Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

20 March 2016 Message 10 of 20

NLT 40 Minutes

**Love Your Enemies**

***Matthew 5:43-48***

**Topic:** Love

**Subject:** Why bless your enemy?

**Complement:** Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s higher law.

**Purpose:** The listeners will bless their enemy.

**Attribute:** We worship the God of love

**Reading:**

**Song:**

# Introduction

### Interest: How would you respond to a person if you knew that person was going to kill you this Friday?

Question

Palm Sunday

#### On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem and offered peace to his enemies.

Triumphal Entry

####  Those tree palms were but a prelude to the cross. Today we remember his love for enemies as he offered his life for his enemies on Friday just a few days later.

Palms to Cross

### Years ago I had to deal with a guy who I didn’t really like…

My “Enemy.”

#### I was 20 and singing for the summer on an evangelistic music team called The Continental Singers. We traveled 32 states in the USA for the summer and then flew to Amsterdam and traveled Holland, France, Belgium and Poland.

#### With 40 young people on the tour for 10 weeks, you can image there were issues. Mine were largely with our drummer named Kip.

#### I remember one time sitting in the middle of the bus. Kip came onto the bus and walked up the aisle, whispered into the ear of the girl in front of me, and proceeded to the back of the bus.

#### She immediately burst out crying, so I asked her what he said. “He just told me, ‘I hate you!’”

### Need: Do you have any enemies? Who is opposing you right now? Right now in your life, who is your enemy? Let’s not move on until we identify that person or persons.

Soldiers

Girls Gossiping

#### Who is *in your face*?

#### Who is *avoiding* you right now? Or maybe you are avoiding that person?

Avoiding

#### Who seeks to *undercut* you?

Water Cooler

#### Who *distrusts* you?

Stab in Back

#### Who sends emails *about* you but never copies *to* you?

Love or Hate

### Intro to MPI: Now, keep that person in mind. Have you identified someone? Raise you hand if you can think of someone who opposes you. Now, how should you treat this enemy? What’s God’s way for you to respond to that person who opposes you?

Chess

### Background: Jesus’ listeners hated their enemies.

Despised Romans

#### There was plenty of opportunity to love enemies in the Roman occupation of Israel.

##### Jesus preached to a Jewish audience who had been under pagan rulers for more than 400 years—the last 100 of them under the cruel Romans who crushed any and all who opposed them.

##### Yes, there was the *Pax Romana*, the “Roman peace,” but they brought peace by killing everyone that opposed them!

*Pax Romana*

##### In fact, the key reason so many wanted the Messiah to come was not so they could have spiritual salvation. It was so they could finally conquer their enemies, like the OT said the Messiah would do. In their day, that meant the despised Romans.

##### Judas hated the Romans and wanted Jesus too as well. When Jesus did not hate the Romans, then Judas hated Jesus.

Cartoon
• 3x

#### Besides hatred towards the Romans, the listeners had racial, religious, and social barriers among them.

Jewish Leaders

##### Judean Jews hated Galilean Jews.

##### Galilean Jews hated Judean Jews.

##### Jews hated Samaritans.

MP

Lev 19:18

##### The rich hated the poor and the poor hated the rich.

Preview
• How
• Why

### Preview: Today we’ll see *how* to treat your enemy and then *why* you should treat this person that way.

### Text: Matthew 5:43-48 shows us how to treat your enemy…

Subject

(How should you treat your enemy?)

# I. Love and pray for your enemy (5:43-44).

[Have a heart for the one who is heartless towards you.]

## Human tradition says to love your friends and hate your enemy (5:43).

43

### What saying was Jesus quoting by saying to love neighbors but hate enemies (43)?

#### The first part of the saying might be quoting Leviticus 19:18 (NLT), “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

#### Is it natural to love your neighbor (43a)?

##### Yes, we typically love those who are like us.

Title

##### Jesus says to love our neighbor is our normal *modus operand a* (46a, 47a).

43

### Is it natural to hate your enemy (43b)?

#### Yes, we typically hate those who hate us.

#### Jesus says to hate our neighbor is our normal *modus operand a* (46b, 47b).

#### But what about the “hate your enemies”? The OT doesn’t command that! So where does it come from?

#### The Dead Sea Scrolls comprises 870 manuscripts found east of Jerusalem. They were written by the Essenes, a monastic sect stemming from 200 years before Christ. One of their sayings reads very similar to this command.

DSS
(3 slides)

#### It seems likely that Jesus was quoting a Jewish nationalistic saying of his time coined to fight the Romans or any other enemy of Israel.

## Jesus’ higher law says to love and pray for your enemy (5:44).

Heart Birds

###  Is it natural to pray for your enemy (44b)?

Wall

#### Hardly! Maybe we pray imprecatory psalms for our enemy: “Lord, get them!”

Wish Jesus Didn’t Say

#### But we don’t typically pray for our enemy’s welfare! That would only encourage them to despise us more.

### Jesus did that which was not natural but supernatural—by loving his enemies.

Blotch

#### Jesus prayed that God would forgive the people who gambled for his clothes and nailed him to the cross.

Soldiers Gamble

#### Jesus died for his enemies, which includes all of us (Romans 5:8).

Sub

(So how should you treat your enemy? In verses 43-44, Jesus said to love and pray for that enemy of yours! But *why* bless your enemy? What could be the reason for blessing your enemy like that? Why would you follow such a counterintuitive practice to actually treat your enemy with a blessing? This is because…)

MPI

# II. Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s higher law (5:45-48).

MP

[Loving and praying for that rival shows God’s doing his good work in you.]

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you are God’s child* (45a).

45a
family cross

### A true son or daughter acts like his or her father. Like father, like son.

### Since God himself loves your enemy, should you do any less?

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you also don’t deserve God’s grace* (45b).

45b
daisies

### We distinguish ourselves from our enemies in many ways, but actually, think about how much we have in common.

#### We gain heat and light from the same sun.

#### We drink from the same water supply.

#### That water produces food for your enemy and for you.

#### This is called general revelation—that God gives to all the same planet, the same seas, trees, peas and bees.

### When you don’t harbor hatred in your heart towards the person who opposes you, you see that God blesses you both.

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you live on a higher plane* (46-47).

46-47
black

### Loving only the lovable isn’t rewarded (46).

Title

Title

#### The tax collectors partied with other tax collectors, sharing their food and drink and jokes and laughter.

#### Even crooks work together with other crooks.

### Kindness only to the kind isn’t unique (47).

#### Who deserves your kindness? If that person deserves your kindness, then there is nothing special about being kind to that person!

#### When we only treat our fellow church members with kindness but hate our foes, there’s nothing really unique about us!

#### But responding with grace towards people who mistreat us, well, that’s the work of God in us. It also shows us our own faults, as Ben Franklin said.

Ben Franklin

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you strive for perfection* (48).

48

### I think the biggest challenge of the Christian life is to have a perfect example to live up to! You will never be like Jesus in this life, which could be discouraging, but rather, let it make you ever growing.

Challenge Accepted

### But does God really expect us to be perfect? Isn’t that a bit high and unreasonable?

#### God expects perfection for anyone who will be with him in heaven.

#### That would be quite unfair of God to require us humans to be perfect—if he never gave us any help.

#### But he did give us help. The only way you can be perfect is to trust Christ’s death and resurrection for you that forgives your sin. Have you done that?

Empty Tomb

Subject

(Lest we forget the forest by looking only at the trees, let’s get back to our central question: Why bless your enemy? What’s the answer?)

# Conclusion

MI

### Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s higher law (MI).

### Today we’ve seen Jesus talking about blessing your enemy (MPs)?

#### *How* should you bless your enemy? *Love and pray* for your enemy (5:43-44).

MPI

#### *Why* should you bless your enemy” Because…Blessing your enemy *shows Christ’s higher law* (5:45-48).

MPII

### Remember that enemy you identified at the beginning of this message? How are you despising your enemy right now?

Title

#### Do you *avoid* this person who avoids you?

#### Do you *slander* the one who speaks badly of you?

#### Do you *oppose* this person who opposes you?

#### Do you *love* the one who despises you?

Lincoln Quote

### How can you bless your enemy? Abraham Lincoln said, “I destroy my enemy when I make him my friend.”

Palm Blessing

#### Engage

• Engage

#### Praise

• Praise

#### Pray

• Pray

#### Love

• Love

### How should you treat your enemies? Love them! Pray for them! Seek to act perfectly towards them!

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

Prayer

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### As Jesus continued the Sermon on the Mount, he commanded us never to take personal revenge (Matt 5:38-43).

### This doesn’t mean that we never defend ourselves! Rather, he turned on its head the law where the punishment must match the injury by saying we are too preoccupied with retaliation over personal insults.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Now, as usual, he goes beneath the outward desire for revenge to the underlying hate that causes acts of revenge.

### Certainly the best time to see when Christ is controlling us is when we enemies who hate us.

### How should we respond to enemies? Love them! Pray for them! Seek to act perfectly towards them!

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Jesus’ listeners hated their enemies.

#### There was plenty of opportunity to love enemies in the Roman occupation of Israel.

##### Jesus preached to a Jewish audience who had been under pagan rulers for more than 400 years—the last 100 of them under the cruel Romans who crushed any and all who opposed them.

##### Yes, there was the *Pax Romana*, the “Roman peace,” but they brought peace by killing everyone that opposed them!

##### In fact, the key reason so many wanted the Messiah to come was not so they could have spiritual salvation. It was so they could finally conquer their enemies, like the OT said the Messiah would do. In their day, that meant the despised Romans.

#### Besides hatred towards the Romans, the listeners had racial, religious, and social barriers among them.

##### Judean Jews hated Galilean Jews.

##### Galilean Jews hated Judean Jews.

##### Jews hated Samaritans.

##### The rich hated the poor and the poor hated the rich.

### Sound familiar?

#### Democrats hate Republicans and Republicans hate Democrats.

#### The PAP hates the Workers Party and the Workers Party hates the PAP.

#### The Chinese and Indians and Malays and foreigners despise one another.

#### The Chinese educated dislike the English educated and vice versa.

#### The Singaporean Chinese distrust the Mainland Chinese and the animosity is reciprocated.

#### The professionals don’t trust the grass roots—the Jurong factory workers don’t appreciate their wealthy bosses.

# Questions

### What saying was Jesus quoting by saying to love neighbors but hate enemies (43)?

#### The first part of the saying might be quoting Leviticus 19:18 (NLT), “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

#### But what about the “hate your enemies”? The OT doesn’t command that! So where does it come from?

#### The Dead Sea Scrolls comprises 870 manuscripts found east of Jerusalem written by the Essenes, a monastic sect stemming from 200 years before Christ. One of their sayings reads very similar to this command.

#### It seems likely that Jesus was quoting a Jewish nationalistic saying of his time coined to fight the Romans or any other enemy of Israel.

### Is it natural to love your neighbor (43a)?

#### Yes, we typically love those who are like us.

#### Jesus says to love our neighbor is our normal *modus operand a* (46a, 47a).

### Is it natural to hate your enemy (43b)?

#### Yes, we typically hate those who hate us.

#### Jesus says to hate our neighbor is our normal *modus operand a* (46b, 47b).

### Is it natural to love your enemy (44a)?

#### Now here is radical thinking and action!

#### No one loves his enemy, right? Who does that?!

### Is it natural to pray for your enemy (44b)?

#### Hardly! Maybe we pray imprecatory psalms for our enemy: “Lord, get them!”

#### But we don’t typically pray for our enemy’s welfare! That would only encourage them to despise us more.

### Why should we pray for our enemies (45-48)? Jesus gives several reasons to bless our enemies (45-48):

#### Blessing our enemies shows that we are God’s children (45a).

#### Blessing our enemies shows that we don’t deserve God’s grace just like they don’t (45b).

#### Blessing our enemies shows that we live on a higher plane than pagans (46-47).

##### Loving only the lovable isn’t anything new (46).

##### Kindness only to the kind is just like pagans (47).

#### Blessing our enemies shows that we strive for perfection, not just being “good enough” (48).

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

#### In a world where lines are being drawn more every day, we need to follow the example of someone who drew people together. This week I discovered that the 70 people on our church mailing list represent 20 countries. Isn’t that amazing? Just look around, and you will see that we are even more different than the people you work with—more races, more countries, more divergent socio-economic groups—yet bound together by the love of Christ. Wow!

### Our world seems increasingly polarized between those we like and those we don’t like. Think about it…

#### In the USA, many Democrats hate Republicans and Republicans hate Democrats. We even had the riot police out at the Donald Trump rally on Friday night. Americans have never seen this in an election cycle.

#### Some PAP hates the Workers Party and the Workers Party hates the PAP.

#### Some Chinese and Indians and Malays and foreigners despise one another.

#### Some Chinese-educated dislike the English-educated and vice versa.

#### Some Singaporean Chinese distrust the Mainland Chinese and the animosity is reciprocated.

#### Some professionals don’t trust the grass roots people—and the Jurong factory workers don’t appreciate their wealthy bosses.

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Life of Christ Outline of Christ's Authority to Interpret the Law

**§§ 54-56**

# *Exegetical Idea*: In response to the crowds' interest in the righteousness necessary for kingdom entrance, Christ's Sermon on the Mount shows the holiness of God by teaching the characteristics of the kingdom's subjects, His superiority over the Law, and instruction to those entering the kingdom in order to discredit Pharisaic righteousness and to offer Himself as the sole basis for kingdom entrance (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# *Exegetical Idea*: The traits of those who trust Christ as King in the Sermon on the Mount are holiness and trust in Christ’s authority over the Law and oral tradition (Matt 5:1–7:29; Luke 6:17-42).

# I. The Subjects of the Kingdom § 54: People entering Messiah's kingdom should show holiness instead of mere Pharisaical observances (Matt 5:1-16; Luke 6:17-26).

## The response a holy believer should have to the benefits and persecution related to trusting Christ as King is joy (Matt 5:1-12).

### The setting of the sermon shows Jesus taking the role of a rabbi to teach the disciples the response of those embracing him as king (Matt 5:1-2; Luke 6:17-19).

#### Jesus saw the crowds and sat down on a mountainside (1a).

#### Jesus began teaching his disciples who showed initiative to listen (1b-2).

### The benefits of trusting Christ as King are many (Matt 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26).

#### *Depending on God* leads to a **rich experience of life** (5:3).

#### *Admitting our needs* leads to **receiving God’s comfort** (5:4).

#### *Humility* now brings **honor in the millennial kingdom** (5:5).

#### *Holiness* gives a **deep satisfaction** in life (5:6).

#### *Showing mercy* to others leads to **receiving mercy from God** (5:7).

#### A *pure lifestyle* results in **seeing God in our lives** today (5:8).

#### *Making peace* with others enables us to **be God’s channel** (5:9).

#### *Persecution for Christ* gives us a **rich experience of life** (5:10-11).

### The response a believer should have towards persecution is joy over his heavenly reward and identification with persecuted OT prophets (5:12).

## The way believers should bless others is to direct them to God (Matt 5:13-16).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them hunger for God (5:13).

#### Christians function like salt to create hunger for God in others (5:13a).

#### Christians who don’t create a hunger for God in others are useless (5:13b).

### The way believers should bless others is by helping them praise God by the good works they do (5:14-16).

#### Christians are lights to show people to God (5:14a).

#### A city on a hill and a lamp help others see the way to go (5:14b-15).

#### Be “light” through good deeds to help others praise God (5:16).

# II. The Relation of the King to the Law § 55: Christ rejects the Pharisaic views of the law that the disciples might know the proper type of righteousness necessary to enter the kingdom (Matt 5:17–7:6; Luke 6:27-42).

## The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament until all it says about Jesus comes true (5:17-20).

### The time the OT will disappear is when all it prophesies about Jesus comes true (5:17-18).

#### Jesus came to fulfill the OT rather than abolish it (5:17).

#### The OT won’t disappear until every prophecy about Christ is fulfilled in the eternal state (5:18).

### The way believers will be rewarded is by obeying and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19-20).

#### Our level of millennial rewards depends on practicing and teaching the true spirit of Old Testament (5:19).

#### We won’t even enter the millennium apart from internal holiness in Christ rather than external piety of the Pharisees (5:20).

## Christ rejected the Pharisaic righteousness as unable to bring one into the kingdom to teach that the second table of the law demanding proper conduct towards others should also be followed (Matt 5:21-48).

### **Murder**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only preserve life but will avoid the anger, hatred and poor relationships that eventually lead to murder (Matt 5:21-26).

### **Adultery**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only be faithful to his spouse but will shun the lust that causes adultery (Matt 5:27-30).

### **Divorce**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only never divorce his wife without legal documentation but will never divorce his wife at all lest this cause her and her future husband to both commit adultery when she remarries (Matt 5:31-32).

### **Oaths**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only take oaths when affirming something which could be taken in more than one way but will have trustworthy speech at all times so oath-taking becomes unnecessary (Matt 5:33-37).

### **Retaliation**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not demand his right for retaliation but give up such rights as a characteristic of righteousness and godliness (Matt 5:38-42).

### **Love**: One surpassing Pharisaic righteousness will not only love his neighbor who will repay favors but will love his enemy as well who will never repay favors (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-30, 32-36).

## Christ rejected six Pharisaic practices of the law that misconstrued its real intent to instruct why Pharisaic righteousness is not able to bring one into the kingdom since their hypocritical practices were directed man-ward for a reputation of piety rather than God-ward in true righteousness (Matt 6:1–7:6; Luke 6:37-42).

### Almsgiving: Public almsgiving of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to **demonstrate** piety rather than to demonstrate the love of God by meeting a need (Matt 6:1-4).

### **Prayer**: Public prayer of the Pharisees for human approval is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety and private prayer is encouraged which includes worship, supplication for God's work and personal needs, confession, prayer for protection and a forgiving spirit (Matt 6:5-15).

### **Fasting**: Public fasting of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed to demonstrate piety rather than done privately before God to receive reward only from Him (Matt 6:16-18).

### **Eternal Investments**: Hoarding wealth as a sign of God's approval by the Pharisees is repudiated for being only temporary and making eternal investments is encouraged since they last into eternity and cannot be lost (Matt 6:19-24).

### **Worry**: Lack of faith by the Pharisees shown in trusting accumulated money is repudiated by an encouragement to replace worry about food and clothing with trust in God's daily provisions as one seeks the kingdom's arrival (Matt 6:25-34).

### **Judging**: Setting oneself up as judges and as the standard of judgment of the Pharisees is repudiated for being performed by claiming knowledge of the motive behind the action whereas God's righteousness demanded that one not judge until his own life has been purified (Matt 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42).

# III. Instruction to Those Who Would Enter the Kingdom § 56: Christ knew that, in spite of the Pharisees' rejection, some would receive His teaching and would want to know how to enter the kingdom so He instructs those who desire to enter the kingdom in some pertinent areas (Matt 7:7-29).

## **Persistent prayer** will be answered because of God's nature as a Father makes sure His children's needs are met, not because of the endless repetitions of the Pharisees (Matt 7:7-12; Luke 6:31, 43-45).

## **The invitation to receive Christ** and enter the kingdom is given by declaring that He alone is the true, narrow way of access, not the false, broad way of the Pharisees that ultimately ended in exclusion from the kingdom and destruction (Matt 7:13-14).

## **False prophets** like the Pharisees have unrighteous lifestyles and will be judged because, while outwardly they fulfilled the requirements of the law, inwardly they lacked the relationship with the King that was the requisite for entrance into the kingdom (Matt 7:15-23).

## **Another invitation** to reject Pharisaism and accept Christ is given in a contrast between one who accepts the King's word and trusts His person and one who rejects His words and person, thus revealing that the destiny of those who hear Christ's words would be determined by their response to His message (Matt 7:24–8:1; Luke 6:46-49).

**Love Your Enemies**

***Matthew 5:43-48***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason to bless our enemies by loving and praying for them is because we live according to Christ’s higher law (5:43-48).

# I. The way to treat your enemy is to love and pray for that enemy (5:43-44).

## Human tradition says to love your friends and hate your enemy (5:43).

## Jesus’ higher law says to love and pray for your enemy (5:44).

# II. The reason to bless your enemy is because you live by Christ’s higher law (5:45-48).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you are God’s child* (45a).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you also don’t deserve God’s grace* (45b).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you live on a higher plane* (46-47).

### Loving only the lovable isn’t rewarded (46).

### Kindness only to the kind isn’t unique (47).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you strive for perfection* (48).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will bless their enemy.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: We all know people we don’t like.

### Need: Do you have any enemies? Who is opposing you right now? Right now in your life, who is your enemy? Let’s not move on until we identify that person or persons.

### Intro to MPI: Now, how should you treat your enemy? What’s God’s way for you to respond to that person who opposes you?

### Background: Jesus’ listeners hated their enemies.

### Preview: Today we’ll see *how* to treat your enemy and then *why* you should treat this person that way.

### Text: Matthew 5:43-48 shows us how to treat your enemy…

(How should you treat your enemy?)

# I. Love and pray for your enemy (5:43-44).

## Human tradition says to love your friends and hate your enemy (5:43).

## Jesus’ higher law says to love and pray for your enemy (5:44).

# II. Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s higher law (5:45-48).

[Loving and praying for that rival shows God’s doing his good work in you.]

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you are God’s child* (45a).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you also don’t deserve God’s grace* (45b).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you live on a higher plane* (46-47).

### Loving only the lovable isn’t rewarded (46).

### Kindness only to the kind isn’t unique (47).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you strive for perfection* (48).

(Why bless your enemy?)

# Conclusion

### Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s higher law (MI).

### Today we’ve seen Jesus talking about blessing your enemy (MPs)?

#### *How* should you bless your enemy? *Love and pray* for your enemy (5:43-44).

#### *Why* should you bless your enemy” Because…Blessing your enemy *shows Christ’s higher law* (5:45-48).

### Remember that enemy you identified at the beginning of this message? How are you despising your enemy right now?

#### Do you *avoid* this person who avoids you?

#### Do you *slander* the one who speaks badly of you?

#### Do you *oppose* this person who opposes you?

#### Do you *love* the one who despises you?

### How can you bless your enemy?

#### Engage

#### Praise

#### Pray

#### Love

### How should you treat your enemies? Love them! Pray for them! Seek to act perfectly towards them!

### Prayer

****

**Rick Griffith**

20 March 2016

Message 10 of 20

**Love Your Enemies**

***Matthew 5:43-48***

# Introduction

### We all know people we don’t like.

### Do you have any enemies? Who is opposing you right now? Right now in your life, who is your enemy?

### How should you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your enemy? What’s God’s way for you to respond to that person who opposes you?

### Jesus’ listeners hated their enemies.

(How should you treat your enemy?)

# I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your enemy (5:43-44).

## Human tradition says to love your friends and hate your enemy (5:43).

## Jesus’ higher law says to love and pray for your enemy (5:44).

# II. Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ law (5:45-48).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you are God’s child* (45a).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you also don’t deserve God’s grace* (45b).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you live on a higher plane* (46-47).

### Loving only the lovable isn’t rewarded (46).

### Kindness only to the kind isn’t unique (47).

## Blessing your enemy shows that *you strive for perfection* (48).

(Why bless your enemy?)

# Conclusion

### Blessing your enemy shows Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ law (Main Idea).

### How are you despising your enemy right now?

#### Do you *avoid* this person who avoids you?

#### Do you *slander* the one who speaks badly of you?

#### Do you *oppose* this person who opposes you?

#### Do you *love* the one who despises you?

### How can you bless your enemy?

#### Engage

#### Praise

#### Pray

#### Love

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/