

LOVE YOUR ENEMY

Matthew 5:43-48

10-1-23

I. IN THIS PASSAGE JESUS EXPLAINS HOW TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES AND WHY WE SHOULD

1. The Error in their beliefs

Matthew 5:43 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'"

2. The Correction of their beliefs

Matthew 5:44a - "But I say to you, Love your enemies..."

3. The Instruction to change their belief

Matthew 5:44b - "...pray for those who persecute you..."

4. The Reason for change

Matthew 5:45a - "...so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

5. The Comparison between God and man

Matthew 5:45b-47 - "For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"

6. The Goal for changing our beliefs

Matthew 5:48 - "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

II. HOW DO WE CHANGE OUR FALSE BELIEFS AND WHY?

1. Identify your false beliefs.

2. What does God's Word say about it?

3. Believe change is possible.

4. Experience God's transforming power.

5. Encourage others with your experience.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you about this passage? What challenged your thinking?
2. What are some false beliefs that you have struggled with in the past?
3. Tell of a time when you were having difficulty with an individual and found praying for them helped.
4. For you, what is the hardest part of loving your enemy?
5. In what ways can you commit to loving your “enemies” better?