**July 28, 2019 “Love Your Enemies” Matthew 5:43-48**

I believe if we are to truly understand what Jesus is saying in this “sermon on the mount” we must not forget who is speaking to the crowd and to us today.

If you will remember, I said to you as we began this study, that there are three aspects of Matthew’s Gospel which we should never forget and always remember which will help us to understand more fully what Jesus is saying through this Book to you and me today.

First, Jesus is the King of the Kingdom of God.

Secondly, Jesus was rejected by the nation of Israel in His day and He is still rejected by the majority of the Jewish nation today. Unfortunately, there are many in the United States and in many so-called “churches” of today who still reject Him as Lord, Who is the final authority in all things pertaining to life and godliness. Many will acknowledge Him as a wonderful historical figure but will not accept His authority in their lives.

Finally, Matthew reminds us that Jesus is coming back again for His church which is made of all believers throughout history who have laid all their hope on His atonement for their sins. They trusted in nothing else but His shed blood which imputes His righteousness into their souls so that they could “become the righteousness of God in Christ.” (II Corinthians 5:21b)

As we have studied this “sermon on the mount” we have found that Jesus uses 6 illustrations to point out something that is absolutely important. In Matthew 5… you have heard it said

* Murder (vs 21)
* Adultery (Vs 27)
* Divorce (Vs 31)
* Keep your word (Vs 33)
* Eye for an Eye (Vs 38)
* Love your neighbor (Vs 43)

Now in each instance, Jesus follows up with a statement……”but I say to you”….. Why would He do that?

The answer is because He is the King of the Kingdom of God and He is delineating out His standards which are higher than anything man imagined and each standard is more difficult than the previous one.

Note…

* Murder… I tell you if you are angry with your brother… you have sinned
* Adultery… I tell you if you have looked at a woman with lust… you have sinned
* Divorce… I tell you if you have divorced your wife for any reason other than unchastely living… you have sinned
* Taking of oaths… I tell you to keep your word no matter what the cost… no exceptions
* Judgments… I tell you not to hold grudges or walk around with a “chip on your shoulder”
* Love… I tell you to love your enemies

Now we would all say… whoa now… nobody can do all this… that is precisely the point that needs to be made… note again Matthew 5:20 and 48… that is God’s standard and the only way you and I can meet the challenges Jesus laid out is with His abiding aid!!!

1. Love your neighbor
	1. Leviticus 19:18
		1. What part did they leave out?
			1. As yourself…
		2. Question is… who is my neighbor?
			1. Note Leviticus 19:18
				1. Bear any grudge against the sons of your people
		3. What if your neighbor is not of the “sons of your people”?
		4. What if your “neighbor” is a Gentile dog”
		5. What if your “neighbor” does not go to your church?
		6. What if you “neighbor” treats you like garbage?
		7. What if your “neighbor” claims to be a Christian”
			1. Deuteronomy 22:1-4
		8. What if your “neighbor” is your “enemy?”
			1. Exodus 23:4-5
				1. You see your enemy in need… help him
			2. Psalm 35:9-14
				1. Psalm 35:9-10… David’s eye is on God’s salvation to him… how wonderful it is
				2. Psalm 35:11-12… people have treated me like garbage

Asked things of me I could not give

Repay me evil for good

Breaking my heart

* + - * 1. Psalm 35:13-14… I have a heartfelt sorrow for those when misfortune falls on them
				2. Psalm 35:15-16… this is how they repay me?????
	1. When a person can honestly weep over someone who is their enemy like you would over the death of your mother (Psalm 35:14) you have reached a plateau that most of us have never attained. Note Psalm 35:11… which is followed by Psalm 35:12
	2. Luke 10:30-37
		1. Priest… the “intercessor between God and man”… when he saw him
			1. He is not of my church
			2. He does not agree with my theology
			3. He is probably not of the “elect” anyway
		2. Levite… saw him
			1. Chosen by God to offer the sacrifices of atonement
			2. Could enter the “Holy Place”
				1. to burn incense
				2. light golden candlesticks
				3. put out the bread on the table of shewbread
				4. all symbols of Christ
		3. Samaritan
			1. Half breed
			2. Intermarried with pagans
				1. No self-respecting Jew would have anything to do with this dog
				2. Wouldn’t eat with him
				3. Wouldn’t talk with him
				4. Despised the very ground this Samaritan walked on
		4. He is the one who showed compassion
1. 5 things Jesus said
	1. Love your enemies
	2. Pray for those who persecute you
	3. Remember you are a child of God
	4. Be different than the world in your attitude and values
	5. Imitate God