

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Forgiven to Become Forgivers  
Lesson 7 - Loving Those Who Hate You**

**Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
Facilitator: Pastor Hubie Berrios**

<b>Breakdown of "Forgiven to Become Forgivers" Bible Study Series</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Key Texts</b>
5/4/2022	Lesson 1 - Understanding God's Forgiveness	Romans 4:7, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
5/11/2022	Lesson 2 - How to Receive God's Forgiveness	1 John 1:8-10, Luke 15:11-32
5/18/2022	Lesson 3 - Going from the Forgiven to the Forgivers	Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 18:21-35
5/25/2022	Lesson 4 - Learning to Become a Forgiving Person	Luke 6:27-36, Matthew 18:15-17
6/1/2022	Lesson 5 - Benefits of Living a Forgiving Life	Romans 12:18-21, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
6/8/2022	Lesson 6 - Forgiveness and Healing	James 5:16, Psalm 103:2-5
6/15/2022	Lesson 7 - Loving Those Who Hate You	Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-31
6/22/2022	Lesson 8 - Lessons from Story of David and Saul	1 Samuel 19, 1 Samuel 24
6/29/2022	Lesson 9 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation	Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 12:18
7/6/2022	Lesson 10 - Living Un-offended	Matthew 11:6, 1 Corinthians 13:5

Last week, we learned about the connection between forgiveness and healing. Today, we are going to go a little deeper in our study of forgiveness by talking about one of the most controversial lessons of Jesus; loving those who hate you.

Matthew 5:43-48 **43** "You have heard that it was said, '**Love** your neighbor[a] and **hate** your enemy.' **44** But I tell you, **love** your **enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Read Luke 6:27-31

**This passage of scripture is a portion of Jesus' Sermon On The Mount. It is full of Contrasts. Let's glean as much as we can out of them for the purpose of glorifying God and our personal edification regarding this matter of Loving Those Who Hate You.**

**Phrase # 1 Contrast of Authority 'You have heard that it was said...But I tell you...'**

On the one side you have the religious class. On the other side you have Jesus, God incarnate. The religious class represents the letter of the law, rule keeping, externalism and ecclesiastical authority based on self-righteous religion.

Jesus represents the kingdom of God, life in the Spirit, The fullness of the Spirit, the power of the Spirit, the fruit of the spirit and Divine authority.

In Matthew 3:10 John the Baptist says "The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

The religious class is the non-fruit producing tree that John The Baptist so vividly speaks of. The divinely authoritative teaching of Jesus is the axe that Jesus swings against the root to cut it down.

**Phrase # 2 Contrast of teaching 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy'**

First some definitions:

The word **love** here is the Greek word Agapao (Agape,) it is a verb. This is important because agape takes love out of the comfort zone of good intentions and feelings and into the gladiator's arena of intense, passionate

action. Agape is the very nature of God and is always shown by what it does for undeserving men/sinners who are at enmity with God. The best example of this is found at the Cross of Calvary. Agape love is perfect love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The word **hate** is the Greek word *miseo* it means hate, pursue, persecute, detest and curse. Once hatred has found a safe harbor in the hearts of men it gives birth to all kinds of evil, violence, murder, slander, abuse and tyranny. The Apostle Paul says in Gal. 5:21 that those which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God!

Only God can hate with perfect hatred. God hates sin and when it is manifested against an object it is judicial and righteous. (Psalm 5:5; 139:22)

The believer is also called to hate with "God like" hatred, in the broad sense what God hates (Rom.12:9 Abhor what is evil.) But we are never called to personally hate anyone. "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Matt.7:2

### **How did the religious class define neighbor and enemy? (What they taught)**

Anyone who pertained to their elite inner religious circle were their neighbors and therefore loved. Everyone else, even if they were Jews, were their enemies and therefore hated. Their hatred for those who were not their neighbors was so notorious that the Romans called them "Haters Of Humanity" The root cause of this hatred was their shallow interpretation and teaching of God's Law. (which Paul says in Rom.7:12 is holy, righteous and good..) They took the law of God which is multidimensional and turned it into one dimensional rule keeping.

### **How does Jesus define neighbor and enemy? (What Jesus taught)**

Our neighbor is anyone in close proximity to us whom we can share God's love with. We are called not only to love those who are similar to us or with those we are comfortable with, but all those God places in our path. There will be those neighbors who seem like enemies to us. We are to engage them with a heart that is filled with a love for God. We are to love our enemies out of an overflow of God's love for us and as a way of demonstrating our love toward God.

Read Mark 12:28-34 (the greatest commandment)

Read Luke 10:25-37 (the good samaritan)

### **In conclusion:**

#### **Some personal benefits of loving our enemies:**

1. Since hatred and anger destroys the heart, you will be happier when it is replaced with love.
2. Your love can change your enemy's life and even make a friend.
3. You set an example for others ie. children, church members, co-workers etc.
4. It is better for society for neighbors to love each other and be at peace.
5. It is an indicator of my spiritual health.

### **What are some practical things we can do to express love toward those who hate us?**