

## *Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 86*

*“43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48 KJV)*

*“43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.” (Matthew 5:43 KJV)* Here the Lord was speaking to the Jewish people and He was reminding them about two things that they were hearing and said to them, and as the following:

**A. “Thou shalt love thy neighbour”:** This is quoted from the book of Leviticus, *“17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:17-18 KJV)* The neighbor is the person who is near to you. In the Old Testament the neighbor was the Israelites brother, and here the law of God recommended not to hate the brother and keeps grudges in their heart toward their brothers. If he or she had done something wrong, then you should not hate him in your heart and wait for opportunity to revenge, but *“thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.”* It means that you need to go and face him and rebuke him face to face for the sin he did or if there is anything that needed to be settled, and then continue the relationship. In such situation you are cleansing your brother from whatever sin he is committing if he is willing to repent. *“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people”*, here the law forbidden the Israelites to go and revenge nor to bear hatred in the heart toward the brother. Why grudges were grown in the heart? Because non willingness to go and face the brother and settle the situation because there is hatred in the heart. *Most of the time this hatred because non willingness to go along the law of God.* Then if the law of God does not give you a permission to accuse your brother, then the grudges in your heart and you are waiting for opportunity to revenge is sin against God and against your brother who did the right thing with you according to the law of God.

**B. “and hate thine enemy”:** Now here when Jesus told them that you heard to hate your enemy, there is nothing in the law of Moses mentioned to hate thine enemy. When a brother do wrong against you, then go and face him, rebuke him and ask him to do what is right or to give what belong or due for you. Beyond that there is nothing mentioned that you will hate him, trouble him, block him, persecute him, etc. *From where then the Israelites heard “hate thine enemy”?* They heard it from their teachers who where teaching them wrong things that built hatred in their hearts toward others and allowed them to revenge and to trouble others. The statement, *“hate thine enemy”*, mentioned nowhere in the Scripture, but, *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour”*, repeated in different places as we read here in the gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, in Romans and Galatians

by Apostle Paul, and in James by Apostle James: Let us read these Scriptures to be reminded and motivated to love our neighbors and our brethren.

*“Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 19:19 KJV)*

*“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 22:39 KJV)*

*“And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31 KJV)*

*“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.” (Luke 10:27 KJV)*

*“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Romans 13:9 KJV)* To love your neighbor is not to kill, not to steal, not to bear false witness, and not to covet.

*“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Galatians 5:14 KJV)*

*“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.” (James 2:8 KJV)*

*“44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” (Matthew 5:44 KJV)* Here Jesus announced and explained to them His teaching, and what the Word of God dictates on them and on us today.

*“But I say unto you”*, Jesus being God started to declare to them what they needed to do to be follower of Christ and true Christians:

*“Love your enemies”*, to love our enemies is not to do bad to them but to do good to them, the same of what Apostle Paul taught in Romans, *“20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:20-21 KJV)* We need to love by words and by deeds toward those who are bad to us. Even they do bad things then we need to do good whenever that possible and feasible in our hands. Give them food and drink to help them in their needs that they may be ashamed. Put in your mind that for the enemies to deal with them, you may need also to do some measures to protect yourself, but avoid harming them.

*“bless them that curse you”*, those who speak evil against us and curse us, we still need to speak truthful, gentle and kind words towards them, that we may win them over, or they may hear and be ashamed and consider that what they are doing is wrong. Always tactful gentle words with a purpose of obeying this instruction of Jesus will bring better

result for the glory of God. True that we may speak better words to those who are our real brethren in Christ, but we still need to observe what Jesus mentioned here to bless those who curse us with mild words.

**“do good to them that hate you”, we always should consider if we can do good things to our enemies. When people show hatred toward us, then we need to do good to them, that they may repent, they may change what is in their hearts toward us or even they might be ashamed of hating us. “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink”:** If they are poor we try to help them with material things that they need, food or drink, **“for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head”,** for in doing so they might be ashamed of what they are doing toward us.

**“and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you”:** When the enemies are evil and beyond all the above measures of loving them, doing good to them, blessing them, but they are still doing harm toward us, despitefully using us and persecuting us, we may do some measures to protect ourselves and escape their harms, and what Jesus recommended here is to pray for those who abuse us and treat us in a very bad way, as Jesus prayed on the cross for those who persecuted him and crucified him, as we read here, **“34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Luke 23:34 KJV)** and as the Apostles prayed in the book of Acts after they were threatened and warned not to preach about Jesus after the healing of the paralytic man, **“21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. 22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. 23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:21-30 KJV)** The apostles went and reported what happened so others will know in order to pray, and they prayed. In their prayers presented the situation and use the Old Testament Scripture from Psalm 2 in verses 25 and 26 to explain the bad things that the Jewish, Herod, and Pilate did to Jesus, **“1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,” (Psalm 2:1-2 KJV)** and now they were persecuted and vehemently attacked, but they accepted what happened as God’s will, and they did not pray for God’s revenge upon those who persecuted them, but they prayed to be granted boldness to preach God’s Word, and asked God to do miracles, healings, and wonders in the name of Jesus so the people will believe. And the Lord responded to their prayers and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and went and preached the Word of God

boldly. This, exactly what we need to do today; not to pray for God’s revenge, but to pray for God to do more healings and miracles in the name of Jesus that people may believe in Jesus and His Word, and more boldness for us to preach God’s Word.

Stephen followed the instruction of Jesus to pray for those who despitefully use you when he prayed for those who were stoning him, **“60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:60 KJV)** He prayed that God shall not consider this sin on them, that to give them chance to repent and got saved. We too should pray in the same manner to our enemies.

The same we read in Luke about loving our enemies and do good to them that hate us and pray for those who persecute us, **“27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:27-28 KJV)**

Let us read what Peter wrote about Jesus so we can respond to what God had called us to do to forgive our enemies, not to threaten them, not to retaliate, not to revenge and not to fight against them, **“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:21-24 KJV)**

**“45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45 KJV)** When we receive the grace of God that bring us the salvation we are supposed to be imitator of God and doing through His grace the things that He ordained for us to do as He is doing. God is doing good not only to the good people but as well as toward the bad one. He sends rain to those righteous and to the unrighteous, and he allows His sun to shine upon the evil and the good alike. The rain and the sun are very important and essential resources for the plants to grow. So when He allows the rain and sun to reach the fields of evil men, He is feeding and watering them, He is allowing them to see and feel His light and warmth, and He is providing for them although they are unfaithful and they are enemies of Him. Although God in certain times withhold rain for certain purposes to discipline the people, but in general He allow rains to fall on the good and the evil. **Why God do that and give good things to evil people, and why He asks us to do that? It might be the goodness of God will bring such people to repentance, “4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:4 KJV)** Therefore we suppose to be children of such Father with what we do good to others by loving our enemies; blessing those who curse us, doing good to our enemies and praying for those who despitefully use us and persecute us. **If we are born again and regenerated by the Spirit of God then we need to do such as a proof of being the children of our Father in Heaven, and so we will be known by our fruit.**

Let us also be admonished with this Scripture, **“1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself**

**for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” (Ephesians 5:1-2 KJV)** To be children of God, then we need to comply with Jesus’ Word. The Jewish they were calling themselves the children of God the Father, therefore He is telling them now and confronting them and even confronting us today, that if we are called to be children of our Father then we need not to hate but to do good to our enemies and to love them.

**“46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?” (Matthew 5:46 KJV)** What Jesus was telling them, it is easy to love and to care for those who are good and from whom you will receive goods, and that what the non Jewish people, the publicans, the tax collectors, who were called sinners, who were not knowing God, were doing, then what reward you will have or expect to receive from that? **If we love those who love us because we are receiving from them then our love based on what we expect to receive from others, and such will become a business, and there is no reward left for us to receive from God.**

**“do not even the publicans the same?”** The publicans their job was to collect the tax from subjects to the Romans government. The publicans they loved the people who give them the tax, and Jesus is telling the Jewish Pharisees that if you will do good and deal with people who will only give you then no reward for you and you will be the same of those publicans whom you are hating. **In the same way, if we only work with those from whom we expect to receive then we are like business men and our minds are fixed on materials things only. So we need to repent from such.**

**“47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?” (Matthew 5:47 KJV)** Here again the Lord Jesus was telling the Jewish if you will greet those who are your brothers, friends, neighbors and those who are good to you, but you avoid others and do not greet them then you are the same as the non believers, the publicans, or the heathen who greet and salute only those they like, or when they need something. **We sometimes avoid people or ignore them or neglect them because we do not have any business with them. But here Jesus is reminding us that such attitude is not correct and we should be full of love and care and have compassion and respect on others and treat them with the same love of God, as God our Father treat them.**

**My dear and beloved: “48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48 KJV)** Now after we pondered of what Jesus told us in this passage about loving our neighbors, not hating our enemies, doing good to them, loving them, blessing those who curse us, praying for those who persecute us and despitefully use us. Let us examine ourselves and put down clear points in front of us to find out what the things from that we lack in our personality and attitude, and that will be our assignments toward perfection.

Come and reconcile with God. Our Heavenly Father is perfect in such aspects and Jesus today is calling us and inviting us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect, and to let the love of God the Father to flow through us to others, to the just and the unjust, the good and the evil, the friend and the enemy, to be truly dear children and imitators of our God.

**My prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life.

Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly the wrong attitude that I have in my life that hinder me to be perfect as you are perfect.

Let us confess and renounce our sins. Confess and renounce the sin of hatred, grudges in your heart, hating your enemies, planning against them evil and trying to revenge of them. Renounce the sin of cursing others, lack of prayer towards those who persecute you. Renounce the sin of doing good only to those who are good to you. Lord forgive me, I confess and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to go and forgive the following people and to reconcile with them \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to go and face the following brethren and settle the matter with them \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit to do the following good to my enemies \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who responded to your Word and complied to do and live according to your will. Lord give them perseverance and keep them persistent in doing such until they are perfected by you. Lord protect them from their enemies and give them wisdom how to handle them. Lord help them to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patient, self-control, long-suffering, perseverance and humility.

Lord bless us as a church as we commit ourselves to live and to be children of God the Father, that we will manifest the character of Jesus in our lives, that people shall see Christ in us. Lord continue to protect us from our enemies and provide all our needs. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and reach new people, and make new disciples and train more workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 86. Matthew 5:43-48. Leviticus 19:17-18. Matthew 19:19. Matthew 22:39. Mark 12:31. Luke 10:27. Romans 13:9. Galatians 5:14. James 2:8. Romans 12:20-21. Luke 23:34. Acts 4:21-30. Psalm 2:1-2. Acts 7:60. Luke 6:27-28. 1 Peter 2:21-24. Romans 2:4. Ephesians 5:1-2.

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