

## Walking Through the Mount - 8

Love Your Enemies – Matthew 5:43-48

### Introduction: “An Eye for an Eye... Do Not Resist an Evil Person”

1. “Turn the other cheek” - wrongful treatment of my **person**.
2. “Let him have your cloak” – wrongful treatment of my **possessions**.
3. “Go the second mile” - surrender of my rights in **principle**.
4. “Give to him who asks and to him who wishes to borrow” - surrender of my **position**.
5. There is no efficacy, that is, nothing to be gained in the first cheek, the first garment, or the first mile. It is the second cheek, the second garment, and the second mile that truly represents the life and message of Jesus.
6. However! All these can be done without **love** for the offender, which leads us to this study.

### Body: Let Us Go on to Perfection

1. The **Command** - “Love your enemies”
  - a. “Bless those who curse you.”
  - b. “Do good to those who hate you.”
  - c. “Pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you.”
  - d. Note the intensified response of the child of God.
2. The **Countenance** - “That you may be the sons of your Father in heaven.”
  - a. We bear the image of our earthly parents - Genesis 5:3
  - b. Christians should bear the image of Jesus - Romans 8:29
  - c. We shall bear the image of Jesus in heaven:
    - i. Philippians 3:20-21
    - ii. 1 John 3:1-3
  - d. Philippians 1:20-21 - I want to magnify Christ

3. The **Completion** - “Therefore you shall be perfect.”
  - a. i.e., ‘When you do these things, you will be like God.’
  - b. Satan tempted Eve with the idea of being like God, but problem was that she had to disobey God to do it.
  - c. The only way to share in the attributes of God is to obey God – 1 Peter 1:13-16

### Application: Who is or who may be my enemy?

1. Anyone in verses 39-42
2. Anyone in verse 44
3. But some enemies may be more subtle:
  - a. My friends
    - i. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12), Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 24)
    - ii. Proverbs 19:27
    - iii. 1 Corinthians 15:33
  - b. My family
    - i. Matthew 10:34-39, cf v 21
    - ii. Solomon’s wives turned his heart from God
  - c. My government

### Conclusion: