

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 9

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ **44** 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 causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. --Matthew 5:43-48*

Day 1 – Verse 43

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ --Matthew 5:43

1. This saying is partly from Leviticus 19:18; what major difference do you see between the two passages?
2. What does it mean to hate your enemy?
3. How do you think the Pharisees and scribes came to believe that you should hate your enemy?

4. What does Exodus 23:4-5 say about the Israelite's enemy?
5. Find at least one other verse that tells us to love our neighbor.
6. According to the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, who is our neighbor?
7. The Pharisees added "hate your enemy". What does the Bible say about adding and taking away from Scripture?
 - a. Why is it so easy for people to add and take away?

b. How do people do this nowadays?

c. What is the danger in knowing only a little bit of the Bible or taking verses out of context?

Heart Check:

- What things have you put in place to be more discerning in the Word?
- Are there things you need to eliminate from your life to give yourself more fully to the study of God's Word?

Day 2—Verse 44

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
--Matthew 5:44*

1. Define love (agape).

2. How can we love our enemies?

3. How should we pray for those who persecute us?

4. Is it enough to outwardly show love to our enemies without having a right heart attitude as well? Why or why not?
 - a. What is hatred in your heart toward your enemies indicative of?

 - b. What words do we often use to dumb down hatred/anger and to cover our disdain of others to attempt to lessen the sin we are committing against them?

5. How can the principles that we learned in verses 11-12 help us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us?

6. What does praying for those who persecute us produce in us?

7. Give 1-2 examples of someone in the New Testament loving their enemy.

a. Give 1-2 examples of someone in the Old Testament loving their enemy.

Heart Check:

- Do you struggle with hatred in your heart towards anyone (including people like governing officials)? What steps must be taken to rid yourself of this?
- What sin must you confess before God in your hatred of people?

Day 3—Verse 45

so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
--Matthew 5:45

1. Who does Jesus use here as our example for how we are to love others?

2. According to this verse, why are we to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us?
 - a. Do the imprecatory prayers in the Psalms contradict what Jesus is saying here?
3. Define common grace.
 - a. What are some ways that God shows love to all his creation?
4. Define saving grace.
 - a. Does God show this love to everyone?

5. Read Romans 5:6-10. Who were we when Christ died for us?

a. In what ways does God love his children?

6. How does this verse show us the impartiality of God?

7. How can we use this verse when evangelizing others and showing God's kindness to them?

Heart Check:

- Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's common and saving grace in your life.
- Where do you need to grow as an example of the Father's love to others?

Day 4 vs 46-47

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? --Matthew 5:46-47

1. Why does Jesus use the examples of tax collectors and Gentiles here?
 - a. What do you think was the Pharisees' response to this rebuke?
2. Who might we use as a similar example today?
3. Read James 2:1-9.
 - a. What are we doing when we only love those who love us in return?
 - b. What does it reveal about our hearts when we only love those who love us in return?

4. What are we putting on display when we love like this?
 - a. What is our natural tendency?
5. How is it possible for us to love our enemies, those who seek to wrong us?
6. How does applying what we learned in Matthew 5:13-16 help us to love others in the way that Jesus is calling us to do here?
7. How does this standard cause us to stand out in the world?

Heart Check:

- Do you show partiality in your love?

Day 5—Verse 48

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. --Matthew 5:48

1. Why do you think Jesus places this verse here?
2. Define the word perfect (teleois).
3. How perfect is God?
 - a. Is God's perfection merely His absence of sin? What are His perfections?
4. Is it possible for us to be as perfect as God is? Why or why not?

5. How can we do the things that Jesus is calling us to do?
6. How is one justified before God? Use Scripture to support your answer.
7. What is imputed righteousness?

Heart Check

- Is there anyone who you would consider an enemy? Anyone who you find it hard to love? How can you apply this passage to that situation?

Dig Deeper:

1. Read *The Hiding Place* for a picture of what it means to love your enemy.
2. Listen to Pastor James's sermons on 1 John at gracelife.ca.