

LOVE YOUR ENEMY

HIGH CALLING DISCIPLESHIP 18

Matthew 5:38-48 [Jesus said,] “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. NIV

Luke 6:27-36 [Jesus said,] “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. NIV

What is an enemy?

- An evil person (Matthew 5:39)
- Someone who would sue you (Matthew 5:40)
- Someone who would take your shirt or coat (Matthew 5:40; Luke 6:29)
- An enemy soldier who would demand that you carry his stuff a mile (Matthew 5:41)
- Someone who asks to borrow something (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:34)
- Someone who asks for something from you (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:30)
- Someone who takes something from you (Luke 6:30)
- Someone who is persecuting you (Matthew 5:44)
- Someone who doesn't love you (Matthew 5:46)
- Someone who isn't one of “your people” (Matthew 5:47)
- Those who hate you (Luke 6:27)
- Those who curse you (Luke 6:28)
- Those who mistreat you (Luke 6:28)
- Someone who would slap you (Luke 6:29)

What about...?

Is this saying you should never go to war?

Is this saying you can't defend yourself or your family?

Evil can and should be resisted at times.

Even though not every situation calls for grace, peace, and gentleness, I think we should be marked as being people of grace, peace, and gentleness.

Even if you don't worry about the extreme examples, Jesus is calling us to love a lot of people who are difficult for us to love.

Who is *MY* enemy?

It is important to see that there are a lot of people who I can work on loving more like Jesus.

What are we supposed to do?

1. Do not resist an evil person.
2. Turn the other cheek.
3. Hand over your coat/shirt.
4. Love your enemy.
5. Pray for those who persecute/mistreat you.
6. Lend to those who ask to borrow.
7. Do not expect repayment from those who borrow.
8. Bless those who curse you.
9. Don't ask for things back from someone who takes from you.
10. Do to others as you would have them do to you.
11. Be merciful.
12. Be perfect.

Being a disciple involves following Jesus in what he teaches.

How are we going to be able to do that?

Be perfect. This summarizes God's standards.

- It is important that we understand that in this passage Jesus points us to a standard that is far higher than we will meet. It highlights our complete failure and inability to meet God's standard and our need for Jesus to fulfill the law.
- It is also important to not see this as something that is only meant to show our failure and therefore does not mean to be instructive on how to live the Christian life.

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! NIV

Keep getting to know God and pursue being more and more like him—embracing his motivations and imitating his actions.