Enemies and Kingdom Citizens
Matthew 5:43-48

Introduction: Jesus wants to have a Word with us about our _____.

   Leviticus 19:18, - *18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.*

I. Understand the _____ – 5:43

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

   During the time of Christ many believed that it was all _____ to hate those who are their enemies.

   Qumran Manual of Discipline 1QS 1:4 "_____ all that he has rejected." (Liberty Bible Commentary).

II. _____ what Jesus taught – 5:44

   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,

   Underline the words, " _____ ," What Jesus is going to do here is _____ our misunderstanding of what we thought we understood about Leviticus 19:18.

Four Spiritual Ways to Respond to Your Enemies

1. _____ your enemies.

The Greek word for "love" here is "_____". It is a supernatural love that only flows from God.

Who are our enemies?

The answer is: _____, we all have enemies. People who are antagonistic towards us. Those who despise what we stand for as Christians.

In verse 44, we discover practical _____ towards loving one's enemies. Can I remind us that "love" is a verb which requires action. Jesus tells us how to "act" towards those who do not have our best interest in mind. Jesus taught,

2. _____ those who curse you.

The word "bless" means "to speak _____ of." In other words, we are to speak well of those who do not speak well of us.

3. Do _____ to those who hate you.

Our enemies will shake their _____ when we choose to "*do good*" to them when they are only doing evil to us.

4. _____ for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

One author wrote, "Prayer for someone's _____ is one specific manifestation of love for that person." He continued, "The surest way of killing bitterness is to pray for the man we are tempted to hate."

The Greek word for "prayer" here means to "_____" or "make prayer" for.

Which of these things have you put into _____ with someone you found hard to love?

Example of the Enemies around Us

In and of ourselves we can't. _____ we want to hate people like that. However, all those who belong to God are not natural, we are spiritual, and we are now to respond in a supernatural way.

Romans 12:21 – *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Do to your enemies what they would least _____ Send them a box of Crumble cookies.

III. _____ your heavenly Father – 5:45

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.

Some people wrongful _____ this verse that if we love our enemies that it makes us sons of God – works based salvation.

Isn't this what God did? Did He not love us, His enemies (Romans 5:10).

Have you heard this statement before: **Like _____ like Son**?

Consider the way God loves _____ people – saved and unsaved, friends and foes alike. Jesus taught His disciples that God showers His goodness on all people. And He does so in two ways. We read,

- *He (God) makes His _____ rise on the evil and the good.*
- *And sends _____ on the just and the unjust.*

Dr. Tony Evans writes, "It's a reminder that God doesn't show kindness only to believers. He extends common grace to all, meaning that there are certain blessings that he gives to all people."

IV. Take _____ to another level – 5:46-47

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?

It's easy to love _____ who love you back – children, grandchildren, parents, friends. Jesus said, "*what reward have you?*"

The Tax Collector

_____ love other sinners.

And Jesus continued by saying, *"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"*

I want us to focus on the words, "***do _____ than others***."

Christian people must _____ out from the rest of the crowd.

V. Become fully _____ – 5:48

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

"*Therefore*" –

"*you shall be perfect,*"-

"*just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*"

Conclusion: So, what have we learned from Jesus in this section of Matthew 5? Here is what we are to walk away with from our time in God's word.

1. We are to love our _____. It is a given!
2. We are to love our _____. It's the godly thing to do.
3. We are to _____ do good, and _____ for our enemies. When?
4. We love because He first _____ us – it shows our true faith in Christ.
5. We are to take love to the next _____ – our love is to be different than what we see in the world.
6. We are to present a _____ (perfect) love – a mature grown-up love.

Remember John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world…*"