



April 14, 2019
Pastor Bruce Adrian

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Eleven • Matthew 5:43-48

Love Without Limits

Exceeding Righteousness of Kingdom Citizens

When King Jesus rules our lives, we will LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS.

Love Without Limits

1. What the Pharisees Taught: “HATE Your Enemy.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”
Matthew 5:43

Terrible Twisting of the Old Testament

- Pharisees limited the term “neighbor” to their fellow ISRAELITES.

Luke 10:30-37

- Pharisees used God’s hatred for evil to allow personal ANIMOSITY.

Deuteronomy 7:2; 30:7; Psalm 11:5; 139:21-22

What the Old Testament Actually Taught

Love your neighbor as YOURSELF and do GOOD to your enemy.

Leviticus 19:17-18; Exodus 23:4-5; Proverbs 25:21

2. What Jesus Taught: “LOVE Your Enemies.”

“But I say to you, love your enemies...” Matthew 5:44

Who Is Your Enemy?

Your enemy is anyone who OPPOSES you or turns against you.
Your enemy includes those who curse you, hate you,
spitefully use you, and persecute you.

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”
Matthew 5:44

Two Reasons to Love Without Limits

- You DEMONSTRATE that God is your Heavenly Father when you love LIKE God loves.

“That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:45

- You DISTINGUISH yourself from the world when you love MORE than the world loves.

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” Matthew 5:46-47

Loving Without Limits in God’s Power

What is impossible for us to achieve has been achieved for us in CHRIST.
The impossible righteousness becomes possible for those who trust in
Jesus Christ, because He gives them His righteousness.

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48
But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Romans 5:8-10

COMMUNION

Remembering God’s Love in Christ’s Death and Resurrection

Followers of Jesus Christ (those who trust Christ for salvation and identify with Christ in baptism and commit to Christ’s body in membership of a local church of like faith) are invited to participate in Communion located at the four tables in the auditorium. You may take the bread and cup back to your seat to eat and drink. The bread and juice represent the body and blood of Jesus when He died on the Cross and reminds us who our Lord is, what He has done for us, is doing for us, and will yet do for us when He returns. Come, Lord Jesus, come!