**SERMON NOTES**

**Wonderful Words of Life: The Sermon on the Mount**

**“The Heart of the Matter – Part VI”**

**Matthew 5: 43-47**

**Jesus’s statement “you shall love your neighbor” is quoted from Old Testament passage of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 19:18.**

**The statement “you shall love your enemy” is not found in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Rather, it was derived from a misinterpretation, distortion, and twisting of what God had actually said.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in the long game and therefore we cannot treat individual people with contempt – as we deem them either the enemy of God or ourselves.**

**The way we are to love our enemies is with our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The word used there for love is the Greek word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ἀγάπη).**

**Agape love is a genuine and sincere love that is accompanied with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Agape love is the type of love that God chooses to show us through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Agape love is the same kind of love that Jesus commands us to show for even – and especially – our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **We are to love our enemies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with no discrimination or selectivity. We love our enemies just as we love our friends and family.**

**(2) We are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our enemies.**

**Christian, pray for your enemies. Pray for God to work in their life: to change their heart or to change our heart. Pray that God would work to repair, restore, mend, or at the least change our attitude toward that person. Pray for God to save them, to restrain the evil they are doing, and to draw and lead them to repentance so that they become a brother or sister in the kingdom.**

**(3) We are to love our enemies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Any kind of love that loves someone who will likely return that love with hate, contempt, or scorn is showing sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Love your enemies – brother and sisters – for when we do this, Jesus says we do two things:**

1. **Loving our enemies makes us like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v45).**
2. **Loving our enemies makes us unlike the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(v46-47).**

**We are not made sons/daughters of God by loving our enemies, rather, we are show our-selves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be God’s children by aligning ourselves with His ways.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Father – for those who come to know and believe the gospel – is that we are made more and more like Jesus our Savior and less and less like ourselves (Romans 8: 29; Ephesians 4:32-5:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 1 John 3: 2-3).**

**Jesus says that people will know that we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of this world by our love (John 13:35).**

**Application**

**Believer, Jesus says your love is to be noticeably different. Is there something special or different about your love? Is it any better or different than those who do not claim Christ or know His word? Or is it just the same?**

**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,so 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. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”**

***Blanks: Leviticus; Scripture; Holy Spirit; whole person; agape; action; Jesus; enemies; Christians; impartially; pray; sacrificially; love; God; world; genuinely; will; not;***

***Congregational Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7***

**Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**