

## Matt. 5:43-48

- I. Neg: You have heard the command to love neighbor and assumed this meant hate enemies (43)
  - A. You have heard (43a)
  - B. The Law commanded love of neighbor, and it was assumed this excluded enemies (43b-d)
    - 1. That it was said (43b)
    - 2. Love your neighbor and hate your enemy (43c-d)
      - a Love your neighbor (43c)
      - b And hate your enemy (43d)
- II. Pos: But I am saying that you should be gracious and generous even to enemies (44-48)
  - A. But I am saying to you (44a)
  - B. Be gracious and generous to all, just like God (44b-48)
    - 1. Go beyond strict reciprocity to grace, just like God does (44b-47)
      - a Do good to your enemies, just like God does (44b-45)
        - 1) Love and pray for your enemies that harm you (44b-c)
          - a) Love your enemies (44b)
          - b) And pray on behalf of those persecuting you (44c)
        - 2) Purpose: So that you will conform yourself to God's character (45)
          - a) In order that you may be sons of your Father in heaven (45a)
          - b) God blesses all people, even bad ones (45b-c)
            - (1) Because He causes His sun to rise over evil ones and good ones (45b)
            - (2) He causes it to rain over righteous ones and unrighteous ones (45c)
      - b Only responding in kind is not virtuous (46-47)
        - 1) Only loving those that love you is not virtuous (46)
          - a) What is virtuous about loving only those that love you? (46a-b)
            - (1) For if you love the ones loving you (46a)
            - (2) What reward do you have? (46b)
          - b) Are not the tax collectors doing the same thing? (46c)
        - 2) Only greeting your brothers is not exceptional (47)
          - a) What is exceptional about only welcoming your brothers? (47a-b)
            - (1) And if you only welcome your brothers (47a)
            - (2) What exceptional thing are you doing? (47b)
          - b) Are not the gentiles doing the same thing? (47c)
    - 2. Therefore, be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect (48)
      - a Therefore, You, be perfect (48a)
      - b As your Heavenly Father is perfect (48b)