

## **WHY WE NEED JESUS: LOVING OUR ENEMIES**

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'  
But I say to you...*

#### **1. Loving our enemies shows that God is our Father**

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. (44-45)*

#### **2. Loving our enemies is to act like God our Father**

*For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (45)*

#### **3. Loving our enemies sets us apart from those who don't know God our Father**

*For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? (46-47)*

#### **4. Loving our enemies confirms us to the likeness of God our Father**

*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (48)*