

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - Lk 6:27

071920A

### INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6:20-26 Contrast 2 "seeds" [Gn 3:15] - *enmity*. Issues of Final Judgment: *rewards*; what is *now* & what *shall be* = 2 ages.
  - i. Mat 7:16-23 - known by fruit: character & conduct [1T 5:24-25]
  - ii. Discernment to differentiate disciples from enemies - v27. Also known by their fruit - they hate, curse, mistreat disciples of Jesus.
2. Loving one another is not the same as loving enemies
  - i. v23, 26 *Enmity* tw/ seeds. Cain/Abel; Ishmael/Isaac [Gal 4:28-29].
  - ii. Enmity of seed of serpent = hatred; od seed of woman = love
3. How do Jesus' disciples interact w/ enmity of enemies? v27-38

### 1st: The Speaker and the Hearer - v27a

1. *But*: strong contrast - *You have heard that it was said... but I say unto you*: Jesus refutes teaching of Pharisees, not OT.
2. *I say*: recall who is speaking. Divine identity & authority of Jesus.
  - i. v22 - voices = "they say"
  - ii. *But I say* - tune into this one voice of the incarnate Word - [1Sam 3:10]
3. *to you who hear*: v18 ppl *had come to hear Him* - but not all can *hear*. E external & internal call: *He who has ears let him hear* [Ezek 3:27]

### 2nd: Love Your Enemies - v27b

1. Next section [v27-34]. v35 *love your enemies* [inclusio]: *do good, bless, pray for*. v35 summarizes - *sons of Most High*: imaging Father
2. Each command = "kingdom inversion" - unnatural: need life of Spirit
3. *love your enemies* - aligns w/ instruction in OT re: treatment of enemy
  - i. Ex 23:4-5 return enemy's stray donkey

ii. Pro 24:17-18 not rejoice over enemy's calamities

iii. Pro 25:21-22 [Rm 12:17] meet enemy's needs = battle strategy

iv. Job 31:29-30 Job asserts integrity seen in kind treatment of enemies

4. Jesus aligns w/ OT & refutes Pharisees - *but I say...* Mt 5:43 Cite OT to teach "hate enemy".

i. Lev 19:18 prohibit a vengeful spirit of retaliation. Rabbis emphasized *the sons of your people* so that *your neighbor* was defined in ethnic terms to encourage hatred of those not belonging to *your people*.

ii. Parable of Good Samaritan (Lk 10): "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus is concerned w/ "Who is a good neighbor?"

iii. There are all kinds of people to hate! Religious hatred is the worst kind of hatred b/c it is justified by "piety" - Jn 16:2; A 26:9.

5. Our enemies are often religiously convinced that persecution is piety.

i. 2 Beasts of Rv 13

ii. Voices of intensified anti-Christian animosity heard in the West.

6. How are we to behave? Love them.

i. do good to them - apex of wh/ is proclaim good news of gospel

ii. bless them - w/ words of truth & grace

iii. pray for them - that the gospel wld triumph in their lives

7. Battle strategy in order to conquer enemies - strategy of cross: Rm 5:10

8. A word to enemies:

9. Let us remember: we were enemies but were conquered by Christ's love.