

April 15, 2018

Title: Love, Pray, Bless!

Matthew 5:43-48



Peace be with you.  
AS THE FATHER HAS  
**SENT ME,**  
—EVEN SO I AM—  
**SENDING YOU.**

John 20:21, ESV

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus **began** to preach, saying,

**Repent,**

for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.



*Repent = Rethink  
A new perspective.*

Repent =  
Rethink  
A new  
perspective.

How, then,  
shall we  
live after  
Easter?



"WERE YOU THERE...?"

so that as  
Christ was  
**raised**  
from the  
dead by  
the glory  
of the  
Father, *we*  
*too might*  
*walk in*  
*newness*  
*of life.*



The Invitation:  
*Let Jesus explain it.*

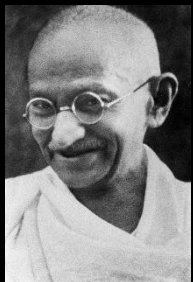


Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'



What do the rules allow you to do?

Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'



An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

39 But I say to you, Do not resist  
one who is evil. But if any one  
strikes you on the right cheek,  
turn to him  
the other  
also;



**Only mercy  
stops the cycle.**

ARE YOU COMING TO BED?

I CAN'T. THIS  
IS IMPORTANT.

WHAT?

SOMEONE IS WRONG  
ON THE INTERNET.



Duty Calls  
by XKCD.  
*(no, it  
doesn't.)*

**Only  
mercy  
stops the  
cycle.**



*Where Jesus is going with this:* Matthew 5:43

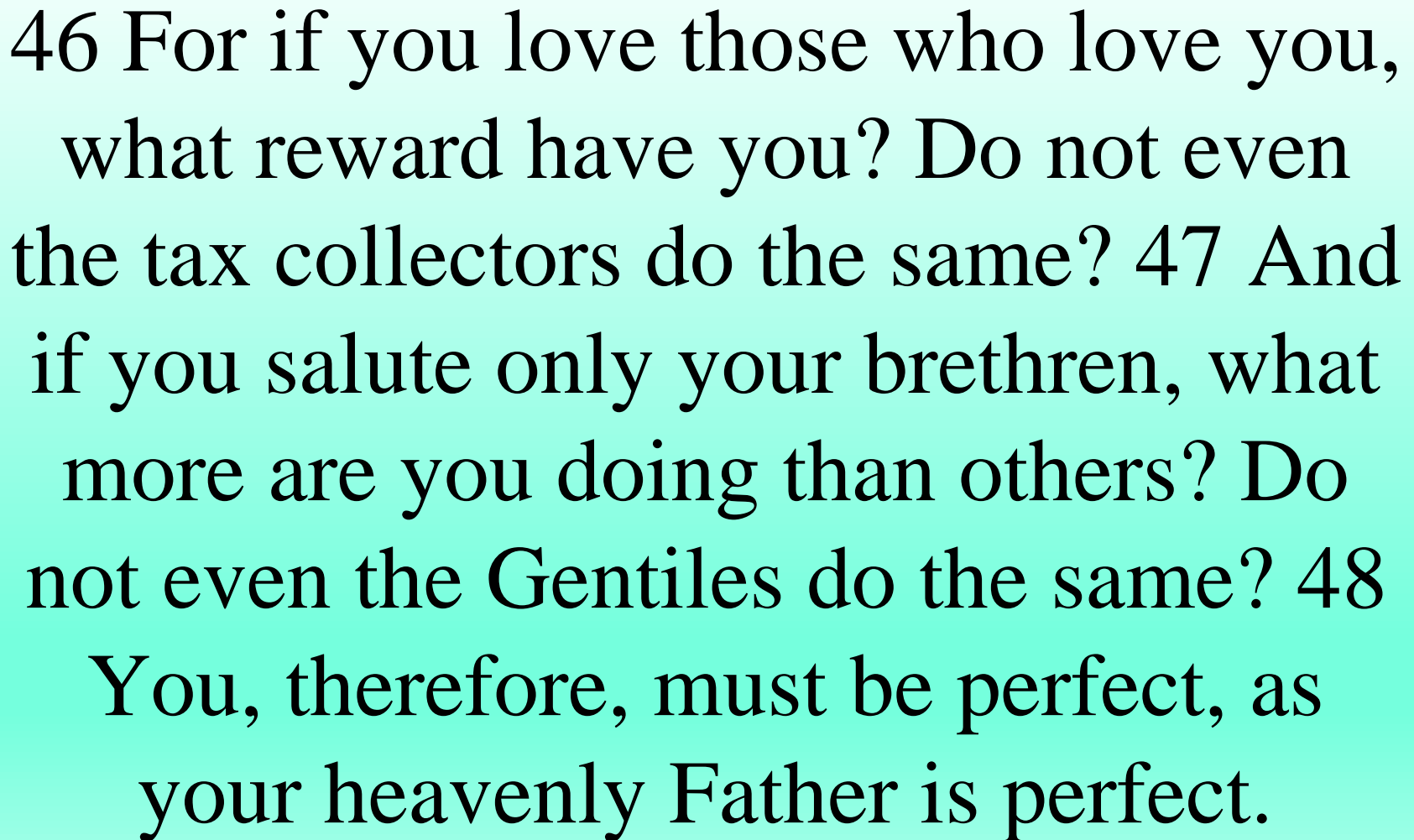
"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'



44 But I say to you, Love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute you ...

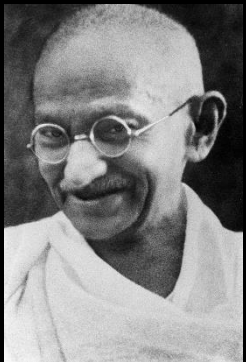
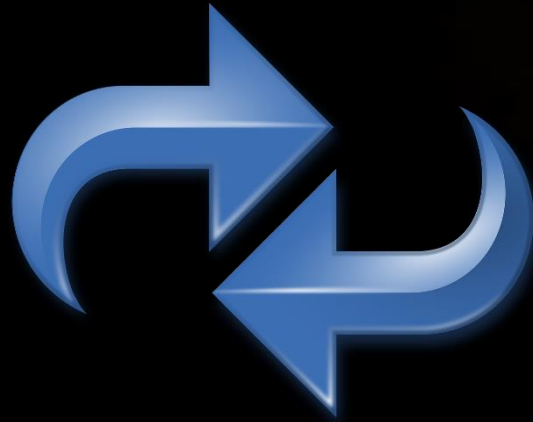


45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.



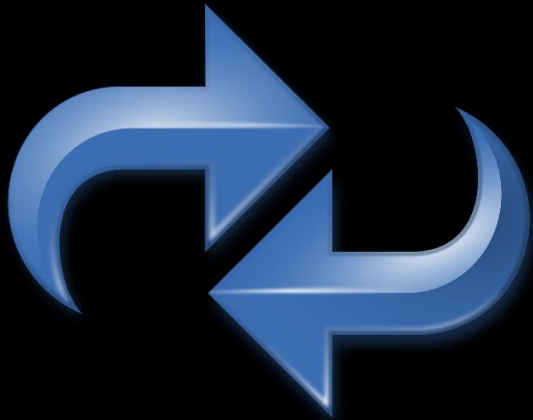
46 For if you love those who love you,  
what reward have you? Do not even  
the tax collectors do the same? 47 And  
if you salute only your brethren, what  
more are you doing than others? Do  
not even the Gentiles do the same? 48  
You, therefore, must be perfect, as  
your heavenly Father is perfect.

We all have to ask ourselves: *by what we say, by what we do*, is the world a darker place, or does the light of heaven shine brighter?



An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

If you want to see miracles of transformation, stay out of God's way.



What goes around,  
comes around ...

but it's not YOUR interfering that  
makes it come out right.



John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.



21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



4

Peace be with you.  
AS THE FATHER HAS  
**SENT ME,**  
—EVEN SO I AM—  
**SENDING YOU.**

**Luke 23:34 And Jesus said,  
"Father, forgive them; for they  
know not what they do."**

We are  
going on to  
perfection ...



44 But I say to you, Love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute you 45  
so that you may be sons of your Father  
who is in heaven ... 48 You, therefore,  
must be perfect,  
as your heavenly  
Father is  
perfect.



**Why not?**