



ONE AWESOME SERMON:
LOVE ON A BATTLEFIELD?

Matthew 5:43-48



VS. 43

Love your neighbor? (See Lev. 19:16-18)

Sounds easy enough, if you have neighbors like mine

Hate your enemy? Sounds easy enough, if you have enemies like mine



“BUT I SAY...” VS. 44

“love your enemies”

“pray for those who persecute you”

They may well be a real mess.

And if not, you may well be a real mess.



To love, bless, do good to and pray for our enemies
requires a greater strength than we naturally possess

Consider Rom. 7:7ff

See Rom. 8:5-11



VS. 45

“Sons of” Following in the steps of. Treating others according to His example

What is His example?

Sunshine and rain for all. “Common grace”

RAISING THE BAR VSS. 46-47

Even tax collectors and pagans return good for good

Tax collectors were hated by the Jews and were often used by Jesus to represent the worst kind of people

Who is your pattern and example?

BE PERFECT? VS. 48

In context, mature in love

An impossible standard (See James 2:10)

Once again, Christ attained this perfection for us!
(Matt. 5:17-20; 2 Cor. 5:21)



Consider two examples

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Jesus Christ Rom. 5:6-11; Phil. 3:18-19; Eph. 2:1-10