

## Love Your Enemies

**Matthew 10:**<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town,<sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.<sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’<sup>16</sup> I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.<sup>21</sup> Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,<sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>34</sup> Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.”

**Matthew 24:**<sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray.<sup>9</sup> They will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name.<sup>10</sup> Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another.<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.<sup>12</sup> And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold.<sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>14</sup> And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

**Luke 6:**<sup>12</sup> Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.<sup>13</sup> And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:<sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,<sup>15</sup> and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot,<sup>16</sup> and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.<sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.<sup>26</sup> Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you;<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.<sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.<sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again.<sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.<sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.<sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.<sup>35</sup> Instead, love your

enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**Matthew 5:** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, <sup>40</sup> and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, <sup>41</sup> and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

**Romans 12:** <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.