



**Sept. 10, 2023**  
**“Gospel of the Kingdom-Love”**

**Matthew 5:43-48**

In Matthew 5 Jesus makes six statements clarifying the Kingdom. In this week's teaching He makes the hardest of all requests; He tells His followers to not only love their neighbors, but to love their enemies. He defines love as praying, greeting, and doing good like their heavenly Father.

**Scripture – Matthew 5:43-48; Lev. 19:17-18; Exodus 23:4-5; Romans 5:8; Matthew 26:50**

**Community Group Questions**

**Introduction**

- “Evil will use whatever it can to grow into us death and destruction.”
- Ideological differences can sow division in our attitudes toward others. How has this week’s teaching given you tools to manage those differences?

**Pray (vs. 44)**

- What are the benefits/challenges of praying for your enemies?
- How does prayer change our hearts and set us free?

**Greet (vs. 47)**

- “The Gospels are Jesus having dinner with all the wrong people.”
- How can we become better at humanizing and not demonizing people?

**Do Good Like God (vs. 45,48)**

- “Do I not destroy my enemies by making them my friends?”  
Abraham Lincoln
- How can you become better at making the “sun rise” on your enemies?

**Challenge**

Write the names of all of your enemies and pray for them through the month of September.