



The Upside Down: Overcoming Evil

Oct 7 & 8, 2017 – John Ortberg

Note to Leaders: Every small group is different, so we are providing a summary study with additional discussion questions in the Going Deeper section. Please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

Follow up from last week: Based on last week's sermon on the Beatitudes, how did you look at yourself and others differently this week?

Connect



1. What part of this week's message impacted you most?
2. Describe the point at which the word "evil" becomes necessary to describe suffering.

Engage

1. Read Romans 12:21.
 - Using the simple definition of evil as "to will the bad," what does it look like to be overcome by evil?
 - What impact does good have on evil?
2. Read Matthew 5:10-12
 - How is this blessing counterintuitive to how we usually want other people to regard us?
 - When persecution comes because of righteousness,* what is the blessing that is available?

* Righteousness is different from *self*-righteousness

Apply

1. What is your response when someone asks you why God allows evil?
2. What is good that you can specifically do this week to overcome evil?
3. How does awareness of the reality of the Kingdom of God equip you to face persecution? How can you integrate this awareness into your every day life?

Pray

Lord, we confess that our choices sometimes reflect a will for bad – to brood, to clutch, to retaliate, to hide. Yet we genuinely want to overcome evil; help us to do so by willing good. We surrender our lives to you and echo that part of the Lord's prayer to "deliver us from evil." Help us to will the good for others so that all of those whom you love may live with the assurance that you are near to us and love us. Thank you, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

This resource and additional sermon study guides are available at menlo.church.



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Send questions to info@menlo.church

Going Deeper

Connect

- What is the Kingdom of God?
- What is the role of the Church in overcoming evil?
- In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), what are we asking for when we pray that God will deliver us from evil?

Engage

What does it look like to live in God's kingdom?

1. Live with a Kingdom perspective
 - Read Genesis 21:17, Genesis 22:11, Genesis 28:17
How close is God in these instances?
 - Read Acts 17:28
What assurance can we live with each and every moment?
2. Don't judge. Read Matthew 7:1-2.
 - How is judgment different from discerning good from evil?
3. Don't be afraid. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-4.
 - How can fear get in the way of overcoming evil with good?
4. Don't retaliate. Read Romans 12:17.
 - What is wrong with retaliation?

Apply

Solzhenitsyn said, "The line between good and evil runs through every human heart." In the letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

1. Where does the fight against evil begin?
2. What are the implications for how we fight evil?

Learning Opportunity

Text "Beatitudes" to 68398 to receive a phone background design to help you with memorizing the first parts of the Sermon on the Mount.

Serving Opportunity

Search Menlochurch.org/serve for opportunities to serve some of the groups Jesus blessed in the Beatitudes.

Personal Spiritual Practice Idea/experiment

1. Read Romans 12:9-21 and reflect upon the context within which the command "overcome evil with good" is given.
2. Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, phrase by phrase. Thoughtfully consider how one phrase leads to the next. What does Christ say about God's Kingdom, forgiveness, and evil in this prayer?

