

For Reflection and Discussion

Week of April 21, 2024

"How to Love Your Enemies"

Matthew 5:43-48

Read Matthew 5:43-48

1. Have you ever had a person who was hard to love? Why?
Do you think you have ever been hard to love for others? Would that change the way you think about loving difficult people?
2. How would you describe an enemy? What is it that makes a person an enemy? Can you think of people that we make into enemies, even though they pose no threat to our well-being, just a threat to our personal pleasures?
3. Looking at verses 43-44, how did Jesus say we were to treat enemies? Why was Jesus' message extraordinary, even revolutionary?
4. Looking at verses 43-45, how does Jesus call for a change in motives in dealing with enemies? What does it take for changes to take place?
5. Looking at verse 46-47, what is missing in most people's conception of love?
6. How does Romans 5:8-10 help us carry out this command to love our enemies?
7. How did Jesus exemplify this love for enemies in His life?
8. Where does love come from, according to Romans 5:5 and Galatians 5:22-23?
9. Does all this mean that Christians are to be doormats for the world to walk on? Explain. How does Philippians 1:9-11 talk about the practice of love?
10. Looking at verse 48, we see that as we grow as disciples, we will become more loving, like God. How might you reflect your Father's character before enemies? How can you apply this passage?