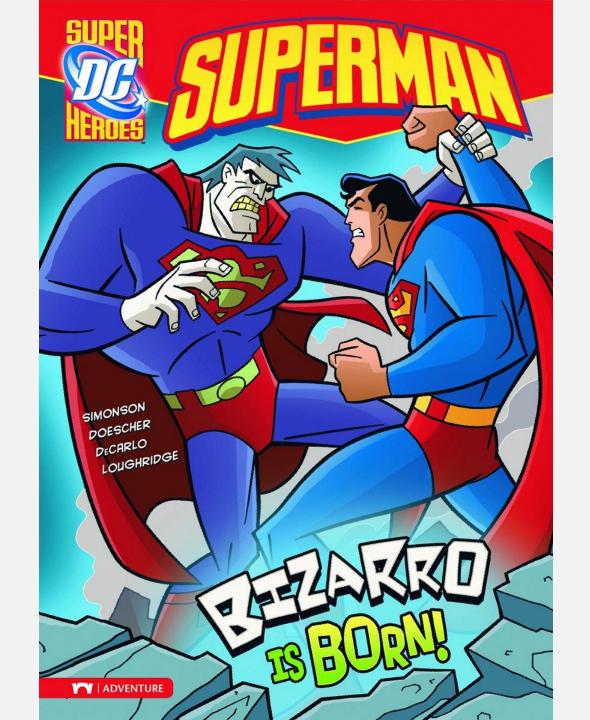
Text: Matthew 5 & 6



1. Authentic Christians Love Even the Unlovable (5:43-45a)

Matt. 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45a so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

(5:45b)

2. God Blesses All(!) People - <u>Sinners & Saints</u>

45bFor he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

3. Authentic Christians Love Like God, <u>Reach</u> Out Like God, and are Friendly Like God (5:46-48)

5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

4. 'Bizarro' Christians

Love Financial

Recognition (6:1-2)

Matt. 6:16 Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

5. Plan to Give to God -**<u>Give</u> to God (Church) -**Then Forget It! (6:3)

³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

6. <u>Regular</u> Giving (Tithing) and Offerings Always(!) Demonstrates Love AND <u>Worship</u>



⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward



"A person who is <u>not</u> generous when he is poor will <u>not</u> be generous if he becomes rich."

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:3-4