

Resource Sheet 66

(all NKJV version)

Matthew 5: 43-48

⁴³"You have heard that it was said,
..... ⁴⁴But I say to you,
do to those who hate you, and for those who spitefully use you
and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be;
for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and
on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you, what reward have you?
Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren¹ only,
what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors² do so? ⁴⁸Therefore
you shall be, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Without checking the Scripture, insert the correct missing phrase above:-

love those who love you

love your enemies, bless those who curse you,

pray

'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'

perfect

good

sons of your Father in heaven

¹ Manuscript variant: "friends".

² Manuscript variant: "Gentiles".

Romans 5:6-11

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

A **Homily of St Anthony the Great** to help us understand this passage:-

God is good, without passions and unchangeable. One who understands that it is sound and true to affirm that God does not change might very well ask: 'how, then, is it possible to speak of God as rejoicing over those who are good, becoming merciful to those who know Him and, on the other hand, shunning the wicked and being angry with sinners.' We must reply to this, that God neither rejoices nor grows angry, because to rejoice and to be angered are passions. Nor is God won over by gifts from those who know Him, for that would mean that He is moved by pleasure. It is not possible for the Godhead to have the sensation of pleasure or displeasure from the condition of humans, God is good, and He bestows only blessings, and never causes harm, but remains always the same. If we humans, however, remain good by means of resembling Him, we are united to Him, but if we become evil by losing our resemblance to God, we are separated from Him. By living in a holy manner, we unite ourselves to God; by becoming evil, however, we become at enmity with Him. It is not that He arbitrarily becomes angry with us, but that our sins prevent God from shining within us, and expose us to the demons who make us suffer. If through prayer and acts of compassionate love, we gain freedom from our sins, this does not mean that we have won God over and made Him change, but rather that by means of our actions and turning to God, we have been healed of our wickedness, and returned to the enjoyment of God's goodness. To say that God turns away from the sinful is like saying that the sun hides itself from the blind. (St Antony the Great, Cap. 150).

What it requires from me to love my enemy