



"Love Your Enemies"
Week 9 in a 11-week Series

Preached: November 9, 2025
Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48
Series: "Sermon on the Mount" – Week 9 of 11

SECTION 1 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Who is someone you've found difficult to love, and what did they do to make it challenging?
2. Describe a situation when you have received unexpected kindness from someone you didn't get along with? How did you respond?
3. What common understanding of "love your neighbor" is Jesus correcting here?
4. Why do you think Jesus tells His followers to love and pray for their enemies, rather than simply "tolerate" or "put up" with them?
5. What does Jesus mean when He says this makes us "children of your Father in heaven"?
6. Who might be your "enemy" today—not necessarily someone you hate, but perhaps someone you avoid, resent, or struggle to forgive?

7. What does loving that person look like in practical terms?

8. How can praying for someone who hurt you begin to change your heart?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

In church on Sunday, Pastor Keenan invited everyone to write down on a piece of paper one person that comes to mind for you as you read this part of Scripture. If you were there in church – who did you write down and why? If you weren't there, who would you write down and why? Pray for each other and the places where God is inviting us to live differently – act differently – behave differently. Pray for each other that you might find the strength and wisdom to respond to everyone with grace.

SECTION 3 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

There may be a situation in your life that hangs over you where you have wanted nothing more to get back at the person who wronged you. You are always looking for an opportunity – or you are hoping beyond hope that that wrong-doer in your life would suffer or “get theirs.” Bring that to Jesus. And bring it to Jesus. And bring it to Jesus. Pray about your continued “letting go” of that desire for revenge. Ask for help in that extra bit of holding on that you do. It may not be a one and done kind of endeavor – it may be a long process. But Jesus honors those who make an effort to honor him.

Recognize – this is the same invitation I left you with last week. Loving our enemies – this still applies. So, I have left this practice the same as last week. 2 weeks to engage in some of the most difficult things you will encounter as a Christ follower.