CONNECT QUESTIONS

- 1) Thinking about this week, what is something you are thankful for or something you would like prayer for?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 5:6-10, and reflect on the sermon from Sunday. What stands out to you?
- 3) The Old Testament never commanded "hate your enemy," but God's people wound up doing it anyway. Why is it so natural to hate people that hate and want to hurt us?
- 4) God loves His enemies. In our sin, we were God's enemies, but Jesus loved us by dying for us. How does this help us understand Jesus' teaching?
- 5) How can you better soak in God's love?
- 6) What "enemy" is God calling you to pray for and love this week?
- 7) Take a moment to praise God, to pray for the needs of your group and our church, and to ask for God's guidance in the coming week.

Memory Passage

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. — *Matthew 5:44-45 (NIV)*

Trinity Church of the Nazarene

500 E. North Ave. - Lompoc, CA - 93436 (805) 736-6415 www.trinaz.com

• August 25, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Call to Worship Ana Ledesma

Songs of Praise "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

"Way Maker"

Prayer Pastor Pedro and Alex Salazar

Announcements Felisha Caldeira

Sermon Pastor Travis and Alex Salazar

Loving Our Enemies

Songs of Praise "Mighty to Save"

"Doxology"

Benediction

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV)

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 5:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Notes: Loving Our Enemies

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!