



Love in a Hate World
Sermon on the Mount II, Part 6
Matthew 5:43-48; Leviticus 19:18

 **Speaker: Your Campus Lead**
April 13-14, 2019

Loving your enemies means loving without fear.

Matthew 5:43-44, Leviticus 19:18

Loving your enemies means loving without partiality.

Matthew 5:45

Loving your enemies means loving without conditions.

Matthew 5:46-48, Philippians 3:12-14



CONNECTION

1. Have you ever considered someone an enemy? Do you consider people of other nations as an enemy? What would it take for someone to become your enemy?

WEEKEND REVIEW

2. What did you learn from this weekend's message?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 5:43-48.

3. Jesus said that even “tax collectors” love those who love them. Why is it so easy to like people who like you? Why does Jesus ask His followers to behave differently? How does loving, blessing, and praying for your “enemies” reveal the Gospel to your oikos?
4. Evaluate your prayers. When you pray for your enemies, are your prayers for them or against them? Do you pray for them at all?
5. What does it mean that God causes the sun and rain to bless both the righteous and unrighteous (v. 45)? How does Jesus' illustration help us understand the love God has for all of humanity? How can our enemies interact with our Heavenly Father through us?
6. According to Romans 5:6-11, how does God's treatment of us compare with what He teaches us in Matthew 5:43-44? Why is it so hard for us to love our “enemies”?
7. Read Matthew 5:48. What is your initial reaction to Jesus' command in this verse and what does it mean? Are you letting God be your standard for how you love and treat others, or is there another standard you are using?
8. Consider the implications of Jesus' words in light of current world events. What would it look like to be “salt and light” (Matt 5:13-16) in a world of violence, injustice, and brokenness? How does the command to love and pray for our enemies radically set Christians apart from religions and the rest of this world?

OIKOCENTRIC LIVING

9. We sometimes use the expression, “Hate the sin, not the sinner.” Do you agree with that statement? How can you show that you hate the sin, but love the sinner? (Jude 1:22-23, Psalms 119:104 and Proverbs 8:13)
10. In what way does remembering your own failures help you love and be patient with your enemies? How does Titus 3:1-5 help you understand this?
11. Easter is coming! Share with the group someone on your oikos card you plan on inviting. Then spend time in your group praying that they would accept your invitation and put their faith in Jesus.