

LESSONS FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LOVE

November 7-8, 2009 • Matthew 5:43-48 • Dr. Ron Jones

4 Loves

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“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies . . .” Matthew 5:43-44

But you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31

Ways the Pharisees Put Limits on Love

They _____ the definition of neighbor.

They _____ the words “as yourself.”

They _____ the words “and hate your enemy.”

Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do not I loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with a perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Psalm 139:19-22

Why Should We Love Our Enemies?

1. To demonstrate that we are _____.

“That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.”

Matthew 5:45

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

2. To differentiate us from the _____.

“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” Matthew 5:46-47

3. To grow in Christian _____.

“Therefore you shall be perfect. Just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48; Philippians 1:6

The best way to start loving your enemy is to _____.

“. . . and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44b