



HILLSIDE'S JULY – AUGUST SERMON SERIES AND DAILY MATERIAL

It is not easy to follow the Lord Jesus.

He said things that sometimes seem to us to be impossible or undoable. Should you mutilate yourself (“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off”) or love your enemies (“I tell you: love your enemies”) or never find fault (“Do not judge”)?

But behind all these statements of Jesus there are the most wonderful keys to life. Not only do they make life possible, but are secrets that create the way for us to a meaningful life and good relationships.

Week 1: The Key of Being Poor in Spirit

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

Week 3: The Key of Living a Pure Life

Week 4: The Key of Denying Oneself

Week 5: They Key of Suffering for Jesus

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

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MONDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Matthew 5:43

THIS IS PERSONAL, "LOVE YOUR ENEMEY"

Matthew 5:43 ⁴³ *"You have heard that it was said,
'Love your neighbor^l and hate your enemy.'*

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This is not about good and evil, right or wrong, it's about love. Love doesn't change; it's the same love for your neighbour as for your enemy. The love remains the same, enemy or neighbour, friend, good or bad makes no difference. Which is easier for you; to love your neighbour or to hate your enemy?

Prayer: Father, I was Your enemy once, You didn't hate me, You loved me. Thank You that this same love with which You loved me is now in me, so I can love my enemy because of this love of God that is in me. Help me not to see the hate of my enemy but to see Your love for me and do the same to them as You did to me, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

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TUESDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Matthew 5: 44

BUT JESUS SAYS

Matthew 5:44 ⁴⁴ *But I say to you, love your enemies; bless those cursing you, do well to those hating you; and pray for those abusing and persecuting you.*

Jesus brought them back to God's law, His standard of righteousness. Then He raised the bar; by saying, BUT I say to you. Man's way is to hate your enemy, God's way is to Love your enemy. It's what God expects of us as His disciples. The Old Testament Commandments (10 Commandments) were written on tablets of stone, hard and unmovable. But now He has written them on our hearts, soft and merciful. (See *Hebrews 10:16*). Is there someone that persecutes you? Start to pray for them, each day it's the first step in loving them.

Prayer: Father, I pray for (put their name here) that You will shine in their heart the light of the glorious gospel, turn them from darkness to the light of Jesus Christ. I pray against all the plans and purposes of the devil to steal, kill and destroy from their lives and call those plans confused and brought to nothing. I pray that only Your plans and purpose for their lives will succeed and prosper. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Matthew 5:45

IMITATE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Matthew 5:45 ⁴⁵ *...so that you may become sons of your Father in heaven. Because He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust.*

We show that we are God's sons because we do what He does. And this is how God does it. (John 3:16) For **God so** loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

There's a small word in this scripture,, "SO"; it says to us "This is the God did it", He sent His Son even when we were His enemies, we hated Him, we crucified Him. That word "SO" changes everything, it gives God's love for the world action, makes it work, it demonstrates His Love in a way that cannot be denied.

Prayer: Father, Your love changed everything in my life. Before I was born You loved me, even though You knew what I would do and what I will still will do, it did not change Your love for me. Help me to SO love like You SO loved me, to do good to those that don't know You, those that don't deserve mercy to be merciful to them as You are to me. I want to imitate You Father, so people will see the good works and glorify You Father and my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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THURSDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Luke 23: 34

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

Luke 23: 34 ³⁴*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And dividing His garments, they cast a lot.*

This wasn't a once off prayer; the imperfect tense suggests He repeated this throughout this ordeal. Jesus set us the example to Love our enemy. This is a personal enemy, someone that hates you. To love them in your own strength is impossible to do BUT as Christians we are not alone in this, we have the Holy Spirit too help us, to strengthen us and enable us to love in this way. To pray for your enemy is the first step in loving them. What stops you from praying for your enemy?

Prayer: Father, if I was there on that day when they crucified Your Son; I would have also been shouting with the crowd, "Crucify him, crucify him". Thank You for Your forgiveness, I also forgive those that have wronged me, hated me, persecuted me and abused me in any way. As Jesus forgave me I will forgive others. Amen.

FRIDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Matthew 5: 48

LEARN THE RULE FIRST

Matthew 5:48 ⁴⁸ *Therefore, you will be perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect..*

There are lots of excuses we could use and scenarios we could think of to not love our enemy BUT Jesus doesn't give us any options, He just says it, "Love those that hate you". Let's not look for exceptions **but first learn the rule of Loving our enemy** and take each case as it comes along in the light of the Word of God. When we've learned the RULE of loving our enemy we will know how to apply it in every situation.

Loving your enemy sets the follower of Jesus apart from others.

Prayer: Father, to be perfect like You are is for me an impossible task, but I realize I'm not who I used to be because You have come into my life. I am without excuse, no matter what others do to me. As I learn to walk in Your ways I am able to do what You've called me to do. In Jesus name and by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit I am able to be perfect as You are Father . Amen.

SATURDAY

Daily Reading

Week 6: The Key of Loving Your Enemy

Hebrews 12: 1-3

IT STARTS ON THE INSIDE

Hebrews 12: 2 ²...*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Also Hebrews 12: 1-3)*

Loving your enemy is a work that starts on the inside and can only be achieved by the grace of God. Loving your enemy sets the follower of Jesus apart from all others; it means we surrender our personal rights. Our focus should be on Jesus more than on ourselves; He is working in us by His Holy Spirit and His Word, He is the Author and the finisher of our faith.

Prayer: Father, since the day I gave my life to You, You have been working in me, changing me from the inside out. My efforts to change myself I must admit have been useless. I've tried to love my enemy, those that hate me or have done me wrong because I am Christian and I've failed miserably. So I surrender to You Lord Jesus, have Your way in my life, lead and guide me into Your truth. My desire is to be more like You in every way, be glorified in me and through me. Amen.
