

Matthew: The Life & Teaching of Jesus the Messiah

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Key Idea: *It is not enough simply to refrain from returning evil for evil; rather, we must return good for evil, blessing for cursing, kindness for spite.*

Lesson 26 Matt. 5:43-48 Love for Enemies (5-24-26)

I. THE WORLD, THE CHURCH & THE WAGES OF ANTITHESIS

A. What should the godly expect in this life? _____ (Mt.5:10-12)

1. Why is this? There are only _____ sorts of _____

2. And a servant is not _____ his _____ (John 15:18-25)

B. What leads to genuine church growth? And to the antipathy of pagans?

C. Note the realism of the Cross: Because Jesus has _____
so will His people. The question is shall we _____ like Him.

II. WHAT THE PHARISEES TAUGHT—BURN’EM OUT! (V. 43)

A. Just as the Pharisees wanted to make room for personal _____
(v.38), so they reinterpreted Moses to allow for xenophobic _____

B. How to be a Pharisee—and set aside the Law of God!

1. Narrow its application: Who is my neighbor? _____

2. Add to the Law: _____ (cf. Lk10:29)

III. JESUS ONCE AGAIN RESTORES THE MOSAIC LAW (VV. 44-47)

A. What had the Law always taught? Enemies are _____

• Leviticus 19:33-34 _____

• Exodus 23:4-5 _____

• Proverbs 24:17-18 _____

• Proverbs 25:21-22 _____

B. Jesus does not define love for enemies as _____ ¹

• *Bless those who curse you:* _____

• *Do good to those who hate you:* _____

¹ My thanks to Dave Hatcher of Eastside Evangelical Church in Seattle for these points.

• *Pray for those...* _____

C. Why should we do so?

1. That we might _____ our heavenly Father (v.45)
 - a. What is God like? _____ (Luke 7:35)
2. That we might be distinctly _____ from the pagans (v.46-47)
 - a. This is how God's people are _____ & _____
 - b. Are the pagans totally depraved? _____

D. But doesn't God have a holy hatred of unrepentant sinners? _____

1. Consider a stupid cliché: _____
2. Key issue: God's enemies may _____ (Ps.139:19-22)
3. What does God do to all His enemies? _____

IV. GOSPEL PERFECTION & THE *TELOS* OF THE LAW (V. 48)

A. The end of the Law is that we might be _____ like the Lawgiver.

B. Summary:
