



**“The Challenge of the Kingdom”**  
**Text: Matthew 5:38-48; 20:20-28; 27:27-44**  
**Erik Luchetta – March 5, 2018**

There are two different ways of doing power - the world’s way and God’s way. Both are very different. In this teaching, we’ll explore:

- How love and forgiveness is true power.
- Why Jesus called us to love those who hurt us.
- Why love and forgiveness is the highest form of power.
- How Jesus lived out love and forgiveness to perfection.
- Understanding the power of love and forgiveness is important for us if we’re going to walk God’s way.

To trust Jesus is to believe that God’s kingdom, God’s powerful rule over His creation, was coming in a way they didn’t expect. We trust that God’s way of power is right. It is strength, even though in the natural it often looks like weakness.

The sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7 serves two main purposes.

1. It demonstrates what it looks like when God’s rule comes to the earth,
2. It shows us the way of life that demonstrates loyalty to God.

Jesus announced a new way forward:

- Originally, it was better to accept an eye for an eye than an escalating feud with each side going one worse than the other.
- Jesus is saying that it’s better to have no vengeance at all. In other words, don’t respond to insults and accusations the same way.
- The world would see more peace if we, when insulted, forgave and didn’t retaliate.

In Matthew 27:27-44 Jesus is beaten, flogged, mocked, insulted, and lied about. He was degraded in every possible way yet he did not respond in kind. In doing so, evil was crumbling beneath his feet, and he opened the way for us to do the same. What do we do? We pray for them as Jesus did, “forgive them for they know not what they do.”

