



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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DAILY DEVOTION

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH: PART 4.

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Matthew 5:43-48 (NCV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemies.' But I say to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on good people and on evil people, and He sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than other people. Even those who don't know God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

If we walk in The Journey of Faith, we'll see that Christ asks us to do things at times that don't make sense, but are for our best.

One of the greatest descriptions in the Journey of faith is found in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 through 7. In the first 12 verses, Jesus describes what a blessed life looks like and what a contrast it is to how we usually view life! The most challenging is found in the closing verses of Matthew 5 - how to respond in The Journey of Faith when someone hurts you. It's the polar opposite to our human nature.

In verses 43 to 48, Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemies.' But I say to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven".

Consider this for a moment in your own life and relationship.

In the journey of faith, Jesus would transform the way you respond to others.

Jesus tells us the best way to avoid bitterness when you've been mistreated, exploited, or falsely accused is to pray for those who hurt you. The world says love your friends - not your enemies, but Jesus gave us a higher command. His law of love includes loving our enemies. How do you do that?

The first step in loving your enemies, Jesus tells us, is to pray for those who hurt you. Do you do that?

The truth of the matter is that as human, initially every body can find that really challenging, depending on how badly you have been hurt. The flesh wants to get mad, or do the worse, but Jesus' higher law of love is an act of the will, and not an emotion.

Loving your enemies is an expression of Christ's love for us. After all, God loved us when we were His enemies.

In Romans 5:10 (NIV), the Bible says "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!"

To walk perfectly in the Journey of Faith forgiveness is the key.

Ephesians 4:32

[32] NKJ

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Learn how to forgive others so that God can forgive you.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to be tenderhearted and teach me to forgive others to receive forgiveness from God in Jesus name.