

How to Love Your Enemies

By Mitchell Kuhn

Mat 5:44 (NKJV) But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

How? Our hearts must be changed.

Jer 17:9 (NKJV) "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Jer 17:10 (NKJV) I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Eze 36:26 (NKJV) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 (NKJV) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

What do we treasure?

Heb 10:34 (NKJV) for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, **knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.**

Heb 10:35 (NKJV) Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Mat 6:19 (NKJV) "**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

Mat 6:20 (NKJV) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Mat 6:21 (NKJV) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

We must come to see the vanity of life, and how short it is.

Ecc 1:2 (NKJV) "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity."

Ecc 1:3 (NKJV) What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?

Ecc 2:18 (NKJV) **Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun,** because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

Ecc 2:19 (NKJV) And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also *is* vanity.

Jas 4:14 (NKJV) whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? **It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.**

Ecc 9:11 (NKJV) I returned and saw under the sun that—The race *is* not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

Ecc 9:12 (NKJV) For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men *are* snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.

Yet, what we do in this physical life is very important.

Luk 16:11 (NKJV) Therefore **if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon,** who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

Pro 12:27 (YLT) The slothful roasteth not his hunting, **And the wealth of a diligent man is precious.**

We must be diligent in all matters of this life, diligent in business, honor our parents, provide for our families, yet also hate them and even hate our own lives.

Luk 14:26 (NKJV) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Mat 10:36 (NKJV) and 'A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THOSE OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.'

Mat 10:37 (NKJV) He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

How do we love our enemies by hating them?

Rom 12:9 (ESV) Let love be genuine. Abhor (hate) what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

We must hate the deeds of the flesh and the thoughts of the carnal mind. We must hate this in ourselves first and then we can properly hate it in those around us. Yet, in our carnality, we will hate everyone around us before we can see that we are a beast as well.

Mat 7:5 (NKJV) Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

We are each a hypocrite before we can become like Christ and truly love our enemies.

1Pe 2:23 (NKJV) who, **when He was reviled, did not revile in return;** when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Mat 16:21 (NKJV) From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, **and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.**

Mat 16:22 (NKJV) Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

Mat 16:23 (NKJV) But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**"

Mat 16:24 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

Mat 16:25 (NKJV) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mat 16:26 (NKJV) For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Php 1:21 (NKJV) **For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.**

Php 1:22 (NKJV) But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

Php 1:23 (NKJV) For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.

Php 1:24 (NKJV) Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Php 1:25 (NKJV) And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

Php 1:26 (NKJV) that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

How do we comfort one another in these times?

1Th 4:16 (NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1Th 4:17 (NKJV) Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 (NKJV) **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Thief in the Night

1Th 5:2 (NKJV) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 (NKJV) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

1Th 5:4 (NKJV) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Much knowledge is much sorrow

1Ti 6:17 (NKJV) Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Pro 11:28 (NKJV) He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.