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1. **We know the elevated status Jesus gave to the commandment to “love your neighbor”** (Lev 19:18; Mark 12:28-31). Last week’s sermon reminded us that love isn’t just always about warm feelings of affection and creating pleasant experiences for the beloved. Love in the biblical sense is deeper and more nuanced; it is a personal commitment to the well-being of the beloved.

- What does it mean, then, for us to “love” our neighbors? What does that kind of love include... and not include?
- In citing the Father’s “common grace” (His indiscriminate kindness to both the evil and the good), Jesus seems to be encouraging His followers to be as kind and compassionate toward their enemies as they are toward their kinsmen and closest friends. Is this reasonable? Is it even possible? Have you ever observed or experienced that kind of indiscriminate affection?

2. **The word “perfect” in v. 48 can be confusing.** It doesn’t mean “without flaw or error,” as we normally think of the word; rather, it means “fully developed.” We might use the word “consummate.”

- Have you ever met or heard of someone who consistently demonstrated a fully developed commitment to the well-being of others, not only those in their circle but also those on the margins, even their enemies?
- How have you seen your own commitment to the well-being of others grow and develop in your spiritual journey?

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