

7/27/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 45

TITLE: THE HARDEST COMMANDMENT

TEXT: LUKE 6:27&28

INTRODUCTION: (1) MANY OF US FIND IT HARD  
ENOUGH TO LOVE OUR FRIENDS LET ALONE OUR  
ENEMIES.

\* THE REASON BEING, OUR FLESHLY DESIRE FOR  
SELF-PROTECTION AND SELF-ADVANCEMENT IS  
SO STRONG AT TIMES THAT WE SOMETIMES  
FAIL TO LOVE THE PEOPLE WE SAY WE LOVE AS  
WELL AS WE SHOULD.

\*\* IT IS TO SAY, WE ARE WILLING TO HELP OUR  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS UP TO A POINT, BUT  
SADLY WE HAVE OUR LIMITS.

\*\*\* WE WANT TO HELP THEM AND SERVE THEM,  
BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE WANT TO  
SAFEGUARD OUR TIME, OUR MONEY AND OUR  
ENERGY.

\*\*\*\* IN THE FLESH, WE DO NOT HAVE THE CONSTANT, COMPASSIONATE, SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF CHRIST, AS WE DO IN THE SPIRIT.

(2) THEREFORE, IF WE DO NOT EVEN LOVE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS WE SHOULD, HOW COULD WE EVER LOVE OUR ENEMIES?

\* TRULY THIS IS A HARD COMMANDMENT, MAYBE THE HARDEST.

**\*\* BUT HERE'S THE TRUTH, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.**  
JESUS COMMANDS US TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES.

\*\*\* AND THIS CALL IS IMPOSSIBLE APART FROM CHRIST AND THE POWER OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT FOR BELIEVERS.

**\*\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, WE DON'T NATURALLY LOVE OUR ENEMIES, BUT WE CAN SUPERNATURALLY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FROM NATURAL LOVE, BUT ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST'S LOVE.**

\*\*\*\*\* LET ME GIVE YOU TWO QUICK TRUE STORIES TO ILLUSTRATE THAT.

(3) IN 1567, KING PHILIP OF SPAIN APPOINTED THE DUKE OF ALBA AS GOVERNOR OF THE LOWER PART OF THE NATION.

\* THE DUKE WAS A BITTER ENEMY OF THE NEWLY-EMERGING PROTESTANT REFORMATION.

\*\* HIS RULE WAS CALLED THE REIGN OF TERROR, AND HIS COUNCIL WAS CALLED THE BLOODY COUNCIL BECAUSE IT HAD ORDERED THE SLAUGHTER OF SO MANY PROTESTANTS.

\*\*\* IT IS REPORTED THAT ONE MAN DURING THIS TIME WHO WAS SENTENCED TO DIE FOR HIS FAITH MANAGED TO ESCAPE DURING THE DEAD OF WINTER.

\*\*\*\* AS HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY A LONE SOLDIER, THE MAN CAME TO A LAKE WHOSE ICE WAS THIN AND CRACKING.

(4) SOMEHOW HE MANAGED TO GET SAFELY ACROSS THE ICE, BUT AS SOON AS HE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE HE HEARD HIS PURSUER SCREAMING. THE SOLDIER PURSUING HIM HAD FALLEN THROUGH THE ICE AND WAS ABOUT TO DROWN.

\* AT THE RISK OF BEING CAPTURED, TORTURED, AND EVENTUALLY KILLED - OR OF DROWNING HIMSELF - THE MAN STILL WENT BACK ACROSS THE LAKE AND RESCUED HIS ENEMY. WHY? BECAUSE THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINED HIM TO DO SO.

\*\* HE KNEW HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE IF HE WAS TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIS LORD, THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELLED HIM TO LOVE HIS ENEMY. QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:14&15.

(5) ANOTHER TRUE STORY, THE SCOTTISH REFORMER GEORGE WISHART, A CONTEMPORARY OF JOHN KNOX, WAS SENTENCED TO DIE AS A HERETIC.

\* BECAUSE THE EXECUTIONER KNEW OF **WISHART'S SELFLESS MINISTERING TO** HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE DYING OF THE PLAGUE, HE HESITATED CARRYING OUT THE SENTENCE.

\*\* WHEN WISHART SAW THE EXPRESSION OF **REMORSE ON THE EXECUTIONER'S FACE, HE** WENT OVER AND KISSED HIM ON THE CHEEK, **SAYING, "SIR MAY THAT BE A TOKEN THAT I FORGIVE YOU."**

\*\*\* **NOW I'VE TOLD YOU THOSE TWO TRUE** STORIES THIS MORNING TO ILLUSTRATE THAT **WE ARE TO "LOVE OUR ENEMIES".**

\*\*\*\* **AND "OUR ENEMIES" MOST OF THE TIME IN** OUR CULTURE DO NOT COME IN SUCH LIFE-THREATENING FORMS; THEY ARE NOT NORMALLY TRYING TO KILL US.

**(6) OFTEN "OUR ENEMIES" ARE JUST ORDINARY** PEOPLE WHO ARE MEAN, IMPATIENT, JUDGMENTAL, SELF-RIGHTEOUS, AND SPITEFUL, OR JUST HAPPEN TO DISAGREE WITH US.

\* BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON A PERSON MIGHT BE AN ENEMY OF OURS, WE ARE TOLD THAT WE ARE TO LOVE THEM, DO GOOD TO THEM, BLESS THEM AND PRAY FOR THEM IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

\*\* AND BY LOVING AND PRAYING FOR OUR ENEMIES, WE PROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR FATHER, WE ARE ACTING LIKE OUR FATHER, WE SHOW THAT WE ARE SONS OF GOD.

\*\*\* FOR HE LOVES THE UNLOVABLE, AND FORELOVED HIS ELECT WITH A LOVE THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH INHERIT GOODNESS IN US, OR BY ANYTHING FORESEEN IN US THAT WAS LOVABLE. BUT IN HIS MERCY AND GRACE SET HIS LOVE ON US IN SPITE OF US.

\*\*\*\* BELIEVER, WE WERE **GOD'S** ENEMIES ACCORDING TO ROMANS 5:10, BUT ROMANS 5:8 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

(7) AND GOD BECAUSE OF HIS ETERNAL LOVE FOR US IN CHRIST RECONCILED US, WE THAT WERE ESTRANGED AND REBELLING AGAINST HIM AS HIS ENEMIES.

\* AND **THAT'S THE LOVE OF THE FATHER FOR HIS** PEOPLE, WHO ONCE WERE HIS ENEMIES. WELL JESUS CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO LOVE THEIR ENEMIES IN LUKE 6:27&28.

\*\* AND **I CAN'T THINK OF A WAY THAT WE ACT** MORE LIKE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER THAN WHEN WE LOVE OUR ENEMIES; HOWEVER, IT MAY BE THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS.

\*\*\* **AND BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY,** "THE HARDEST COMMANDMENT".

\*\*\*\* **AND WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS TO HELP US** UNDERSTAND THAT RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE, WE THAT KNOW CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

(6) AND OUR 4 POINTS ARE CENTERED AROUND 4 COMMANDS CHRIST GIVES IN LUKE 6:27&28, SO OUR OUTLINE IS SIMPLY COMMAND #1, V. 27A; COMMAND #2, V. 27B; COMMAND #3, V. 28A; AND COMMAND #4, V. 28B.

\* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR COMPASS, **LOOK AT V. 27A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE** COMMAND #1.

I. COMMAND #1, (READ V. 27A)

A. NOW BEFORE WE GET TO OUR FIRST COMMAND, TO WHOM IS JESUS SPEAKING?

\* **WELL, JESUS SAYS: "BUT I SAY TO YOU WHO HEAR."**

**\*\* AND THE WORD "BUT" TO BEGIN WITH IN V. 27 IS A STRONG CONTRASTING CONJUNCTION TO SET THE 4 WOES GIVEN BY JESUS IN VV. 24-26 IN CONTRAST TO THE 4 COMMANDS.**



\*\*\* FOR THE 4 COMMANDS IN VV. 27&28 ARE GIVEN TO BELIEVERS, THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE THE CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO OBEY THESE COMMANDS WHEREAS THE 4 WOES ARE GIVEN TO UNBELIEVERS.

\*\*\*\* SO THOSE WHO ARE BELIEVERS, FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, HIS DISCIPLES, HIS MAIN AUDIENCE, ARE THOSE WHO HEAR, UNDERSTAND AND OBEY **GOD'S WORDS IN CONTRAST TO UNBELIEVERS**, WHO WILL BE JUDGED, WHO HAVE NO CAPACITY TO OBEY THE COMMANDS, THERE IS INABILITY IN RADICAL OR TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

1. WITH THAT SAID, THE FIRST COMMAND IS TO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES. AND I SAY COMMAND FOR THERE ARE 4 MAIN VERBS IN VV. 27&28, LOVE, DO GOOD, BLESS AND PRAY AND ALL 4 ARE IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK COMMUNICATING COMMANDS, THESE THINGS ARE NOT OPTIONAL BUT MANDATORY FOR BELIEVERS.

**\* AND THE FIRST VERB "LOVE" IS AGAPAO IN THE GREEK FROM THE FAMILIAR WORD AGAPE SPEAKING OF GOD'S LOVE.**

\*\* AND THERE ARE AT LEAST 4 WORDS FOR LOVE IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND LEON MORRIS TALKS ABOUT ALL 4 WHICH WILL HELP US SEE WHAT AGAPE LOVE, THE WORD USED HERE IS ALL ABOUT, CHRISTIAN LOVE.

\*\*\* LEON MORRIS SAID AND **I QUOTE: "THERE ARE SEVERAL WORDS FOR LOVE IN GREEK. JESUS WAS NOT ASKING TO STORGE, NATURAL AFFECTION (LOVE), NOR EROS, ROMANTIC LOVE, NOR FOR PHILIA (FE-LE-A), THE LOVE OF FRIENDSHIP. HE WAS SPEAKING OF AGAPE WHICH MEANS LOVE EVEN OF THE UNWORTHY, LOVE WHICH IS NOT DRAWN OUT BY MERIT IN THE BELOVED, BUT WHICH PROCEEDS FROM THE FACT THAT THE LOVER CHOOSES TO BE A **LOVING PERSON.**" (END QUOTE)**

\*\*\*\* **AND HERE'S THE POINT, AGAPE LOVE IS**  
DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER 3 LOVES IN  
THE GREEK.

2. UNLIKE STORGE, IT IS UNNATURAL, IT IS  
SUPERNATURAL, COMING THROUGH THE HOLY  
SPIRIT.

\* IN FACT, IN ROMANS 5:5 IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).  
THEN QUOTE GALATIANS 5:22.

\*\* AND THE NOUN WORD AGAPE USED IN BOTH  
VERSES COMES AS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AS  
WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT, ARE CONTROLLED BY  
THE SPIRIT, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

\*\*\* SO AGAPE LOVE IS SUPERNATURAL.

\*\*\*\* THEN AGAPE LOVE IS NOT EROS LOVE, FOR  
IT IS NOT ROMANTIC LOVE, WHEN YOU FELL IN  
LOVE WITH YOUR SPOUSE AS YOU WERE  
**COURTING OR DATING THEM, IT'S NOT A**  
FEELING KIND OF **LOVE, IT'S AN ACTION, A VERB.**  
**IT'S THE KIND OF LOVE THAT DISCIPLES OF**  
CHRIST CHOOSE TO DO AS A PART OF THEIR  
OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST.

\*\*\*\* AND UNLIKE PHILIA (FE-LE-A) LOVE, AGAPE IS NOT FOR FRIENDS ONLY, IT IS ALSO ENEMIES.

3. IT IS TO SAY, JESUS CALLED HIS FOLLOWERS TO SHOW A DELIBERATE AFFECTION THAT WAS NOT BASED ON WHAT PEOPLE DESERVED, BUT ON THE GRACE OF GOD.

\* AND BELOVED AGAPE LOVE IS A CHOICE, AN ACT OF THE WILL; IT IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE.

\*\* WE AGAIN ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT GOOD VIBES, GOOD FEELINGS AND EMOTION, BUT AN ACTION OF THE WILL YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT RATHER THAN THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH.

\*\*\* FOR OUR NATURAL TENDENCY IS TO BE VENGEFUL TOWARD OUR ENEMIES, TO TALK ABOUT THEM IN AN UNKIND WAY, TO LET THEM HAVE IT, EVEN TO GO AFTER THEM PHYSICALLY AND TO TRY TO HURT THEM VERBALLY OR PHYSICALLY. WE WANT THEM TO HURT LIKE THEY HURT US, TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY DESERVE.

\*\*\*\* AND SPECIFICALLY WHEN WE TALK ABOUT OUR ENEMIES, THE WORD LIT. MEANS HOSTILE ONES, HATED ONES, ODIIOUS ONES, OUR FOES.

4. AND WHOM WOULD THEY BE? WELL SOME OF THEM ARE PUBLIC, A GREEDY COMPANY THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF ITS EMPLOYEES; THE UNSCRUPULOUS LYING POLITICIAN WHO INTRODUCES UNGODLY LEGISLATION, THE RECKLESS DRIVER WHO INJURES AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER OR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER, A TERRORIST, A DICTATOR WHO PERSECUTES THE CHURCH.

\* BUT OTHERS ARE MORE PERSONAL, LIKE THE DEMEANING BOSS, THE SCHEMING CO-WORKER, THE FORMER FRIEND WHO HURT YOU, THE ANGRY NEIGHBOR, A FAMILY MEMBER THAT **HAS HURT YOU AND WON'T TALK TO YOU.**

\*\* AND THE APPLICATION IS, WHO IS YOUR ENEMY?

\*\*\* AND THIS IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION, BUT WHOMEVER IT MAY BE, HE OR SHE IS THE PERSON CHRIST IS CALLING YOU TO LOVE!

\*\*\*\* AND TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES AND DO THINGS FOR THEM IS TO BE LIKE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, TO ACT LIKE HIM, TO IMITATE HIM.

**5. FOR MANY TIMES IN SCRIPTURE WHEN GOD'S LOVE IS TALKED ABOUT, IN THE SAME BREATH THE CROSS IS TALKED ABOUT, GOD'S LOVE IN SENDING HIS SON TO BE THE SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS, QUOTE JOHN 3:16, GALATIANS 2:20, I JOHN 4:9&10, ROMANS 5:8 JOHN 15:13.**

**\* SO GOD'S LOVE IS AN ACT OF SACRIFICE FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE HIS ENEMIES, UNWORTHY OF HIS LOVE, GOD MET THE NEED.**

\*\* YET THE HUMAN TENDENCY IS TO BASE LOVE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE OBJECT OF OUR LOVE.

\*\*\* WE LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE ATTRACTIVE, WHO HAVE THINGS, WHO CAN DO SOMETHING FOR US, OR WHO ARE NICE TO US.

\*\*\*\* BUT TRUE LOVE IS NEED ORIENTED. THE GOOD SAMARITAN DEMONSTRATED GREAT LOVE BECAUSE HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN CONVENIENCE, SAFETY AND RESOURCES TO **MEET ANOTHER'S DESPERATE NEED.**

6. AND YES LOVE MAY INVOLVE EMOTION BUT IT MUST **INVOLVE ACTION.** **FOR IN PAUL'S** BEAUTIFUL AND POWERFUL TREATISE ON LOVE IN I CORINTHIANS 13, ALL 15 OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE ARE GIVEN IN VERB FORM, THEY ARE ACTIONS, (QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 13:4.)

\* AND OBVIOUSLY LOVE MUST INVOLVE ATTITUDE, BECAUSE, LIKE EVERY FORM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, IT BEGINS IN THE HEART.

\*\* BUT IT IS BEST DESCRIBED AND TESTIFIED BY WHAT IT DOES.

\*\*\* SO AGAPE LOVE IS NOT A MATTER OF FEELINGS; IT IS A MATTER OF THE WILL. AND AGAIN THAT MEANS LIKING SOMEONE AND LOVING SOMEONE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

\*\*\*\* FOR TO LIKE SOMEONE IS TO HAVE A CERTAIN EMOTIONAL FEELING TOWARD THEM, AND BECAUSE WE CANNOT ENTIRELY CONTROL OUR FEELINGS IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO LIKE EVERYBODY.

7. BUT BECAUSE TRUE LOVE IS AN ACT OF THE WILL AND NOT OF THE FEELINGS, LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE AND THAT MAY ALWAYS EXPRESS ITSELF IN GOOD ACTIONS.

\* SO WE CAN LOVE OUR ENEMIES WHETHER OR NOT WE FEEL LIKE IT. AND LET ME SAY TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES IS A WILL DECISION AND AGAIN IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS SUPERNATURAL. WE **CAN DO IT, IT'S NOT CAN'T BUT WON'T. IT'S MY WILL OVER GOD'S WILL.**



\*\* SO WE HAVE THE CAPACITY AND THE ABILITY TO SUPERNATURALLY LOVE OUR ENEMIES AND JESUS GIVES US THAT COMMAND IN V. 27A AS HE RAISES GOD'S STANDARD TO WHERE IT WAS ORIGINALLY WHEN GOD GAVE IT.

8. NOW WHAT DOES THE ACTION OF LOVE LOOK LIKE? WELL, IN THE FINAL THREE COMMANDS IN OUR TEXT TODAY, JESUS TALKS ABOUT WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE, WHAT THE ACTION IS.

\* AND RATHER THAN SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS, JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT GO BEYOND THE 3 COMMANDS IN VV. 29-**38, WHICH WE'LL LOOK** AT LORD WILLING IN SEPTEMBER.

\*\* AND WE MIGHT SAY, HOW DO I LOVE THEM? WELL LET ME COUNT THE WAYS! THE ACTIONS. AND THEY FOLLOW IN VV. 27B AND V. 28 WITH 3 COMMANDS. LOOK AT COMMAND #2 PLEASE BY LOOKING BACK AT V. 27.

## II. COMMAND #2, (READ V. 27)

A. NOW TO DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE US IS TO LOVE WITH OUR ACTIONS, DOING GOOD TO THOSE WHO DO US WRONG.

\* AND BELOVED IMAGINE SOMEONE WHO HATES YOU, THEN THINK OF DOING SOMETHING NICE FOR HIM OR HER.

\*\* TO DO SOMETHING GOOD. AND THE WORD GOOD HERE DESCRIBES WHAT IS INHERENTLY GOOD, NOT SOMETHING SUPERFICIALLY GOOD, IN OTHER WORDS, HELP THEM TANGIBLY, IT IS OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD, QUOTE ROMANS 12:19-21. (ALSO QUOTE I PETER 3:9)

\*\*\* AND PLEASE GET THIS! WHEN WE AS BELIEVERS FACE HATRED, WE ARE TO RESPOND BY SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THOSE WHO HATE US, THEREBY WE ARE REINFORCING OUR SUPERNATURAL MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL WITH SUPERNATURAL LOVE.

\*\*\*\* THUS THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOSPEL IS AT STAKE AND WE MUST LOVE THE LOST EVANGELISTICALLY.

1. COMMAND #2 IS TO DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE US, WHICH LEADS US TO COMMAND #3. LOOK AT V. 28A PLEASE.

III. COMMAND #3, (READ V. 28A)

**A. NOW THE 2'D TANGIBLE** WAY TO LOVE YOUR ENEMY IS TO BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU.

\* AND WHEREAS COMMAND #2 IS AN ACTION TO DO GOOD, COMMAND #3 IS TO LOVE WITH OUR SPEECH, USING GENTLE WORDS OF GRACE WHEN PEOPLE SPEAK IN ANGER TO US OR LASH OUT AT US VERBALLY AND GIVE US A TONGUE LASHING.

\*\* WE ARE TO REPLY TO BITTER WORDS WITH KIND WORDS, GRACIOUS WORDS.

**\*\*\* AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T TELL**  
THEM THE TRUTH, BUT AS EPHESIANS 4:15 SAYS  
WE ARE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE. (LOVE  
WITHOUT TRUTH IS HERESY AND TRUTH  
WITHOUT LOVE IS HARSHNESS.)

\*\*\*\* AND BY THE WAY, THE WAY TO RESPOND  
TO WRATH AND ANGRY WORDS, IS NOT TO  
HOLLER BACK, BUT WITH A SOFT ANSWER, A  
CONTROLLED GRACIOUS HONEST ANSWER,  
PROVERBS 15:1.

1. NOW TO FURTHER TALK ABOUT BLESSING  
THOSE WHO CURSE US, UNDERSTAND THAT THE  
WORD TRANSLATED BLESS COMES FROM THE  
GREEK WORD EULOGEO FROM WHICH WE DERIVE  
OUR ENGLISH WORD EULOGY.

\* AND TO EULOGIZE SOMEONE AT A FUNERAL IS  
**TO "SPEAK WELL OF THEM." IT LIT. MEANS  
"GOOD TALK."**

\*\* IT CARRIES THE IDEA OF SPEAKING WELL OF SOMEONE TO OTHERS, AVOIDING THE TEMPTATION TO SPEAK EVIL OF THEM, TO CAUSE OTHERS TO THINK ILL OF THAT PERSON, TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR HURT AND GET OTHERS TO THINK POORLY OF THAT PERSON TO GET EVEN WITH THEM.

\*\*\* SO COMMAND #3 IS BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU. **DON'T COME BACK TO THEM WITH EVIL SPEECH AND GO DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL.**

\*\*\*\* WHICH LEADS US TO COMMAND NO. 4, LOOK BACK AT V. 28 PLEASE.

#### IV. COMMAND #4, (READ V. 28)

A. NOW A PATTERN, A PROGRESSION IS REVEALED IN THESE LAST 3 COMMANDS.

\* TO DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU IS TO LOVE WITH ACTION.

\*\* TO BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE US IS TO LOVE WITH OUR SPEECH.

\*\*\* AND NOW COMMAND #4 IS TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT US IS TO LOVE WITH OUR HEARTS ASKING THE LORD TO RESCUE FROM SIN THE PEOPLE WHO HURT US, MISTREAT US OR ABUSE US.

\*\*\*\* AND TOGETHER OUR WORDS, ACTIONS AND PRAYERS FORM A POWERFUL RESPONSE TO THE HATRED OF OUR ENEMIES; IT IS LOVING THEM IN THOSE 3 TANGIBLE WAYS.

1. AND TO PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR ENEMIES HELPS US TO RELEASE UNLOVING FEELINGS THAT WE MAY HAVE TOWARD THEM.

\* AND BELOVED, IT IS HARD TO TRULY PRAY FOR SOMEONE AND HATE THEM AT THE SAME TIME.

\*\* FOR THAT PERSON WE ARE PRAYING FOR EITHER NEEDS SALVATION - THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS OR SANCTIFICATION, HAVING VICTORY OVER SIN AND BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST.

\*\*\* BROTHERS AND SISTERS, PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) ONE WAY TO TEST WHETHER WE ARE KEEPING THIS HARD RADICAL COMMANDMENT, MAYBE THE HARDEST COMMANDMENT OF LOVING OUR ENEMIES, IS TO WORK THROUGH COMMANDMENTS 2-**4 WE'VE JUST COVERED.**

\* WHAT GOOD HAVE I DONE FOR MY ENEMY?

\*\* WHAT WORDS OF BLESSING HAVE I SPOKEN?

\*\*\* WHAT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION HAVE I OFFERED?

\*\*\*\* AND SOMETIMES THE TRANSFORMATION STARTS THROUGH COMMAND #4, THROUGH PRAYER.

(2) FOR WE CANNOT LONG CONTINUE TO HATE SOMEONE WE ARE CONSTANTLY BRINGING **BEFORE GOD'S THRONE** OF GRACE.

\* AND AS WE PRAY WE BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR ENEMIES NEED THE SAME THINGS WE NEED: NO. 1 FORGIVENESS FOR SIN AND NO. 2 THE POWER TO LEAD A HOLY LIFE.

\*\* AND CERTAINLY THIS GIVES US MORE SYMPATHY FOR THEIR SITUATION, ENABLING US TO LOVE.

\*\*\* AND BELOVED, HOW CAN WE THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED COMPLETE AND TOTAL FORGIVENESS IN CHRIST WHEN WE WERE UNWORTHY OF IT, NOT FORGIVE AND LOVE OUR ENEMIES.

\*\*\*\* QUOTE EPHESIANS 4:32 AND COLOSSIANS 3:13.

(3) BELIEVER, I REMIND YOU TODAY, NOT TO OBEY A COMMAND FROM GOD IS WHAT?



**\* SIN!! AND IF YOU DON'T LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**  
TODAY, YOU ARE IN SIN.

\*\* UNBELIEVER, NON-CHRISTIAN, YOUR  
GREATEST NEED TODAY IS FORGIVENESS OF  
SINS, AND HIS NAME IS JESUS CHRIST WHO DIED  
IN THE PLACE OF SINNERS IN HIS LOVE, WAS  
BURIED AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD. EPHESIANS  
1:7 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

**\*\*\* IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS  
YOUR REDEEMER AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN  
FORGIVE YOU, TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT  
FAITH TODAY. (LET'S PRAY)**