

Hope Presbyterian Church  
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



September 29, 2024

“Love Enemies” - #4 in the series *In Good Faith: Our Love Is Our Witness*

**Texts Referenced (NLT):** Matthew 5:43-48, Proverbs 25:21, Exodus 23:4-5, Luke 23:34

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Think about someone who always seemed to “have it in for you” as a kid.
  - Why do your memories about this person seem so clear even now?
  - How did your experience influence how you think about the idea of loving your enemies?
3. **Read Matthew 5:43-45.**

Loving our enemies - much less praying for them - seems counterintuitive. Many of us are reluctant even to identify others as our enemy.

  - How do you describe someone who is an enemy?
  - Why is it important to understand that “God gives his sunlight” to all of us, even to our enemies?
4. **Read Matthew 5:46-48, Luke 23:34.**
  - What makes forgiving someone who has wronged or injured you so complicated - seemingly impossible?
  - How do you interpret Jesus’ words, “You are to be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect,” in the context of loving your enemies?
5. **Read Exodus 23:4-5, Proverbs 25:21-22 .**
  - How do the examples of loving our enemies - taking action - also suggest a process of reconciliation?
  - Is forgiveness without reconciliation possible? How?
6. How can we pray for you?