

Monday, 16 May 2016

Matthew 5:43-44

*"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,*

A typical example of man's determination to 'fix' the Word. But I am directed to love my enemy, not hate him. Not tolerate, or ignore, or get along with, or ... but love (and the word used is *agape*), sacrificial love? Not just get along with but go out of my way to be a servant to him. This is a hard teaching that can only be obeyed through the transforming power of the Spirit.

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Tuesday, 17 May 2016

Matthew 5:45

*so that you may be(come) 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.*

My life, as I adjust to life in the Kingdom, must be directed to an exercise of sacrificial love that is spread out to all my personal mission field, to everyone that I touch in any way. My Father's example that I am to spread that love as He spreads the sunshine and the rain. I cannot/must not withhold my love just because someone uses me spitefully or attacks me.

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Wednesday, 18 May 2016

Matthew 5:46

*For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*

Another comparison to emphasize the difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of Man. If I am living in the latter, my goal is to scratch the back of those who scratch mine; to insure that my efforts are directed to those who benefit me.

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Thursday, 19 May 2016

Matthew 5:47

*And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?*

As simple as how I behave at a gathering that includes friends and strangers. Easy to wend my way through the crowd to hug an old friend that I have not seen for a long time, but what about that chap standing in the corner, obviously ill at ease and unacquainted with anyone else? Step out in faith, I might just find a new friend.

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Friday, 20 May 2016

Matthew 5:48

*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Perfect or complete. The goal line that Jesus has had in view as He began the Sermon on the Mount with "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." He has described the shape of the Kingdom of Heaven as I am to live it out in the here and now. Now to go on to instruct me in the practical details.

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Saturday, 21 May 2016

Matthew 6:1

*"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

Not do I provide some necessary and appropriate act of sacrificial love but what's my motive? Do it but be on my knees before my Lord seeking the proper humility and giving Him the glory. I must follow the example of my brother J.S. Bach who always annotated each manuscript with the initials *I.D.S.G. In Deo Sola Gloria, "to God alone be the glory."*

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Oh, what a hard lesson to learn. Help me and guide me, Holy Spirit

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Lord's Day, 22 May 2016

Psalm 119:162

*I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.*

Like one who finds the pearl of great price, or the treasure buried in a field. Rejoicing because You have opened my heart to You, stripped away the filth and garbage to reveal me as a child of the King. Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*May 16-22, 2016*

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.\*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, [voices@ailbe.org](mailto:voices@ailbe.org)  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

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\*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.