



# Compassion *in action*

“Love Thy Enemies” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara | December 7, 2025

## Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.



## Matthew 5:43-48

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?



## Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



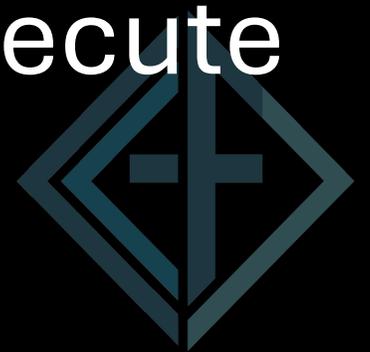
**Leader: The Word of the Lord**

**Congregation: Amen! Praise be to God!**



# Matthew 5:43-44

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...



# Leviticus 19:18

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



# Two Reasons We Must Love Our Enemies

1. To Reflect the heart and character of God.



# Matthew 5:45

<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is 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.



# Two Reasons We Must Love Our Enemies

1. To Reflect the heart and character of God.

2. Radical love can **change hearts** radically.



## Matthew 5:46-48

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



# Matthew 5:46-48

<sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



<https://filmlibrary.shermangrinberg.com/?s=file=517767> (0:00-0:43)



The best way to destroy an enemy is to  
make him a friend. – Abraham Lincoln



Think of what any community, great or small, would be, if enmity were met by love only and always. Its fire would die for want of fuel.



## Romans 5:8-10

<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.



## Romans 5:8-10

<sup>10</sup> For if while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.



# Application

1. Is there anyone or any group that you consider your enemy? Ask God to help you to love them.
2. Pray for them and ask the Lord if there is any tangible way you can bless them.

