



- The Old Testament provides a backdrop for understanding who Jesus is and what He came for. Jesus was immersed in the Scriptures, and He lived what He taught.
- This is the sixth example where Christ sets in contrast the false teaching of the day to the true teaching of the Word of God.

Boundaries & Blinders v.43

- The command to “*love your neighbor and hate your enemy*” is a perverted teaching because it narrows the *standard* of love to which the Scriptures call us, and narrows the *objects* of love in the way they qualified the category of “neighbor.”
- Lev.19:33-34 cited their own alienation as a people under Egypt’s oppression as reason enough to, instead, treat the alien well, to “*love him as yourself.*”
- Israel’s false teaching had put blinders on their eyes toward alien peoples around them, developing a culture of superiority and racial pride that they could no longer see real needs around them.

Conquering Clichés v.44

- It’s hard to know how to *love your enemies* when we don’t see enough of it happening around us.
- In the name of ‘tolerance’ our culture has created a hypocritical environment of hate against Christians, challenging us to work on ‘loving our enemies.’
- Few of us are really that stretched on this point. Any people group who’ve suffered unchecked racial prejudice against them have had to struggle over loving their enemies.
- Jesus dashed our solidly drawn boundary lines between those we *love* and those we *hate*.

(turn over)

Grace Gospel Church, Pastor Martin Goode,
February 19, 2012
Next Week: (SERIES FINALE)
“Jesus, on Giving Without Hypocrisy” Matt. 6:1-4

SERMON ON THE MOUNT
“SEASON III” ... **unlimit**
BEGINS IN THREE WEEKS!



Let's Get Theological v.45

- Jesus then gives two theological arguments for *doing what love does*, even toward an enemy.
 - **first:** “...*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*” Jesus is less concerned that we imitate the people around us than that we imitate our Heavenly Father.
 - **second:** “*He causes His sun to rise...and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*” God’s general benevolence applies to all people impartially; we should do the same.

Practice Makes Perfect v.46-47

- Jesus gives one general principle—expressed two ways: If you only love the people who love you back, big deal! It’s easy to love your own kind of people, who treat you well.
- How do you love someone who doesn’t treat you well? Pray constructively for that person. Pray for their well-being.
- Prayer is something you can at least positively do—and your ‘enemy’ can’t stop you!
- Jesus uses the verb “*do*” to identify what our acts of love look like...inviting us to “*do the right thing.*” **The love that is commanded here is not a feeling; it’s an act of obedience toward God. Love is as love does.**
- Jesus’ command is to “love your enemies”. You may or may not grow to like them, but begin by loving them first.
- When we practice *doing the right thing* towards difficult people, we learn to reflect God’s love in tangible ways, **then** we’re saying, ‘*God, I want to show people what You are like... as best as I can.*’ (v.48)

TAKE IT HOME...for personal reflection

1. Compare Jesus’ teaching to that in Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-37.
2. Read Romans 13:8-10. What is the biblical definition of love? Where did this teaching of “love” originate?
3. Read Exodus 23:4,5. What example does this give us of ‘loving the alien’? Can you think of other examples of foreigners being accepted among God’s people in Israel’s history?
4. Read Luke 10:25-37. Given this example, who are my neighbours, and what practical ways can I love them?