



Sermon on the Mount

Love & Pray

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Jesus continues within His Sermon upon the Mount

✝ You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

Matthew 5:43 RSV

Once again dear Bible studying friend when Jesus states "you may have heard" this is a general reference as to religious teachings, commentary, omissions, and or additions upon GOD'S Word.

As for "hate your enemy": this of course was against any Biblical Passages. This teaching was an Essene regional saying supposed for outsiders, apostate jews, or especially pagan gentiles.

In fact amongst the Dead Sea scroll discoveries was Qumran 1, the Manual of Discipline (community rule) which states local members were to hate those in darkness i.e. born heathen or an unworthy Jew.

As for "Love your neighbor": Jesus is referencing-

✝ You shall not take vengeance, nor hold any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:18 NASB

The Rabbis of Israel thought and thought that only proper Jews were considered to be ones neighbor. Where as Jesus will answer this question of exactly "who is my neighbor" within His parable "The Good Samaritan" found in Dr. Luke chapter 10. The Parable of the Good Samaritan fully demonstrates that the most well learned experts of GOD'S Law, especially in Jesus Time- did in fact often miss the simplest of meanings found within the scriptures.

That Love, Kindness, & Charity with genuine Empathy was for all and not just other acceptable Jews nor even just for those whom Love you.

Meaning:

The GODLY character of showing a Loving Respect unto everyone is an ever evidence of our Faith.

Additionally as for "Hate your enemies."

(notice the context of the content of these next 2 verses because they were by some twisted for hate.)

✝ I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. Psalm26:5 ESV

Take note here this Psalm of King David is a statement that he was personally disgusted when people gathered together to do ungodly things. So much so that he refuses to participate with them.

But nay did King David say; that he hated everyone whom he felt did something regretful or woefully evil, or that he hated anyone whom considered him to be their enemy.

✝ To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Proverbs 8:13 NIV (by King Solomon)

King Solomon per GOD'S Word was the smartest human being who ever lived save for Christ Jesus.

Solomon said we are to hate evil but he never once said we are to hate the evildoer.

Of course this is not an open endorsement for someone to continue in Sin nor is it a pass against justice.

You know; we as Believers are to hate the Sin but love the Sinner.

So Jesus has just pointed out to everyone that the Essene teaching of hating ones supposed enemy is nowhere to be found in the Scriptures nor was it ever taught by Moses unto the Jews.

Jesus Continues

✠ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45 RSV

To show someone the general good Will of Christian Love whom we hardly know, or might not even know at all is officially termed "The Love of Complacency."

We are to have a general Christian "Attitude of Gratitude" as for "The Love of Complacency." That we are to have a common Love & Respect for all people because the Lord can and will by His Will often does be good to everyone by what is known as GOD'S "Common Grace."

There is nothing common about GOD'S Grace unto the entirety of the human race, save for what this term "common" means. Common as in God's Grace that He gives unto everyone.

Remember God's Grace & likewise His Favor are unique and separate dependent upon His Will and purpose for each of us, & of course by our Love Obedience and the Respect that we show unto Him.

But what all human beings initially have in common is the Love of GOD our Creator.

It is always our life choices that impedes GOD'S Love for us or even brings His Holy Chastisement.

It is we by our unbelief or actions of Sin that separates us from Him- Holy GOD.

However to offer no ill will or to wish no harm upon someone that we knowingly disagree with- This type of Christian Love with Respect is known as "The Love of Benevolence."

Websters Classic Dictionary 1964 edition defines Benevolence as a disposition of Godly Love unto all humanity by being generous and kind in nature to everyone.

Jesus is stressing both "'The Love of Common Complacency" with decency & Love for everyone, while in addition we are all to also have " The Love of Benevolence."

To have Christian love for everyone no matter if we like them or no.

Again we are to show and know GOD'S Love is for everyone.

Because by showing Benevolent Love to everyone especially unto unbelievers, this is intended to make unbelieving unsaved people to stop and take notice of Him. Our Holy Heavenly Father.

The purpose of GOD'S Blessings

✠ Not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4b NIV

This following Medieval Jewish Teaching does in fact very briefly explain well just Why?

We are to Pray for those intending us harm in some fashion.

"Pray for your enemy that he sees GOD."

(Orchot Tzaddikim 15c German book on Jewish ethics from the 15th century)

Jesus Continues

✠ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matthew 5:46-47 RSV

As with all Biblical teaching the Word of GOD always introduces a topic and then later explains it. Case in point: Christ in Jesus, during His “Sermon upon the Mount” our Lord Savior initiated His policy of Christian Love is for everyone friend or foe stranger or no.

However it was during what will become known as the “Last Supper” where our “Communion” commemoration of fellowship- by Christ’s Sacrifice for us, through the Holy Spirit, our relationship is restored once again with Heavenly Father.

At this solemn Holy occasion, Jesus will set into stone what He introduced to us at His Sermon upon the Mount:

Take note Jesus says I AM so our Christ as Deity is issuing a Holy Command.

✝ I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35 NASB

So in summary Jesus Commands we are to Love every one as His representatives and remember; Jesus said He will remember and reward us in Heaven for having and demonstrating His Love. Not that we should Love just for Heavenly reward, but we should live by the example of Christ our Lord this being that Love- is always the right GODLY thing to do.

Jesus Concludes

✝ You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:48 RSV

Now here we do not need to even look at any study notes be they Biblical or historical, no study aides, nor any learned Theological commentary.

Because Jesus has already informed us how that we as Sinful human beings can be “Perfect.”

We are to live with peaceful respectful GODLY standards while Loving and Praying for everyone!

✝ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

✝ and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Ephesians 6:18 ESV

✝ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1Thessalonians 5: 16-18 ESV