

Daily devotions for  
2019



**Day 20**  
Matthew 5  
Sermon on the Mount  
Pt5

*43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*  
Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV)

Imagine a school, one much like in the American movies. You have cliques wondering around, gossiping, trading jokes. The popular clique takes the central table, they help each other with their bags, they are kind to one another and chat and laugh. They love one another, surely that's enough? No. They are rude to anyone from the outside. People who try to share the table get shooed away. If someone drops something, they don't help, they laugh.

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

The popular clique is not incapable of love. Of course, they love one another, they are friends. Much like a celebrity loves their fans, they give what they receive. This is not a mean feat, and it is not a bad thing to do. What is bad is only being good to those who are good to you.

Jesus said, 'love your neighbour', aka everyone. This means that we must not only love our friends, and not only love the people around us, but also love [our] enemies and pray for those who persecute [us].

By loving, we bear witness. By praying help bring God's influence on someone's life. It is difficult, but it helps us build the world to a better place. Bringing human kindness can bring light to a dull life, and by bringing God's influence, we bring hope to the darkness. And in some cases, doing this can turn lives around. We are asked to pray that we may be children of your Father in heaven together, and that is a prayer for redemption, for the evil to be saved so that they may share God's kingdom of grace with us.

Lastly, Jesus says 'Be perfect'. No pressure, right? Perfection, however, is impossible for we mere mortals. However, through God, anything is possible (Matthew 19:27). However hard it may be to love our enemies, through prayer and a relationship with God, we are unstoppable.