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1709 Barrow Rd | Little Rock, AR

Dr. Maurice Watson, Senior Pastor

April 9, 2024

Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5: 43-48

This lesson is a continuation of the previous one. In verses 38-42 we learned what we are not supposed to do when we’ve been mistreated by others.

In the verses now under consideration, Jesus explains explicitly what we are supposed to do when we’ve been mistreated by others.

It is Jesus’ sixth and final illustration contrasting the false righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees with T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ righteousness (Matt.5: 20).

1. **The Teaching of the Old Testament** (v 43b)

(Matt.19: 19; 22: 39; Mark 12: 31; Luke 10: 27; Rom.13: 9; Gal.5: 14; James 2: 8).

(Lev.19: 18; Deut.22: 1-4; Ex.23: 4-5; Job 31: 29-30; Ps.7: 4-5).

**In the fullest sense an Israelite’s neighbor was A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in need whom he might come across in his daily living** (Luke 10: 30-37).

1. **The Perversion of the Teaching** (Matt.5: 43)

As in each of the five previous illustrations, Jesus shows how the scribes and Pharisees perverted the true meaning of the O.T. teaching.

**Satan will always** **pervert the revelation of God**. He does so by giving some T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make his deception more believable and acceptable.

They perverted the O.T. teaching in two ways:

1. **Perversion By O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

They omitted the phrase “as Y\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Lev.19: 18)

They narrowed the meaning of neighbor to include only those people they P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and approved of—which amounted basically to their O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kind.

1. **Perversion By A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Nowhere in the bible will you find the command to love your neighbor** **and hate your enemy**.

1. **The P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus** (Matt.5: 44-48)
2. **Love Your Enemies** (v 44)

The word “love” in verse 44 is “A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” which is a love that seeks and works to meet another’s highest welfare (Rom.12: 20).

1. **Bless Your Cursers** (v 44)

The word “blessed” comes from a Greek word from which we get our word, E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Help Your H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (v 44) Doing good goes beyond words; it does things for the person who hates. (Rom.12: 21)
2. **Pray for Your P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Matt.5: 44)

**The best way to have the right attitude toward those who persecute you is to bring them before the Lord in prayer** (Luke 23: 34; Acts 7: 60).

1. **Manifest Your Son-ship** (Matt.5: 45)

The word “be” does not suggest to “B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” The truth taught here is that by manifesting ideal love, we show ourselves to be a child of God.

1. **Exceed the Scribes and Pharisees** (Matt.5: 46-47)
2. **Be Like Your Heavenly Father** (Matt.5: 48)

The word “perfect” means C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**God never lowers His standard to accommodate our sinfulness.**