

Sermon Title: **“LOVE YOUR ENEMIES”**

Matthew 5:43-47

- “ _____ ” = Detest or pursue with _____
- This is the final “you have _____, but I _____ to you” statement
- How do we treat people, who _____ treat us well?
- The wrong conclusion transformed what was a command about _____ God’s people are to love into a command about _____ God’s people are to love
 - By leaving off “ _____ ” the scribes & Pharisees’ missed the crucial emphasis on how _____ they were to love their neighbors
- The Samaritan – someone who was _____ by the Jewish person – they were half-breeds (they had intermarried w/ pagan people)
 - Jesus’ point was our _____ is more than our pure blooded countrymen (more than those who are _____ to us)
- NOT only are we commanded to _____ those who hate us, we are commanded to _____ for those who persecute us
 - “Pray” = carries the idea of a _____ (we are to routinely & regularly pray over them)
 - These intentional investments open _____ and individuals who were enemies become brothers & sisters
 - When we love our enemies like this, the very _____ is reflected through us
- God DOESN’T withhold the _____ or the _____ from those who are His enemies and He has every right to do so
- Tax collectors were viewed as traitors, they were _____ (they often manipulated tax rates for their own _____ gain)
 - To greet someone in the ancient world included normally some kind of _____ (Jewish people NEVER greeted Gentiles)