

Heartfelt Obedience Pt.11

Matthew 5:43-47

Pastor Nathan Pittman

The context here is that Jesus is bringing clarity to the Law by exposing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders...

- In *Matthew 5:20* – He said - ... *“unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

He said this because outwardly the Scribes and Pharisees looked like they followed God... but their hearts we're far from Him...

- **Proof of this was that the religious leaders** were unwilling to sacrifice their ego so they could be more like God with people
 - ...especially their enemies...

For them... they hated their enemies... and refused to show them any kind of love ...

- ...but this was the opposite of how God treated His enemies.

The clarity that Jesus is about to bring here is going to give us perspective on what it really means to be like God...

- ...and how following His example provides us the greatest opportunities to be like Him

Matthew 5:43-44 - *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’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,”*

Leviticus 19:18 – *“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.”*

Luke 10:29- *“who is my neighbor?”*

Luke 10:34-35- (NLT) *“Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’”*

Romans 12:20-21- *“Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Colossians 3:13 (NIV) – *“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

1 Timothy 1:13-16 (NIV) – *“Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”*

Matthew 5:45 – *“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.”*

Romans 5:8-10 (NIV) – *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 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!”*

Matthew 5:46-48 – *“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?”*

Matthew 5:44 (AMP) – *“unselfishly seek the best or higher good for your enemies...”*

Philippians 2:7 - *“ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”*

Galatians 2:20 – *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

How will you apply this Monday Morning?
(Write it down)
