



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 30, 2022

Love Your Enemies

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- How did **you react** the last time **someone intentionally hurt or threatened** you? Why?
- Jesus points out that some taught, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy” (43). However, **this twists the Law** recorded in [Leviticus 19:18](#). What is **left out**? What is **added**?
- Jesus says something different. **What does He say** (44)? And **what reason does He give** for this radical teaching (45)?
- Jesus indicates that His followers **will practice love and hospitality in a unique manner** (46-47). How are **you personally challenged** by Jesus words?
- What do **must you believe** in order to take Jesus’ teaching to heart? **What did Jesus risk** for His enemies (i.e. [Romans 5:10](#))?
- Jesus reiterates that **His followers imitate and reflect our Heavenly Father** (48). What **needs to happen for sinners to begin this kind of imitation and reflection**?
- Who is **your enemy**? How are you **called to love them**? What do you need **the Holy Spirit to do** that you might risk love?
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org