“The Driving Force of Discipleship”
Matthew 5:43-47
Setting: Sermon on the Mount

“His love” is **agape** love – “unconditional”

First **objective** for a new disciple is being transformed into a loving person! (Mt. 22)

* love God
* love neighbor as yourself

Fruit of the Spirit – first! : LOVE! (Gal. 5:22)
The Supreme Role of Love in Christian Discipleship

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
Love: The Foundation For Discipleship
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love”

**Faith:** “love...believes all things” (vs. 7)

**Hope:** “love...hopes all things...” (vs. 7)

**Love:** “the greatest of these” (vs. 13)
Loves Largest “Test” – Your Enemies!

“Love them; pray for them” (Mt. 6:44)
“Even God causes sun, rain to both the righteous and unrighteous” (Mt. 6:45)

Vs. 46 – “even unsaved people love one another”
God’s Love Meets You Where You Are!

You can’t **earn** it or **deserve** it!

Can’t stop it, because **it is eternal**!

The FORCE of love feeds discipleship by bridging-building with others!

On the search / lookout – human needs
God’s Love Always Desires The Best!

Jesus’ example: “loving an enemy”

Wants sin OUT; holiness IN! (Mt. 6:47) and His call to holiness!

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (last verse) “Adam’s likeness now efface; stamp Thine image in its place”
God’s Love Fashions Teamwork in Discipleship (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

“Patient” “kind” “not jealous”
“does not brag and is not arrogant”
“does not act unbecomingly”
“does not seek its own”
“is not provoked”
“does not take into account a wrong suffered”
“does not rejoice in unrighteousness”
“rejoices in the truth”
Love is What Propels…

Ministries in the church family
(worship, teaching, serving, encouraging)

Marriage (with a spouse’s glaring deficiencies in focus)

Parenting (at wit’s end!)

When you hit “walls” in life, answer with “faith, hope, and love...”
The Driving Force of Kingdom Work: LOVE!

You must be born again to get it Spirit-filled to exercise it Tempered by it to be effective!

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, by your love for one another” (John 13:35).