

Jeannine K. Brown, Ph.D.
Bethel Seminary, San Diego
38.5 hours in class across 14 weeks/
120 hours total course hours

j-brown@bethel.edu
619-325-5223
6116 Arosa Street
San Diego, CA 92115

Enemy Love and Solidarity with the Marginalized: An Interdisciplinary Conversation with Matthew's Gospel

Course Description: Many of the New Testament writings highlight love within the messianic community as an essential and central value. Matthew's Gospel presses beyond this internal love ethic to exhort Jesus' followers toward love of enemy and solidarity with the "least of these." In this course, students will explore Matthew's ways of expressing and defining these exhortations to love broadly and deeply and will consider theological, ethical, psychological, and leadership dimensions of this framing of love.

Course Objectives: Each student will...

1. Gain understanding of Matthew's love ethic and specifically the call to love enemies and live out mercy and justice in solidarity with "little ones" ("least of these") in light of a narrative reading of the whole Gospel.
2. Engage various authors around contemporary theological and ethical appropriations of Matthew and clarify student's own theology and love ethic in light of their study.
3. Explore psychological dimensions of experiences of love with the goal of moving toward integrated praxis.
4. Consider how the student's own leadership development might engage the issues of the course for the faith communities they serve and will serve.

Course Texts and Readings

Bauckham, Richard. "God Crucified" and "God's Self-Identification with the Godforsaken: Exegesis and Theology." In *Jesus and the God of Israel: God Crucified and Other Studies on the New Testament's Christology of Divine Identity*, 1-59, 254-68. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

Brown, Jeannine K. "Matthew 5:1-16," Matthew 5:17-48," and "Matthew 25:14-46." In *Matthew*. Teach the Text Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, forthcoming (April, 2015).

_____. "Matthew's 'Least of These' Theology and Subversion of 'Us/Other' Categories." In *Matthew: Texts @ Contexts*. Edited by Nicole Wilkinson Duran and James P. Grimshaw, 287-301. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.

Brown, Jeannine K., Carla M. Dahl and Wyndy Corbin Reuschling. "Location: Our Selves, Our Disciplines, Our Process," and "Being and Becoming: A Journey toward Love." In *Becoming Whole and Holy: An Integrative Conversation about Christian Formation*, 1-14, 15-36. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Carter, Warren. "Love Your Enemies." *Word & World* 28 (2008) 13-21.

Cheung, Luke L. "Jesus' Teaching on 'Love Your Enemies' and the Building of a Harmonious Society." *CGST Journal* 50 (January, 2011) 21-46.

- Corbin Reuschling, Wyndy. "Prayer and Speaking Out." In *Desire for God and the Things of God: The Relationships between Christian Spirituality and Morality*, 62-79. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012.
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. "Encountering God in History." In *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*. Translated and edited by Sister Caridad Inda and John Egaleson, 189-212. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1973.
- Luz, Ulrich. "The Final Judgment (Matt 25:31-46): An Exercise in 'History of Influence' Exegesis." In *Treasures New and Old: Contributions to Matthean Studies*. Edited by David R. Bauer and Mark Allan Powell, 271-310. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
- Liu, Qingping. "On a Paradox of Christian Love." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 35 (2007) 681-694. Responses:
- Ogletree, Thomas W. "The Essential Unity of the Love Commands: Moving beyond Paradox." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 35 (2007) 695-700.
- Stackhouse, Max L. "The Christian Ethic of Love: A Dialogical Response." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 35 (2007) 700-711.
- Lewis, Thomas, Fari Amini, and Richard Lannon. *A General Theory of Love*. New York: Vintage Books, 2001.
- Maltby, Lauren E., and Todd W. Hall. "Trauma, Attachment, and Spirituality: A Case Study." *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 40 (2012) 302-312.
- Murphy, Nancey C. "When Jesus Said 'Love Your Enemies' I Think He Probably Meant Don't Kill Them." *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 40 (2013) 123-129.
- Polema, Margaret M. "Sociology, Philosophy, and the Empirical Study of Godly Love." In *The Science and Theology of Godly Love*. Edited by Matthew T. Lee and Amos Yong, 157-82. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2012.
- Powell, Mark Allen. "Matthew's Beatitudes: Reversals and Rewards of the Kingdom." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 58 (1996) 460-79.
- Pregeant, Russell. "The Gospel of Matthew" and "Knowing Truth, Doing Good: The New Testament and Contemporary Christian Ethics." In *Knowing Truth, Doing Good: Engaging New Testament Ethics*, 123-44, 321-65. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.
- Sandage, Steven J. and Jeannine K. Brown. "Converging Horizons for Relational Integration: Differentiation-Based Collaboration." *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 40 (Spring, 2012) 72-76.
- Sanders, E. P. "Judaism And The Grand 'Christian' Abstractions: Love, Mercy, and Grace." *Interpretation* 39 (1985) 357-372.
- Snodgrass, Klyne N. "Matthew and the Law." In *Treasures New and Old: Recent Contributions to Matthean Studies*. Edited by David R. Bauer and Mark Allan Powell, 33-127. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
- Stassen, Glen H. "The Sermon on the Mount as Realistic Deliverance." In *A Thicker Jesus: Incarnational Discipleship in a Secular Age*, 175-915. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.
- Wink, Walter. "Can Love Save the World?" In *Religion, Terror and Violence*, 115-121. New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Wolterstorff, Nicolas. "Justice and Love" and "Justice, Love, and Shalom." In *Journey toward Justice: Personal Encounters in the Global South*, 105-12, 113-18. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Expectations and Assignments:

1. **Attendance and Participation** (10%): The student will receive a grade for active participation in class discussion that demonstrates thoughtful interaction with course readings and respectful conversation. Case studies will be used to guide class conversations toward interdisciplinary and praxis integration and to prepare the student for their final assignment.

2. **Case Dilemma** (10%): The student will write a 500-word case based on a real-life ministry dilemma that involves a barrier to loving across boundaries. The media lesson, "How to Write a Good Case," is provided to give assistance in crafting plot and characters in the case. This case will form the basis of the final case paper, so prompt feedback from the instructor on ways to improve the case will be provided for this purpose.

3. **Paper on Love in Matthew** (30%): The student will choose a topic focused on Matthew's love ethic (e.g., draw from course topics in A weeks of course schedule) for thorough study. The resulting paper (2000 words) should argue a thesis on the topic of choice and should include ten resources (e.g., commentaries, monographs, journal articles), including at least 5 peer-reviewed articles or essays. The student will present a brief synopsis of their paper for the class in Module 7.

4. **Integrative Case Paper** (50%): The student will provide a written analysis of their case dilemma (#2) that includes (a) the case dilemma itself (revised; 500 words); (b) analysis of the case from the perspective of Matthean reflection on love (e.g., enemy love, solidarity with the least, justice, mercy and/or a particular Matthean text; 750 words); (c) analysis of the case from social science perspective (750 words); (d) analysis of case from theological or ethic perspective (750 words); and (e) an integrative reflection on these various perspectives as applied to leadership implications for the case, including any remaining aspects of non-integration for the student (750 words).

Course Schedule
Seven Modules (two-week frames; 2.75 hours in class per week)

Module 1: <i>Framing the conversation from Matthew and from interdisciplinarity, with a focus on personal and spiritual formation</i>	<u>Readings and Assignments Due</u>
Week A: Course introduction, Matthew's love ethic in literary context	[No requirements in first week]
Week B: <i>Guest collaborator—Dr. Carla Dahl</i> Engaging interdisciplinary conversations, Spiritual formation toward love	-Sandage & Brown -Brown, Dahl, Corbin Reuschling -View: "How to Write a Good Case"
Module 2: <i>Exploring the Jewish roots of Matthew's love commands and Matthew's hermeneutic of Torah and Prophets</i>	
Week A: Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, Kingdom and love in Matthew	-Brown, "Matthew 5:1-16" -Powell
Week B: <i>Guest collaborator—Dr. Peter Vogt</i> OT foundations for Matthew's love ethic	-Sanders -Snodgrass <i>Case Dilemma due</i>
Module 3: <i>Traversing the connections between the command to love enemy and Matthew's Christology and theology proper</i>	
Week A: Love of enemy in Matthew 5, The example of the Matthean Jesus	-Brown, "Matthew 5:17-48" -Carter -Stassen
Week B: <i>Guest collaborator—Dr. Kyle Roberts</i> Theological precursors and implications of enemy love	-Bauckham -Murphy
Module 4: <i>Exploring the ethics of Matthew on love and justice</i>	
Week A: Justice and love in Matthew, The issue of Matthean eschatological judgment	-Pregeant -Wolterstorff
Week B: <i>Guest collaborator—Dr. Wyndy Corbin Reuschling</i> Ethical deliberation on Matthew and love of enemy and the "least"	-Liu and responses by Ogletree, Stackhouse -Corbin Reuschling

Module 5: Discerning barriers and pathways to love in conversation with psychology	
Week A: Matthew 25:31-46	-Brown, "Matthew 25:14-46" <i>Love in Matthew Paper due</i>
Week B: Guest collaborator—Dr. Steven Sandage Love and attachment theory, Barriers to love and love as crossing barriers	-Lewis, et al, selected sections
Module 6: Exploring ways to envision love beyond charity and benevolence	
Week A: "Little ones" and "least of these" solidarity across Matthew	-Brown, "Matthew's 'Least of These'" -Luz -Gutiérrez
Week B: Guest collaborator—Dr. Ben Lim Solidarity in human relationships, Difference and love	-Polema - Maltby & Hall
Module 7: Discerning implications of enemy and solidarity love for Christian leadership	
Week A: Implications of Matthean categories of love for churches and Christian ministries	-Wink -Cheung
Week B: Guest collaborator—Dr. Denise Muir Kjesbo Leading in ministry toward deeper ways of loving	<i>Integrative Case Paper due</i>

Guest Collaborators:

1. Carla Dahl, Ph.D. (Social Science) Professor of Formation and Assistant Director for Leader Development, Doctor of Education Program, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota
2. Peter Vogt, Ph.D. (Old Testament) Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Maplewood, Minnesota and Adjunct Faculty, Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota
3. Kyle Roberts, Ph.D. (Systematic Theology) Associate Professor of Public and Missional Theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Minnesota
4. Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ph.D. (Ethics) Professor of Ethics and Theology, Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio
5. Steven Sandage, Ph.D. (Psychology) Albert and Jessie Danielsen Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Theology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
6. Ben Lim, Ph.D. (Psychology) Professor of Marriage & Family Therapy, Bethel University, San Diego, California
7. Denise Muir Kjesbo, Ph.D. (Ministry Leadership) Professor and Lead Faculty, Children's and Family Ministry, Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota