

HOW DO YOU TREAT YOUR ENEMIES?
THE NATURE OF YOUR LOVE, or lack of, REVEALS YOUR TRUE NATURE
Matthew 5:43-48

- I. WHAT THE JEWS HAD BEEN TAUGHT CONCERNING THEIR PERSONAL ENEMIES: Love your neighbor, hate your enemy (43)**
- II. HOW GOD SAYS WE ARE TO TREAT OUR PERSONAL ENEMIES: Love them, pray for them, because this demonstrates your sonship (44-45a)**
- A. Love your enemies (44a)

 - B. Pray for your persecutors (44b)

 - C. Because, this supernatural response demonstrates you have a relationship with God, you are in His family (45a)
- III. JESUS GIVES FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS ON HOW TO IDENTIFY THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR LOVE (45b-47)**
- A. **Two examples of the Fathers impartial common grace to all (believer and non believer) (45b)**
 - 1. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good (45b)
 - 2. He sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous (45b)

 - B. **Two illustrations of mans' evil partial love (46-47)**
 - 1. Loving those who love you alone – even vial sinners do that (46)
 - 2. Greeting brothers only – this is what unbelieving do (47)
- IV. THE CONCLUSION WHICH REVEALS OUR TRUE NATURE: We are to become perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (48)**