

RADICAL REFORMATION

Week 1: *Anabaptists & Us*
Week 2: *Anabaptists & Scripture*
Week 3: *Anabaptists & Church*

Week 4: *Anabaptists & Peace*

Week 5: *Anabaptists & Mission*

APPETIZER: The Munster Monster

- **Melchior Hoffman** – pacifist disciple of Luther with charismatic end times emphasis; claimed to be Elijah before Christ's soon return
- **Bernhard Rothmann** – justifies violence with emphasis on Revelation and charismatic interpretation of Scripture
- **Jan Matthijs** – the prophet Enoch, Jesus' return on Easter 1534
- **Jan van Leiden** – the new King David, amateur actor, polygamy

VS

- Schleithem Confession (1527) – True Christ-followers swear off all violence.
- Menno Simons' first writing: *The Blasphemy of Jan van Leiden* (1535) makes two strong points:
 - If we fight like Jesus in Revelation, then our sword is God's word preached from our mouths.
 - No prophet's message can be out of alignment with Jesus' message.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 3:11)

DINE IN: Jesus as our final authority

Matthew 5; Luke 6

The issue in Munster was authority. *Who should we listen to???*

- **Jesus** is our final authority. (Matthew 5; 28:18; John 5:39-40)
- **The Bible** is our inspired text. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- **The Spirit** is our ongoing guide. (Acts 15; 2 Corinthians 3:6)
- **The Church** is God's intended context for the Christian life. (Acts 15)

Anabaptists have a high regard for the Scriptures and an even higher regard for Jesus. Jesus, even more than the Bible, is our final authority.
~ Palmer Becker, Anabaptist Essentials

SOME OTHER EXAMPLES OF ANABAPTIST FAILURE...

- SIMPLICITY became repudiation of technology
- MODESTY became a mandate for sameness and a restriction of creativity
- HOLINESS became separatism (including "the ban" / "avoidance")
1 Corinthians 5:11; Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
- PERSECUTION fatigue became mission failure

TAKE OUT: Who do you follow?

"Follow me" (Jesus)

VS

"Follow me as I follow Christ" (Paul)

We follow Jesus, together.

NEXT WEEK: Series conclusion with extended Q & A

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's message. Talk about what most encouraged, convicted, or puzzled you. There is a lot to cover here. Take your time with this, look up Bible passages, and enjoy some rich discussion.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Luke 6:27-38**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. In **verses 27-28**, Jesus seems to be saying that enemy love has three stages: doing, blessing, and praying. It all starts with actively doing good for and serving the needs of people who don't like us. Who doesn't like you that you could start to serve in practical ways? Talk about examples of what that might look like.
 - c. Jesus lays out "the Golden Rule" in **verse 31**. How is this superior to "the Silver Rule" that many people live by (don't do to others what you wouldn't want them to do to you)?
 - d. Some Christians use **verse 38** to promote a prosperity doctrine. If we give money to God (which usually means that person's specific ministry), then God will give us more money in return. What do you think Jesus is really getting at here? Recall the context.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your regular huddle questions for discussion before prayer.

Quotes

Welcome back to our five week series about our spiritual roots.

Today's topic...
Part 4: Anabaptism and Peace

Whenever Christians have failed to keep Jesus in the centre of their faith, one of the first aspects of Jesus' teaching to get dropped has been the radical commitment to nonviolent enemy love.

For this reason, Anabaptists regularly return to the Sermon on the Mount as a necessary reminder of Christian basics. In Luke's version we read the following teaching of Jesus...

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.