

All In with Jordan Easley

A Call to Love Like Jesus

Kingdom Culture | Part 7 | Matthew 5:43-48

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

We live in a world where resentment is easy and forgiveness feels impossible. When someone hurts us, our natural response is to hold a grudge, seek revenge, or cut them off completely. But in Kingdom Culture, Jesus calls His followers to a radically different way of life: to love not only our friends but even our enemies. That kind of love is countercultural and supernatural. In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus raises the standard for what it means to truly love. The love of Jesus looks different from the world's love, and we've been called to love like Him. Today He shows us three defining marks of that kind of love.

KEY POINTS

1. Love Without Limits

Jesus said, “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.” The Pharisees narrowed the definition of “neighbor” to exclude Gentiles, Samaritans, and enemies. But Jesus dismantled their prejudice and bias.

Who is your “enemy”? A co-worker who disrespects you? A family member who betrayed you? Someone from a different background, culture, or political view? Jesus calls us to actively love them, to speak a kind word, pray for God to bless them, forgive even without apology, or send a gift they never expected.

We can't do this in our own strength. Loving our enemies requires the Holy Spirit's power. Through Him, all things are possible.

2. Pray for Persecutors

Jesus takes it further: “Pray for those who persecute you.” In His day, Jewish people lived under Roman oppression and daily mistreatment. To them, praying for their persecutors seemed impossible, but Jesus called for a supernatural love that reflects God’s heart.

A Call to Love Like Jesus

Kingdom Culture | Part 7 | Matthew 5:43-48

Praying for persecutors means asking God to bless them, seeking their good, and interceding for their transformation. Prayer transforms our hearts. You cannot actively hate someone while genuinely praying for God to bless them. Jesus modeled this on the cross: “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Prayer may not change your enemy immediately, but it will change you.

3. Reflect the Father

Jesus said we must love our enemies “so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” He wasn’t saying love earns us salvation; He was saying that when we love like this, we are Father-like. God sends His sun and rain on both the evil and the good. His grace falls freely on all.

If we only love those who love us, we are no different from unbelievers. True Kingdom love mirrors God’s impartial, unconditional love. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” That transformation is supernatural and only possible through Christ. Because of Jesus, you can choose love over hate, grace over revenge, and forgiveness over resentment.

NOTES

All In with Jordan Easley

A Call to Love Like Jesus

Kingdom Culture | Part 7 | Matthew 5:43-48

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Who in your life feels like an “enemy,” and what step could you take to love them actively this week?
2. Why do you think praying for someone who hurt you can transform your heart, even if it doesn’t change them right away?
3. How does reflecting the Father’s impartial love challenge the way you normally treat others?
