Counter Current
Part 2: Exceed Expectations

WEEK OF AUGUST 8, 2021

We all know what it's like to be "done wrong" by someone. What we don't always realize is that our response is one of our greatest opportunities to do more than what's expected.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Matthew 5:38-42: You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.
  If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.
  And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.
  If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.
  Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.
- Review: Turn the other cheek. Give the shirt off your back. Go the extra mile. Always help those in need.
- We should be people who are looking for opportunities to exceed expectations.
- Exceeding expectations adds value to every relationship.
- What would happen if you chose to give someone what they don't deserve?
- Don't repay evil for evil.
- Forgive those who don't deserve it.
- Give to those who aren't appreciative.
- Give without getting anything in return.
- Go above and beyond for people.
- God wants your life to be a reflection of what he's like.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you normally handle it when someone insults or wrongs you? What's your go-to or gut-level reaction?
2. Jesus teaches to turn the other cheek when we're wronged, to give even more than what we're asked to give, to go the extra mile. Most of us love people who are like this, but we don't want to do this ourselves. Why is that?
3. Jesus teaches us to exceed expectations. What's the difference between "people pleasing" (being overly concerned with people's expectations for us) and exceeding expectations in the way that Jesus calls us to do?
4. How does exceeding expectations add value to our relationships?
5. What's an example of an expectation that you can exceed with a spouse, family member, friend, coworker, etc.?