

## **It's A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood!**

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

43 "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 makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

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

Matt 5:43 (ESV) - "You HAVE HEARD that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Mark 12:28-33 (ESV)

28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him.

33 And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

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

Matt 5:44 (ESV) - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Exodus 23:4-5 (ESV)

4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him.

5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.

There are four different Greek words for love:

- 1) Storge – family love; love between parent and child
- 2) Eros – physical love; love between a man and woman; passion; sexual love
- 3) Phileo – brotherly love; relationship between closest, nearest, & truest friends
- 4) Agape – unconquerable benevolence, invincible goodwill. This kind of love seeks nothing but another person's highest good.

Luke 10:33 (ESV) - But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he HAD COMPASSION.

Romans 5:8 (ESV) - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:10 (ESV) - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Matt 5:44 (ESV) - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

John 15:20a (ESV) - Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

How does Christ teach us to respond to these persecutors?

How could we pray for someone who is cruel to us?

In Acts 7:60, he prayed to God for his executioners:

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

He didn’t love them for what they were or what they were doing...

But rather for who they were created to be!

Luke 23:34... “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”.

Matt 5:45 (ESV) - 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.

Have you ever noticed how God allows blessings to fall even on those who deny His very existence???

The existence of these universal blessings, as well as God’s willingness to allow even the wicked to enjoy them, should be evidence to us that if God desires to bless them, we should too!

Matt 5:46-47 (ESV)

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matt 5:48 (ESV) - You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matt 5:3 (ESV) - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You have no ability on your own, to ever be like Jesus!

But when you allow Him to invade your heart and to change you into His mold, then you begin the process of becoming perfect as He is!

Do you possess this selfless love that Jesus talked about here?

That ain't natural... It's supernatural!

The key is to let HIM love others through you!