

**WE ARE SAVED BY
A MAN WHO DIED
LOVING HIS
ENEMIES.**

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Loving Your Enemy

**Scaling The Peaks Of The Sermon
On The Mount**

Values Of A Transformed Heart

In Matt.5:21-48 he gives us 6 contrasts of how the religious leaders manipulated the law and how God looks at issues.

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
1. Irritation with one's associates, (vv. 21–26)	No murder.	Intense desire to be of help. No anger or contempt.
2. Sexual attraction. (vv. 27–30)	No intercourse.	No looking with the intent of lustful coveting
3. Unhappiness with marriage partner. (vv. 31–32)	If you divorce, give “pink slip.”	No divorce, as then practiced.

Values Of A Transformed Heart

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
4. Wanting someone to believe something, (vv. 33–37)	Keep vows or oaths made to convince.	Only say how things are or are not. No verbal manipulation.
5. Being personally injured. (vv. 38–42)	Inflict exactly the same injury on the offender.	Don't harm, but help the one who has damaged you
6. Having an enemy, (vv. 43–48)	Hate your enemy.	Love and bless your enemy, as the heavenly Father does.

Do What To Who?

- ❖ **Matt.5:43-48**
- ❖ **You have heard that it was said....**
- ❖ **No where in the Bible does it say to hate our enemies**
- ❖ **Neighbour was defined as an Israelite. Jews were to love Jews.**
- ❖ **Everyone else was defined not only as an alien but as an enemy. They seemed to go so far as to say this was not only their right but their duty to hate everyone else.**
- ❖ **They thought they were honoring God by this hating**

WHY WOULD JEWS HATE EVERYONE?

- ❖ What were the Jews told when they entered the Promised land?**
- ❖ The memory of the Amalekites was to be blotted out**
- ❖ Under the law you could murder the murderer if you caught him before he got to the City of refuge**
- ❖ What about the imprecatory Psalms? Ps.69:22-24**
- ❖ (Pss 5; 10; 17; 35; 58; 59; 69; 70; 79; 83; 109; 129; 137; 140)**

All Those Situations are Judicial, Not Personal

- ❖ In all of these Psalms, the author is concerned with the Glory of God – 69:9-12**
- ❖ In Matt.23 when Jesus pours out the “woes” on the Pharisees, He is reacting to the reproach brought on the Name of God by their actions**
- ❖ In Holy Justice, some people will go to hell.**
- ❖ Some interpret this love to mean everyone is going to heaven – Rob Bell – “Love Wins”**
- ❖ Francis Chan responded in love with – “Erasing Hell”**

But I Say, Love Your Enemies, Personally

- ❖ Loving your Enemies is the “positive” to the “negative” of do not resist the one who is evil!
- ❖ The only thing that enables a person to “not hit back” and turn the other cheek and give him your coat and go the extra mile is the transformed heart of God sharing His love through us!
- ❖ We are to LOVE (verb *agapeo*) our enemies
- ❖ *phileo* – to be friendly to, to delight in, to do with pleasure

But I Say, Love Your Enemies, Personally

- ❖ *agapeo* – verb – a love founded on admiration, veneration and esteem. To have preference for, wish well to, regard the welfare of. To be full of good will both in thought and deed**
- ❖ We are to do this to our enemies and pray for those who emotionally, socially or physically abuse you - 44**
- ❖ You and I, faced as we are with problems and difficulties, are to behave as God behaves, are to be like him, and treat others as He treats them. 45**

Why Does God Love People?

- ❖ **Our treatment of others must never depend upon what they are or what they do to us. It must be entirely controlled and governed by our view of them and their condition.**
- ❖ **Who receives the rain? Is God capable of making His sun shine in certain places?**
- ❖ **God blesses the efforts of the unrighteous farmer, the unjust and unrighteous**
- ❖ **It is God's heart of love - Jhn.3:16; Rom.5:8; 2Pet.3:9**

Why Does God Love People?

- ❖ We are called to be counter –culture! Loving our enemies and praying and doing good to and for those who wish to harm us. Those kind of actions are only possible through the power of God in us and through us
- ❖ To be good to those who are nice to you and love those who are part of your tribe is no different than any other person on earth.
- ❖ God calls us to stand out! To be different! To unconditionally love everyone. Good or evil, benevolent or malicious!
- ❖ Be like God! Love your enemy!

*"Love is the only thing
that can turn an enemy
into a friend."*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

