

Christ Calls for Perfection

Sermon on the Mount Series – Part 6

Matthew 5:43–48

Key Truth:

Jesus isn't calling us to human perfection. He's calling us to reflect the perfect love of our Heavenly Father by loving people the way He loves us.

I. Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43–48

God's Word Was Never:

"Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

The religious leaders added to God's Word what God never said.

God's Heart Has Always Been:

- Love your neighbor.
- Leave vengeance to God.
- Show mercy instead of hatred.
- Don't mishandle Scripture to fit your own narrative.

Key Scriptures

- Leviticus 19:17–18
- 2 Corinthians 4:1–2

Key Thought:

"Thus saith the Lord" should never become "It hath been said."

Notes:

II. Love Has Always Been God's Way

God's command to love wasn't new in Matthew 5—it runs throughout Scripture.

Old Testament Examples

- Help your enemy.
- Feed your enemy.
- Pray for restoration.

New Testament Examples

- Stephen forgave his murderers.
- Paul taught us to overcome evil with good.
- Peter called believers to bless those who persecute them.
- John reminds us that genuine love is evidence of new life.

Key Scriptures

- Exodus 23:4–5
- Proverbs 25:21–22
- Romans 12:9–21
- 1 Peter 3:8–17
- 1 John 3:11–18

Key Thought:

Love is never weakness. Love is Christ living through us.

Notes:

III. Perfection Is Found in Christ

Matthew 5:48

None of us can love perfectly in our own strength.

Only Christ can love His enemies perfectly—and He chooses to love through us.

Daily Application

- Stop labeling people as enemies.
- See every person as an image-bearer of God.
- Look for opportunities to show Christ's love.
- Yield daily to the Holy Spirit.

Key Thought:

Being perfect is perfectly impossible...unless I yield to the Perfect One to live His life in and through me.

Notes:

Take It Home**Daily Heart Check**

- ☐ Am I handling God's Word faithfully?
- ☐ Am I loving those who are difficult to love?
- ☐ Am I overcoming evil with good?
- ☐ Is Christ loving others through me?

Matthew 5:48

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (KJV)