

# Jesus Community Handbook

On Wednesday March 1, 2017, at our Ash Wednesday service, we said that Lent is a time for new-Christians to prepare for baptism and existing Christians to engage in renewal. There we talked about some of the traditional ‘tools’ of lent like prayer, penitence, fasting, and self-examination. However, if we are to be renewed then what are we being renewed to? We need a picture or standard to renew toward. This is what Jesus provides us in the Sermon on the Mount.

We need to be careful, however, that we don’t translate this into how ‘I’ as an individual Christian should live. The only way we can live into this vision is as a community — then we will have the fortitude to live it as individuals.

“The Sermon is not primarily addressed to individuals, because it is precisely as individuals that we are most apt to fail as Christians. Only through membership in nonviolent community can violent individuals do better. The Sermon on the Mount does not encourage heroic individualism, it defeats it with its demands that we be perfect even as God is perfect, that we deal with others as God has dealt with us.<sup>1</sup>”

SUNDAY	TEXT
March 5, 2017 1st Sunday of Lent	Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12 (Luke 6:20-23)
March 12, 2017 2nd Sunday of Lent	Love for Enemies Matthew 5:43-48
March 19, 2017 3rd Sunday of Lent	Giving to the Needy Matthew 6:1-4
March 26, 2017 4th Sunday of Lent	Do Not Worry Matthew 6:25-34 (Luke 12:22-31)
April 2, 2017 5th Sunday of Lent	Ask, Seek, Knock Matthew 7:7-12 (Luke 11:9-13)
April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday	Narrow Gate, Wide Gate Matthew 7:13-14
April 14, 2017 Good Friday	Wise and Foolish Builders Matthew 7:24-27 (Luke 6:47-49)

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<sup>1</sup> Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*, pg. 77