

FOLLOWING LOVE – 4
AUGUST 22, 2018

REVIEW:

- When saved, God’s divine love exploded within.
- Love is proof of being saved.
- We love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- We love others as we love ourselves, and as Jesus loved us.
- Faith is energized by love.

CONTINUE: MATTHEW 5:43-48 – We are to love our enemies. Masab Hassan Yousef is the son of one of the founders of the militant terrorist organization “ Hamas.” He was a faithful follower of Islam until someone gave him a New Testament and he read the Sermon on the Mount. What opened his eyes was what Jesus said about loving our enemies. “I was thunderstruck” he said. All other religions say “love your friends and neighbors,” but Jesus said “love your enemies.” He became a Christian.

THE BAR IS RAISED – MATTHEW 5:20

Jesus raised the bar on works for righteousness to explain a need for righteousness that exceeds the law. Some teachers say the Sermon on the Mount teachings are not for this age because where you have conditions, you don’t have grace, and where you have grace, you don’t have conditions. The reality is that Jesus was showing them their need for righteousness that could only come by grace through faith.

SIX COMMANDMENTS, PERTAINING TO, MATTHEW 5
Beginning with “you have heard it was said...but I say unto you.”

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| <p>1. Murder – V21-22</p> <p>2. Adultery – V27-28</p> <p>3. Divorce – V31-32</p> | <p>4. Oaths – V33-34</p> <p>5. Retaliation – V38-39</p> <p>6. Loving enemies – V43-44</p> |
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- A. Jesus was referring to a righteousness that would come by grace through faith – that would enable us to treat others the way we want to be treated. This is letting our light shine among men, and this is what glorifies God!

LOVING OUR ENEMIES – MATTHEW 5:44

1. Who is the enemy?
 - A. Those who curse us, who speak evil of us. Who slander us or spread false rumors about us. Who put us down with words.
 - B. Those who hate us. Who are hostile toward us. Who have intense, passionate dislike for us.
 - C. Those who use us. Who take advantage of us, having only regard for themselves and their personal gain.
 - D. Those who persecute us. Who pursue with harmful intentions, such as Saul of Tarsus. Who go against our desires and are antagonistic toward us.
2. How to love our enemies. **ROMANS 12:19-21, LUKE 6:30-38**
 - A. Bless them or speak well of or to them. Don’t slander them.
 - B. Do good or show them good will. Feed, clothe and perform acts of kindness that penetrate their conscience.
 - C. Pray for them as Jesus and Stephen did before dying.
 - D. Lend to them.
 - F. Be merciful to them.
 - G. Don’t judge or condemn them, but forgive them.
 - H. Pray for their salvation just as Paul did. **ROMANS 10:1**
 - **MATTHEW 5:11-12** – We will be rewarded greatly for enduring persecution and rejoicing when mistreated for Christ.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

MATTHEW 5:46-48 – Following love is following God and leads to spiritual maturity.