

# KINGDOM LIFE

OUTRAGEOUS HOPE  
FOR ORDINARY LIFE

A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH  
JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT





Matthew 5:39b

“But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”



*My Personal Scoreboard*

*What I "owe" you  
What you "owe" me*





## ***1) Grace and Mercy Ride In***

Palm Sunday, when Jesus rides into Jerusalem to great fanfare only to later be abused and abandoned on a cross, from which he showers forgiveness (mercy) and love (grace) on the very ones that put him there.

## ***2) Grace and Mercy Rise Up***

Easter Sunday, when Jesus rises up from the grave, defeating sin and death as he fully pays our debts (mercy) and gives us his life (grace), which pushed us outward to love the way we've been loved.





## Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?<sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?<sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.





'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

## *The Ambiguous "They"*

We stereotype and demonize ("hate") many who disagree with us. Some for petty reasons, some for significant reasons.

NYT - OpEd Arthur C. Brooks

Political scientists have found that our nation is more polarized than it has been at any time since the Civil War... (coming from) the assumption that your ideology is based in love, while your opponent's is based in hate.

People often say that our problem in America today is incivility or intolerance. This is incorrect. (It is) something far worse: *contempt*, which is a noxious brew of anger and disgust. And not just contempt for other people's ideas, but also for other people.

This is a chance to change at least one heart — yours. Respond with warmheartedness and good humor. You are guaranteed to be happier. If that also affects the contemptuous person (or bystanders), it will be to the good.



‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

*The Specific him or her*

We have all been painfully wronged and may rightfully “hate” somebody for what they have done to us.





<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,  
<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus is asking for the absolutely impossible,  
even ridiculous and seemingly inappropriate.  
I can't "love" that person ... those people!

- How have we been Loved
- How we can be empowered to Love





## I Am “They”

### Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.





John 19:30  
When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "***It is finished,***" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

"Perfect"  
Utterly complete;  
Finished.

Matthew 5:48  
You therefore must be ***perfect,*** as your heavenly Father is ***perfect.***

This is a glorious calling...  
not to moralism,  
but to belief,  
which leads to love.





## 1 Corinthians 15

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time...<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

*'At this time there was a wise man ... Jesus. ... good, and ... virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned Him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that He had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that He was alive'... (Josephus, Antiquities xviii. 33, 95<sub>AD</sub>)*





## Personal Renewal

John 21:15-17

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."<sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

### Resurrection Mercy

Every ounce of rebellion;  
every errant behavior;  
every selfish motive;  
every loose word;  
every love left undone...

Has been completely paid for  
on the Cross.

...cast into the oceans;  
hid behind God's back;  
he remembers them no more





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## Resurrection Grace

### Value

We personally matter;  
We have priceless  
significance;

### Purpose & Power

We personally matter;  
We have God's Power in the  
Spirit to love the way we've  
been loved.



## Renewed Creation

### Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."





## Whole Renewal

Your bad things  
will turn out for  
good

Your good things  
can never be taken  
away from you

Your best things  
are yet to come

- Jonathan Edwards, 1720 (when he was 18 yrs old)





Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am!  
Who will deliver me from  
this body of death? <sup>25</sup>  
Thanks be to God through  
Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:20

But in fact Christ has been raised from  
the dead, the firstfruits of those who  
have fallen asleep.

<sup>54b</sup> *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

<sup>55</sup> *“O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”*

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the  
power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks  
be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

