

Matthew 5:43-47

Romans 5:8

Today is the 6th and final picture of genuine _____. Remember Jesus commented that unless your righteousness _____ that of the pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Today, his final example is, perhaps, the hardest. He _____ that we _____ our _____. There are four basic Greek words for love. Two occur in the NT, while two do not. The Greek word _____ refers to a strong affection. The word in our text today, John 3:16 and many others, is _____. It is a love that doesn't change because of conditions. It loves even when the object is _____ or _____. It loves when there are reasons to discourage it.

I. Jesus Quotes the Old Testament.

One issue here is that S/P have left off two words: _____. The Jews had determined loving neighbors was only other _____. These Jews loved to be heard, to be recognized and thought these were due them.

II. Jesus Exposes False Teaching.

The S/P had left of "as yourself" and added _____. This phrase is not in the OT. They knew that it was much easier to love those close to them and easy to hate those who were not. The _____ were the easy targets here.

III. Jesus Offers His Perspective.

Jesus mandates that these Jews _____ their _____. He uses the word _____ here, implying it is independent of the person, regardless of _____ or _____. This love is sacrificial, not _____, an act of the _____. Love is the _____ that thing thatd enables a man _____, to turn the other cheek, and go that extra mile, give the cloak. Jesus is telling us here that it's not merely enough from striking back but that we must love our enemies.

"To return evil for good is _____. To return good for good is _____. To return good for evil is _____."