



Week #8 (November 1, 2020) - "Loving Your Enemy" Matthew 5:43-48

1. When was the first time you remember hearing this verse – "Love your enemies." Did it strike you as a strange statement when you first heard it? Does it strike you as a strange statement now?
2. Can you name a person in your life with whom you had to put the essence of this passage into practice? What did that look like and how did that feel?
3. When was the last time you prayed for someone you might call an enemy? How about a time you prayed for someone you didn't like much? Was it hard to be actively and faithfully engaged in that activity? Why or why not?
4. Do you think your prayer list should always include and continually include people on your "do not like" / enemy list? How does this practice uniquely shape us as Christ's followers?
5. Do you think it's fair that your enemies receive the same perks in life that you do?
6. "We must defend the church from ungodly doctrine - but we must also show respect to ungodly people and teachers and be gracious to them." How do you respond to this quote? What does this look like in your Christian walk?
7. How does this teaching inform how you will behave when the results of the election come out over the next week? Do you have a sense that those across the aisle from you are enemies? Why or why not?
8. Take some time to pray for our role as Christians in the next few weeks as the election results come to bear. Pray for our country. Pray for the politicians involved in the processes. Pray for the tsunami of hateful things that might come over social media and that people will be wise as they post and comment.