



**Series:** Pray

**Sermon:** Part 5: “Father Forgive Them...”

**Date:** Sunday, May 5th, 2024

**Culture says:** “Hate your enemies and destroy them”

**Jesus says:** “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

**Scripture referenced in sermon:** *Matthew 5:43, Leviticus 19:18*

The Jewish leaders cut off the “as yourself” part and only advertised the “love your neighbor” part while adding an extra clause to the law saying that you can also hate your enemy.

*“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:44-45)*

Jesus is making it very clear that if you want to understand the heart of God, if you want to follow the ways of God, then your ongoing attitude is to love your enemies and to keep praying for those who hurt you.

Jesus is referring to \_\_\_\_\_ for an enemy’s well being and asking God to bless those who you hate or who hate you.

**Scripture referenced in sermon:** *Matthew 5:46, 48*

Can you \_\_\_\_\_ those who don’t love you back or who don't love you at all?

Jesus is saying I don’t want you to love like you do, I want you to love like I do. It’s not about conditional love but \_\_\_\_\_ love.

Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ isn’t about how much you know about God, it’s about how much love you show.

**Scripture referenced in sermon:** *John 13:34-35*

*“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)*

In \_\_\_\_\_ for His enemies, Jesus fulfilled His own commandment to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Jesus, the One who was being persecuted, prayed for His persecutors.



*Scripture referenced in sermon: Luke 23:42-43, Mark 15:39, Acts 2:41*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)*

*Love keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:5)*

When we sinned against God, He didn't hold it against us or even retaliate against us, but He took the initiative to \_\_\_\_\_ us before we even thought to ask for it.

Forgiving someone doesn't mean minimizing the seriousness of their offense nor does it mean pretending that it never happened or that it didn't hurt.

In some relationships, you can forgive, but there is no reconciliation as you have to draw boundaries for your safety and well being.

Forgiveness is not really for the other person's benefit but really for our \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

We forgive because God has forgiven us.

**Bottom Line:** *The only way to forgive and love the way that God forgives and loves is through His supernatural power and that can only come through prayer and intimate connection with Him.*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

1. *Who is on your list? Who are the people that you feel you could never forgive because of what they did to you?*
2. *If you consider yourself to be a follower of Jesus and you say that you love God, do you pray for those that have hurt you, those that get on your nerves?*
3. *Who is that person who you can begin to pray for as you ask God to help you have His supernatural power to forgive and love them?*

*Songs used in service: Hymn of Heaven (Phil Wickham), Run To The Father (Cody Carnes), Heart of God (Zach Williams), God Be The Glory (We Are Messengers), The Jesus Way (Phil Wickham)*

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**Any prayer requests?**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**