

The Sermon on the Mount: Love Without Limits

Matthew 5:43-48

📖 Matthew 5:43–48 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Instead of **justifying your hate**, look for **ways to love**.

📖 Matthew 5:43 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”

📖 Ezekiel 18:23 (NLT) “Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.”

📖 Exodus 23:5 (NIV) “If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.”

📖 Proverbs 25:21–22 (NIV) “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.²² In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”

📖 Matthew 5:44–45a (NIV) “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.”

📖 Luke 6:27–28 (NIV) “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

📖 John 13:35 (NIV) “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Instead of **dwelling on God’s absence**, look for **God’s presence**.


📖 Matthew 5:45b (NIV) “He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

📖 Psalm 19:1–3 (NIV) “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.”

Instead of **measuring love the world’s way**, look at **how God loves**.

📖 Matthew 5:46–48 (NIV) “If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

📖 John 3:16–17 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

Digging Deeper—“Loving your enemies” is one of life’s toughest moral challenges. The Lord Jesus has been both ridiculed and admired for His command to love, instead of hate, one’s enemies.  How do you feel about what He said? Who comes to mind when you hear the words “your enemy”? Have you ever prayed for, not just about, that person? Have you asked God to bless your enemy? In what ways do you see God working in their life? How is God working in your life today? Do you consider yourself to be a “loving” person? –Why or why not?