

Enemies of the Christian

Mt 5:43-48

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the reminder Christ gives us concerning enemies.

Intro: 1. Notice what Christ says in Matthew 5 about enemies and how we treat others.

(Mt 5:38)

2. Christ tells us later in chapter 5 how we must treat those who make themselves our enemy.

I. You have heard...

A. You have heard...**(Mt 5:43a)**

1. Many things are passed down. Some good some not.
2. Laws change and so do the mindset of people.

B. "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy" **(Mt 5:43b)**

1. They were told to hate their enemies, a easy task.
2. It's easy to hate those who are against you.
3. The Apostle Paul reminds us of how to treat our enemies **(Rom 12:20)**.
4. God never tells us its ok to hate our enemies.

II. The Enemies **(Mt 5:44)**

A. Those who curse you and hate you

1. These are those who wish evil to come upon you.
2. They desire bad things for you because, you are their enemy.
3. We must bless those who may, at every moment, be wishing ill to come upon us.

B. Enemies need the most prayers.

1. Those who make themselves our enemies need the most prayers.
2. Our enemies may hate us but we don't have to hate them.
3. The Christian must also strive to overcome evil, the evil our enemies wish to bring up us, with good **(Rom 12:21)**.

III. Blessed

A. Blessed **(Mt 5:11)**

1. Blessed – be happy when others persecute you unfairly.
 - a. Why? You are not alone **(1 Pt 5:9)**.
2. It is not uncommon for people to say false things against others.
 - a. Such actions show not only an unchristian heart, but a sinful one.
 - b. Pray for them and let God sort them out **(Rom 2:6)**

B. Rejoice **(Mt 5:12)**

1. These actions have taken place since before we were born.
2. We can be glad that we, for similar reasons, are also enduring persecutions.
3. We endure them, don't give up, because we love Christ.
 - a. We love Christ *more* than anyone else, *including* brethren. **(Mt 10:37-39)**
 - i. Christ provides the entrance to heaven, not anyone else.

IV. Lessons for Us Today

A. Not Like Others (Mt 5:45)

1. Anyone can love those who love them. Only a Christian can love those who do not love them.
 - a. This does not mean we become “ok” with those who hate us but we still love them and pray for them.
2. Anyone can love those who have the same opinion as them, but what if someone has a different opinion?
 - a. We must not confuse opinions with Truth. (Mt 5:46-47)
 - b. Pray for love not things that lead to division.

B. The Result (Mt 5:48)

1. We get to be more like God wants us to be.
2. That should be our desire! To be what God wants us to be, not what man thinks we should be.

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. In the Lord’s church we should have no enemies among ourselves.**
 - a. If we make enemies of ourselves, we only harm our own brethren.
 - i. What good comes from teammates fighting, soldiers fighting among themselves? No good comes from this.
- 2. Enemies from within causes us to lose our focus, we have souls to save and very real enemy to resist, the devil! (1 Pt 5:8)**
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9