

Red Letter Living

"Love Your Enemies"

(Matthew 5:43-44)

- Introduction:
1. Never has a man impacted the world as did Jesus.
 2. His life and his teachings stand as a testimony to his claim to be the Son of God.
 3. When Jesus spoke, his words were weighty and authoritative (John 7:32-47; Mark 1:22).
 4. In most of our Bibles, the words of Jesus have been set apart by being printed in red.
 - a. One is not to conclude that these words are any more important than the other words of the Bible.
 5. However, for the next few weeks, we are going to examine a few of the "Red Letter" words of the Bible; and take those words off the page and put them into practice.

I. Love Your Enemies

- A. (Matthew 5:43-44).
- B. This statement was made in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount.
- C. This sermon is the longest recorded sermon of Jesus, and surely contains some of the most startling and challenging commands.
- D. There has never been a time when it was easy or popular to love our enemies, but this is what Jesus called us to do.

II. How Do We Love Our Enemies?

- A. Have compassion on your offender (Romans 12:17-21; Matthew 5:44).
- B. Separate the sinner from the sin (Psalm 27:7; Romans 7:17).
- C. Pray for them (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- D. Go to your offender (Matthew 18:15-17).
- E. Recall times when you, yourself were in the wrong (Romans 2:1).
- F. View it through the eyes of faith.

- Conclusion:
1. Do you have enemies? If so, love them!
 2. It's not optional, it's a command.
 3. Being a disciple of Jesus is not easy; it's challenging.
 4. But let's get serious about discipleship and begin living out those "Red Letters."