

Sermon On The Mount

Read Matthew 5:43-48

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, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

1. Go back and underline or circle any words or phrases that stand out to you.
2. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
3. *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemies.* For most people, this is very reasonable. Jesus, however, taught us differently. According to verse 44, what are the four ways we should treat those who have caused us harm?
 - a. In *loving our enemies* in this way, whom does it show we belong to?
4. Did Jesus have enemies?
5. Who were Jesus' enemies?
6. How did Jesus live His own teaching about *loving His enemies*?
7. What does Romans 5:8 remind us about God's enemies?

8. How have you discovered that it is only because of your relationship with the Father, that you can *love your enemies* as Jesus taught?
 - a. What did Jesus call those who resembled *God* in Matthew 5:9?
 - 1.) How is *loving your enemies* being a *peacemaker*?
9. What are some first steps toward loving an enemy?
10. What does 1 Peter 3:9 teach us?
11. Why is Jesus not impressed when we *love* those who *love* us?
12. Write the final words of this chapter (Matthew 5:48).
 - a. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:48?
13. The following is something for you to consider. You do not need to write down any answers, but it is important for us to ask these questions and really think about the answers.

The work God does in our lives to make us more like Christ is a PROCESS. It is the work of a lifetime. Knowing this, take some time to consider the growth the Lord has given you in this area (loving your enemies). Have you come far? Do you have hatred for a person or group of people? What specific areas do you think the Lord desires to address in your life? Will you surrender to Him and His work? What are some practical things you will do to mature in this area?