

LOVE LIKE GOD LOVES
MATTHEW 5:43-48

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is the family of God. (1 Tim. 3.15; Eph. 3.15; 5.32)
2. As a family, we have God as our Father. [Read Matt. 5.43-48]
 - a) We are commanded to love.
 - b) We are called “*the sons of your Father*”
3. As the children of God, we are to love the way God loves.

I. LOVING THOSE WHO ARE DIFFICULT

- A. Loving those who hurt you.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.44:** “*love your enemies*”
 2. Jesus is an example. (Luke 23.34)
- B. Loving those who are ungodly.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.45:** “*He makes His sun rise on the evil...*”
 2. God is good in contrast to evil. (Rom. 2.4; 2 Thess. 2.11)
 3. Jesus is an example. (Luke 23.43; Rom. 5.8)
 4. Do you love the ungodly? (Gal. 5.19-21)
- C. Loving those who do not love you.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.46:** “*For if you love those who love you...*”
 2. Jesus is an example. (Mark 10.21,22)
- D. Loving those who are not your brethren.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.47:** “*if you greet your brethren only...*”
 2. We are to love one another, but also those who are not our brethren. (Heb. 13.1; 1 John 4.7-12)

II. HOW DO WE LOVE THE DIFFICULT?

- A. **EPHESIANS 5.1,2:** “*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love*”
 1. “Therefore” reminds us of the context.
 2. This is a context about those who mistreat us.
- B. There are two things we are to do to show love.
 1. We are to remove some things. (Eph. 4.31)
 2. We are to add some things. (Eph. 4.32)

CONCLUSION: What a blessing to be loved by God.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

January 30, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THREE WITNESSES OF CHRIST

Before one could be found guilty of a crime deserving death, the Law of Moses required two or three witnesses (Deut. 17.6). There was a reason why one witness was insufficient. Anyone could fabricate testimony. Therefore, two or three witnesses were necessary.

The fact that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God did not mean that His testimony was not true (John 8.13,14). However, His testimony still needed to be collaborated (John 5.31). Indeed, Jesus brought with Him four distinct witnesses that verified that He was the Christ.

First, there was John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a man who was vocal about Jesus (John 5.32-35). In the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry, John the Baptist saw Him and declared, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1.29).

Second, there were the works that Jesus performed. The very works that Jesus did bore witness of Him (John 5.36). While you may not be willing to believe the words of Jesus, there could be no doubt that He was the Son of God by the evidence of His miracles. (John 10.37,38).

Third, God Himself, bore witness to Christ (John 5.37). Inspiration records twice the voice of God proclaiming that Jesus was His Son. On both occasions, a voice came from heaven which said, “This is My Beloved Son” (Matt. 3.17; 17.5).

Fourth, the Law of Moses testified of Christ (John 5.38,39). The Old Testament is filled with details of the coming Christ. All are fulfilled perfectly in Jesus.

With these witnesses, how can one not believe in Christ. CLP

WHEN JESUS COMES

MATTHEW 2:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. We need to give attention to the second coming of Christ and be prepared when that day comes.
2. The first coming of Christ will better help us understand His second coming. [Read Matthew 2.1-13]
3. Notice the first and second coming of Christ.

I. THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST

- A. Jesus came as King of the Jews.
 1. “King”, “Christ”, “Ruler”. (Matt. 2.2,4,5)
 2. As He hung on the cross, Jesus bore the title, “King of the Jews” (John 19.19-21).
- B. A star appeared.
 1. The star led the wise men to Christ. (Matt. 2.2,7,9,10)
 2. Among innumerable stars, God miraculously placed a star to announce the arrival of Christ. (cf. Gen. 22.17)
- C. Angels came on the scene.
 1. The wise men and Joseph were visited by angels with a message of warning. (Matt. 2.12,13)
 2. Luke further expounds on the role angels played in the infancy of Christ. (Luke 2.8-14)

II. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- A. Jesus will come as King.
 1. Jesus calls Himself as the “Son of Man” (Matt. 25.31)
 2. The Son of Man in Old Testament prophecy will have “dominion, glory, and a kingdom” (Dan. 7.13,14).
- B. Stars will disappear.
 1. When Jesus comes, “the heavens will pass away with a great noise...” (2 Pet. 3.10)
 2. Will you be ready? (2 Pet. 3.11)
- C. Angels come on the scene.
 1. When Jesus returns, how many angels will come with Jesus? All of them. (Matt. 25.31; 26.53; Heb. 12.22)
 2. Jesus will be revealed with His angels. (1 Thess. 4.16)
 3. Will you be ready? (2 Thess. 1.7-9)

CONCLUSION: Jesus will come in glory. (Matt. 25.31; Phil. 2.10)

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN: REPENTING

The book of Acts is an historical account of the gospel being preached, and as a result, people were saved and the church was established. From the book of Acts, we can read about the various conditions, things that people were told to do in order to become Christians. One such account is found in Acts 3.

In Acts 3, Peter is preaching about Jesus to an audience in the temple in Jerusalem. To this audience, Peter said, “*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out*” (Acts 3.19). Through the apostle Peter, the Holy Spirit says that to be converted to Christ (become a Christian), you must repent. This was not the first time that Peter tells us that repentance is a requirement for salvation. He told his audience in the previous chapter to “repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2.38). Later, the apostle Paul told his audience in Athens that “*God commands all men everywhere to repent*” (Acts 17.30). In fact, no less than ten times in the book of Acts, repentance is commanded in order to be forgiven and become a Christian.

What are the lost being told to do? What is repentance? The Greek word translated as “repentance” expresses the idea of changing your mind. There are things you have been doing that are not in keeping with God’s will. You are living a lifestyle that is different than the one God expects. When you come to realize that, you have a change of heart. You decide you no longer are going to live that way, and instead conform your life to the life God wants you to live as prescribed in the Bible. In Matthew 12, Jesus tells us that the people of Nineveh, “*repented at the preached of Jonah*” (Matt. 12.41). If you turn to Jonah and read about what the people of Nineveh did, you learn that they “*turned from their evil way.*” They had a change of heart that resulted in a change of life.

If you are not a Christian, God is pleading with you through us to “*be reconciled to God*” (2 Cor. 5.20). To be reconciled to God enjoying His forgiveness and becoming one of His children, a Christian, God wants you to hear about His plan of salvation (Rom. 1.16; 10.17). God requires that you believe in Jesus with the kind of faith that obeys His commands (Rom. 5.1). God expects you to change the way you live – Repent. And God expects you to be baptized (which we will cover next week.). If you are not a Christian, we implore you to think about these things. CLP