

Notes for Matthew 5:43-48

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

The Hatfield-McCoy feud was a violent conflict between two Appalachian families along the Kentucky-West Virginia border. Lasting nearly 30 years, from about 1863-1891, it was fueled mostly by personal revenge and resulted in at least 12 deaths, many more injured and much property loss

In Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, two Italian families, the Montagues and the Capulets are "at war" with each other in a long-standing blood feud. In their hatred, almost anytime their paths cross, swords are drawn and violence ensues. It took the tragic deaths of 16-year-old Romeo and 13-year-old Juliet to unite the two families.

Leviticus 19:18 - *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.*

Matthew 22:39 - *And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Exodus 23:4-5 - *If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. 5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.*

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus tells a parable to define "neighbor" as anyone in need, regardless of background. After a traveler is beaten and ignored by religious leaders, a despised Samaritan shows compassion by treating his wounds, providing lodging, and paying for his care. Jesus challenges the listener to "go and do likewise"

In *Jonah*, chapter 4, Jonah is so furious that God is merciful to his enemies that he has a tantrum. It's almost comical to read what he says and does. God exposes that Jonah's problem isn't a lack of scriptural knowledge – it's a loveless heart.

Luke 6:27-28 - *But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.*

Agapaō (aga-pow) Greek word for a type of love that is active and intentional.

Romans 12:14 - *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

Luke 23:34 - *And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.*

Acts 7:59-60 - *And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Acts 14:17 - *Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.*

Romans 2:4 - *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

Luke 6:32 - *If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.*

Romans 5:8 - *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Hosea 3 depicts God commanding Hosea to redeem his unfaithful wife, Gomer, from adultery. This symbolizes God's unconditional love and commitment to restoring Israel despite their spiritual infidelity and shows us a love that moves toward the undeserving, not away from them.

Genesis 13:8 - *Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.*

Matthew 27:32 - *As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.*

