

Sermon on the Mount

“Dead

Men

Faith Fellowship Church

Vbr shi ppi ng”

Pastor Bob Froese

Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, January 27,

2008

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## Dead Men Worshipping

Matthew 5:43-48

Every wondered what makes a person “high maintenance?”

- It's a lot easier to recognize in others, I struggle seeing it in myself.

*“To the natural man the very idea of loving ones enemies is an intolerable offence, cutting right across his idea of good & evil.”*

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**KEY:** Behavior mustn't be determined by other's treatment of us, but by the treatment we RECEIVE from Jesus. He's the only Source.

**Apostle Paul to Peter:** *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

Matthew 5:43-48 is the last of six illustrations our Lord has used to explain and display his teaching with regard to the meaning of God's holy law for man, contrasted with the PERVERSION of it by the Pharisees/scribes.

## PHARISEES/SCRIBES' TEACHING

### MINDSET: HATE YOUR ENEMIES!

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’” Matthew 5:43*

### DIVIDED LOVE

- It became their right, their duty to hate all other “different people.”

### DIVISION

- The Jews regarded all others as dogs, and most Gentiles despised the Jews.

### JUSTIFICATION

- Jews BELIEVED they were honoring God in doing so!
- *Psalm 69:23-25* There can be little question that it was Old Testament teaching of this type that fueled the justification of the Pharisees/scribes; that while they were to love their neighbors, they must hate their enemies.

## CHRIST'S TEACHING

*“But I say to you...” Matthew 5:44*

### THE NEGATIVE

- In Matthew 5:38-42, last week we had the negative form. But our Lord goes even further!

### HERE IT'S POSITIVE: THE COMMAND

*“...love your enemies...” Matthew 5:44*

- Here we have one of if not the greatest principle that GUIDES and governs our Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and worship!
- We are commanded to positively and proactively love even our enemies. It's not that we aren't to strike back at them, but that we must be positive in our attitude towards them.

### JESUS EXPLAINS OUR 'NEIGHBOR' MUST EVEN INCLUDE OUR 'ENEMY'

*“...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:45*

# PRINCIPLE

OUR TREATMENT OF OTHERS MUST NEVER DEPEND UPON WHAT THEY ARE OR UPON WHAT THEY DO TO US. IT MUST BE CONTROLLED BY OUR VIEW OF THEM AND THEIR CONDITION.

- *John 3:16* God's eternal heart of love is UNMOVED by anything outside of itself. It generates itself, what it does, its movements and activity.

## TO LIVE IN THIS KIND OF LOVE WE MUST LIVE DETACHED

- We must be detached from others in the sense that our behavior isn't GOVERNED by what they do.
- Still more importantly, we should be detached from OURSELVES.
- We are describing our innate sin of SELF-centeredness.
- *2 Corinthians 5:17* New creation seeing everything different, therefore reacting in a different (radical) manner.

## LET'S DEFINE "HIGH MAINTENANCE" (EXAMINE OURSELVES)

- How much of our thinking, acting, and behavior is entirely GOVERNED by other people?
- Christ says, "Your life must be governed by a new principle in your inner being, a new principle of love." *John 13:17*
- The moment we are, we're enabled to SEE people in a different way.

## SEPARATE THE SIN FROM THE SINNER

- They're doing it because they are dupes of Satan. I must see them as hell-bound sinners who NEED to witness Truth.

## WHY SHOULD WE DO THIS?

- We must do this for one reason only, not that we can ever redeem or make anything of them, but that we can display the LOVE of God.

## UNDIVIDED LOVE SHOWS NO SPECIAL FAVOR TO THOSE WHO LOVE IN RETURN

*"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" Matthew 5:46*

- *Bless those who curse you* ~ reply to bitter with KIND words.
- *Do good to those who hate you* ~ benevolent actions for SPITE.
- *Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you* ~ Through prayer we take God out of the background to the FOCUS!

# Cutting it Straight LOVE TAKES US TO THE CROSS AND INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CRUCIFIED

Love is much MORE than sentiment, feelings.

- It was mercy and grace in the face of punishment that brought Christ to earth and sent Him to the cross, so concerned about us He did not think of Himself (*Hebrews 12:1-2*).

Let's never forget, we were once ENEMIES of the cross!

- We owe our life to Him!

Our enemy is the OBJECT of God's love.

- It's never our love that can do this, but the love of Jesus alone.

- **Do we feel empathy for those outside of Christ?**
- **Do we see them going to their terrible doom?**
- **Do we become so sensitive to their condition that we have no time to feel sorry for ourselves?**
- **Is my mindset one of grace and mercy OR justice and punishment?**

Confronted by this, I'm condemned. Is there any hope for us? Yes! God has done more than make His sun rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the just and on the unjust.

God sent His only begotten Son to Calvary's cruel cross so that we might be saved. We all fail, but if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## LOVE TAKES US TO THE CROSS AND INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CRUCIFIED.

For completed notes of today's sermon, visit the FFC website – [www.faithfellowship.us](http://www.faithfellowship.us).