



## Love ... Even My Enemies?

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

September 20, 2020

## Truth for Life

For the week of September 20, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor[is] and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, – Matt. 5:43-48*

There has to be some limits on who we are expected to love ... right? Yet, Christ in us and living through us enables us to do what we could not otherwise do. In other words, Jesus is assuming that something very profound has happened to people who have come to faith in Him. He has called us to live in a way that may seem radical or even beyond expectation ... yet as followers of Christ, that is who we are. The Sermon on the Mount gives insight to that truth.

### You have heard it said, but I say ... – Mt. 5:21-48

#### I. The Target of our Living ... \_\_\_\_\_

Cp. Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 5:48

#### II. The Great Contrasts ...

- a. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ ... with His (5:21-26)
- b. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ ... with His (5:27-30)
- c. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ ... with His (5:31-32)
- d. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ ... with His (5:33-37)
- e. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ .... with His (5:38-42)
- f. Their view of \_\_\_\_\_ ... with His (5:43-48)

#### III. The Command and the Why? ... 5:43-48

- a. You should because your \_\_\_\_\_  
... *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*
- b. We are \_\_\_\_\_ from the World ... *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?*
- c. We Live Today in Light of \_\_\_\_\_  
... *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

### The Child of God and His Love

#### I. Love is More than an \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. *Agape* Love is a Choice that often \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever seen Christian people isolate, ignore, or alienate a person or a group of people for some reason? What was the reason? Did they have Biblical reasons for their actions?

From the person who received the alienation, did they see Christ in the actions of the Christian? Was God honored through this action? This may be a topic where disagreement occurs, please be sensitive to the opinions of those who may disagree.

2. Read Jonah 4:1-3 in several translations. Why was Jonah angry? With whom was Jonah angry? How did Jonah display his anger? Jonah has been a recipient of God's Grace. The story is clear about that. Why do you think his anger was so great that he would rather die? Why do we often rejoice in receiving God's grace but push back when we are called to exhibit the same to others, especially the difficult people in our lives?

3. Read the balance of Jonah 4. We are not given any further information about Jonah beyond what his book gives. Jonah lives in and potentially dies in anger and frustration. Could God have changed his heart? Could God have restored him to good place? Why didn't God fix Jonah? Why would God allow Jonah to (potentially) die in this bad place?

Talk through the possible scenarios as to why God would allow Jonah to remain in this place. Discuss that considering what the world sees and how the bad attitude may mess up an onlooker's perception of God's love. Why would God allow this?

4. Matthew 5:13-16 gives 2 analogies as to our role and responsibility in showing a world far from God, His grace. There are no exemptions found in the passage where we are exempt from demonstrating His grace. If the world doesn't see Him in us, they may never see Him. What is your greatest challenge to living as salt and light before our world? Who or What people group do you find it most difficult to live out God's grace to? What steps do you need to take to better represent God in your life?

Will you invite others to hold you accountable for such a large task?

*If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? – Matthew 5:46-47*



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- I. The Target of our Living ... **The Great Commission**  
Cp. Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 5:48
- II. The Great Contrasts ...
  - a. Their view of **Murder** ... with His (5:21-26)
  - b. Their view of **Adultery** ... with His (5:27-30)
  - c. Their view of **Divorce** ... with His (5:31-32)
  - d. Their view of **Swearing** ... with His (5:33-37)
  - e. Their view of **Retaliation** .... with His (5:38-42)
  - f. Their view of **Love** ... with His (5:43-48)
- III. The Command and the Why? ... 5:43-48
  - a. You should because your **Dad Would** ... *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*
  - b. We are **Distinct** from the World ... *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?*
  - c. We Live Today in Light of **our Destiny** ... *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

### The Child of God and His Love

- I. Love is More than an **Emotion**
- II. *Agape* Love is a Choice that often **Requires Faith**

5. Have you ever seen Christian people isolate, ignore, or alienate a person or a group of people for some reason? What was the reason? Did they have Biblical reasons for their actions?

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