



# Loving Your Enemy

MT. 5.43-48

*“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:44, ESV)*

## Review the Sermon

Read Mt. 5.43-48 and Lk. 6.27-28.

How and why did the Jewish teachers twist the Old Testament commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19.18)?

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Why is a personal connection with God as Father crucial to boldly loving your enemies?

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How is the quality of love Jesus is commanding different from the natural love of unbelievers (Gentiles and tax collectors)?

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## Assess your Life

Name one way Jesus’ teaching in this text has changed your attitude toward how you treat and pray for your enemies.

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How are you boldly loving your enemies? Do you intercede for them? Do you reach out in ways that invite them toward reconciliation with God and yourself?

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In what ways would you say the love you express is Spirit-driven in quality?

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Are there people in your life (family, church, work, neighborhood, etc.) that you are avoiding and finding it difficult to love?

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## Apply the Truth

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How should Jesus' command to "be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" motivate you toward spiritual growth and obedience?

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How could you be more intentional this week about praying for those who have hurt you?

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What changes need to be made in your heart and mind to free you to boldly love your enemies?

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## Commit this Week

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Will you commit this week to actively pursuing your enemies out of a passion for advancing God's kingdom?

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*"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."  
(Matthew 5:48, ESV)*