



## Disorientation: People of the New Eyes

February 8th & 9th

**Speaker:** Pastor Dick Foth

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:43-48

### Series Overview

Jesus didn't do an orientation with his disciples. It was more of a disorientation! In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is uninstalling Old Testament paradigms and downloading new covenant principles. In these passages, Jesus leads with the phrase, "You have heard that it was said," and follows it up with, "But I tell you."

### Series Question

What is one thing the Holy Spirit revealed to you this week?

### Sermon Overview

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. It's counter-cultural but is entirely freeing. Henri Nouwen states, "Loving our enemies is the way of becoming free of our enemies." To close this series, we are praying for new eyes - to see people the way God sees them and to be more for them than we are against them.

### Sermon-Specific Questions

Jesus is a truth-teller. What truths of Jesus stand out to you as the hardest to hear? Why?

How have you experienced disorientation as a result of current events or personal circumstances? How have you experienced disorientation as a result of orienting your life around following Jesus?

Love is the accurate estimate and adequate supply of another person's need. Define adequate. What does this look like while still maintaining healthy boundaries? How has God loved you like this?

As followers of Jesus, we have been given new eyes. How might having the perspective of God change the way we think about our enemies?

Loving our enemies frees us from our enemies. How have you experienced this and has it effected your ability to connect deeply with others? With yourself? With God?

Prayer heals our spiritual eyes. How are you praying for your eyes to be opened in new ways? To see people the way God sees them?

### Practical Application

- Underneath each of our enemies is a wounded child saying, "Do you love me?" Jesus isn't about thresholds, but about possibilities. Spend time naming or writing down something divine about those we perceive to be our enemies.
- Who are your enemies? Make a list of any person or group of people who come to mind. Commit to praying regularly for each one.
- Begin each day this week with a prayer asking God to help you see people the way he does.
- Spend time reading through one of the Gospels. What examples do you see of Jesus loving enemies?