8 (NASB)

Absalom's Blind Spots:

"If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:47-48 (NASB)

Going deeper on your own: Jesus says to love my enemies, but what if I just can't do it? And when should I speak up and state the truth, and when should I keep silent? And why do some people seem to get away with everything? As I read these strong words in Matthew 5:38-48, which are contrary to our culture, what impact would my love have on others not expecting it?