

Love Your Enemies

*October 5*

**INTRODUCTION:**  We conclude a long stretch where Jesus has been correcting misinterpretations of the Law but not the Law itself, which is good and helps disciples be His witnesses.

**KEY POINT:** proving our sonship by loving our enemies

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Eph 5:22–33)

* How does loving spouses fit Paul’s wider theme of love in action in the letter?
* Why should the unmarried study this passage?
* How is our passage rooted beyond culture in God’s design?
* Key takeaway about wives submitting…
* Key takeaway about husbands loving…
* How is marriage a picture of the Gospel?

**READ:** Mt 5:43–48

**QUESTIONS:**

1. **What is an enemy?**
2. **Have you ever had an enemy?**
3. *V. 43- Here we see that in ch. 5 Jesus is not correcting the Law itself but misinterpretations of the Law. This verse cites not a law but a misinterpretation for nowhere in the Law was there a command to hate our enemies. We are told that God justly hates evil (Ps 5:4–5; wrath). Those who were God’s enemies are naturally our enemies. It follows then that is natural for us to hate our enemies (Ps 26:4–5; 139:21–21) but nowhere are we commanded to. Jesus speaks into this in the Good Samaritan.*
4. *V. 44- to combat this misinterpretation Jesus spokes authoritatively (and correctively) to His disciples in this command.* **How is such love so radical and supernatural?**
5. **V. 45a- What is the purpose of a disciple loving their enemies?**
6. **V. 45b- What is the rationale for loving our enemies?**
   1. *This is a famous example of God’s common grace; blessing He bestows on believers and unbelievers alike. One intent of these blessings is to lead unbelievers to repentance (Acts 14:17; Ro 2:4).*
   2. *Sons were those who received an inheritance in the ancient world (c.f. we show ourselves to be sons-Mt 12:50; we become sons-Mt 4:17, 18:3)*
   3. *Loving our enemies is to be like God (hence prove our sonship).*
7. **V. 46–7- Two examples to call the disciples’ love to be higher than that of sinners.**
   1. *V. 46- tax collectors often collected more taxes than they should have. They also represented the oppressive occupying Romans.*
   2. **Why is it easy to love those who love you? Why can we not expect a reward for doing this?**
   3. *V. 47- Gentiles mean Greek and stands for the non-Jews or non-believers*.
   4. Why is it easy to love those who are like you? **Why can we not expect a reward for doing this?**
8. **Who may it be difficult for you to love right now that you need the Lord’s help to love?**
9. **How does Jesus impute and impart perfection to us?[[1]](#footnote-1)**
10. **V. 48- Summarizing not only this passage but the whole chapter on the Law comes v. 48. The Law demands perfection and so destroys moralism. What is necessary to be a disciple of Jesus and shine for Him?**
11. *We cannot pretend perfection, but seek to live it out…and that takes us into ch. 6.*

**Next Week:** Giving to the Needy, Mt 6:1–4

1. A) through the Gospel we are declared just; B) by the Spirit and through the Word were are equipped to progress toward perfection. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)