

SERMON NOTES

JESUS TEACHES ON LOVING OUR ENEMIES

February 1, 2026

The Grand Narrative

Epoch Six

Matthew 5:38-48 (NIV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that 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. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

- to love; in the NT usually the active love of God for his Son and his people, and the active love his people are to have for God, each other, and even enemies

-someone who is actively hostile or even working to harm you.

-means complete, mature, fully developed.

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LIVE IT OUT

1. _____ FOR YOUR ENEMIES.

Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. _____, DON'T CURSE.

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Romans 12:14 (NIV)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

3. _____ WHEN YOU CAN.

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

4. KEEP HEALTHY _____.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

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