

Home Group Discussion Questions

TBC SERMON SERIES: Learning From Jesus

Message #8: Active Love

Matthew 5:43-48

Dave Tate

June 4, 2023



To watch or listen to this sermon, go to www.templebiblechurch.org

MY STORY:

- 1) Who or what do you think of when you hear the term “your enemy”? What characteristics makes someone an “enemy”?
- 2) Do you have people in your life currently that you feel hate you or are out to get you? Explain.

QUICK REVIEW:

This week we continue with our series Learning From Jesus, a look at the Sermon on the Mount. This is probably the most famous teaching section by Jesus found in Scripture, providing his disciples a contrasting framework for viewing their lives with each other and God than was popularly held. Was there anything from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How would you summarize the main ideas of this week's message?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Matthew 5:43-45.

- 1) What would someone mean by “love your neighbor and hate your enemy”?
- 2) How does Jesus correct what they have been told? Why would that be hard to do? How did he live that out in his life?
- 3) What does it mean to love our enemies? What would that look like in life?
- 4) What does it mean to “be sons of your Father who is in heaven”? How does loving your enemies result in that?
- 5) Verse 45 describes what is called Common Grace. Can you think of other ways God allows the unjust to experience good things just like the “just”? How can that be “righteous”?

Read Matthew 5:46-48.

- 6) What is Jesus's point in vs. 46 & 47? Why does he say it is nothing special to love those who love you?
- 7) Can unbelievers (Gentiles and tax collectors) have true, even sacrificial, love for their friends? If so, how are Christian relationships different?
- 8) What is Jesus commanding in vs. 48? What does he mean? Is his command reasonable?

TAKING IT HOME:

- 1) Is there anyone in your life that you feel is "against you" or persecuting you that you need to purposefully love and pray for?
- 2) What specific thing(s) might you do this week to purposefully bless those that are not people you consider friends or that you even dislike, to be like your Father in heaven?

Prayer Requests:

