



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

“Sons of Your Father”
Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

Big Idea

Disciples of Jesus love their enemies because God loved us when we were His enemies - and that love reveals the heart of our Father to a watching world.

I. Context: The Climax of Kingdom Righteousness

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- Jesus is not attacking the Law - He's undoing shallow, external, flesh-driven interpretations of Scripture.
- The Pharisees contracted the law until they could obey it without transformation.
- Only Jesus teaches us to love our enemies.

II. Prescription: What Jesus Commands

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Two Commands:

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1. Love your enemies.
2. Pray for those who persecute you.

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Defining Love (Agapē):

"An act of the will, accompanied by emotion, that leads to action on behalf of its object."

— Voddie Baucham

II. Prescription: What Jesus Commands

Where This Love Comes From: Romans 5:5

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Enemy-love is not human achievement - it's the overflow of divine indwelling.

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- Christological — it looks like Jesus
- Pneumatological — it's empowered by the Spirit
- Ecclesiological — the world sees Christ through it
- Eschatological — a sign of the future Kingdom

III. Motivation: Why Jesus Commands This

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"So that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:45)

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"So that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:45)

We do not love enemies to become children of God. We love enemies because we are children of God.

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Five Reasons:

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Five Reasons:

1. Because this is the character of God (Matthew 5:45)
2. Because God loved us when we were His enemies (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:1–5)
3. Because this love reveals Jesus to the world

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- 4. Because vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:19)**

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- 4. Because vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:19)**
- 5. Because this is what completeness looks like (Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:36)**

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The Gospel:

"The gracious and merciful God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful enemies and sent His only Son, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over death in the resurrection so that any enemy who would repent and believe may be reconciled to the Father forever."

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Understanding 'Perfect' (teleios):

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Understanding 'Perfect' (teleios):

Not sinless perfection, but complete, whole, mature.

IV. Application: What Enemy-Love Looks Like

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IV. Application: What Enemy-Love Looks Like

1. Identify your enemy
2. Pray for them
3. Bless them
4. Do good to them (Romans 12:20)
5. Rely on the Spirit

IV. Application: What Enemy-Love Looks Like

Key Quote: "We should not ask what is wrong with the world for that diagnosis has already been given. We should rather ask: what has happened to the salt and the light?"

— John Stott

Conclusion

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Jonah - the prophet who disobeyed God

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**Stephen - the disciple that reflected the heart
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**Key Question: Are you more like Jonah or
Stephen?**

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.