

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley



A Higher Calling

Matthew 5:43:48

Love Your Enemy

Jesus describes our response as:

Blessing those who curse you – Fruitful words, words that have meaning, matter and are encouraging

- Romans 12:9-14 "**Bless those** who persecute you; bless and do not curse."
- 1 Corthianians 12:4 "And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, **we bless**; being persecuted, **we endure**;"

Doing **good** to those who hate you – Helpful action, to reach out and help someone

Praying for those who spitefully use you and persecute you – Spiritual intervention

- Romans 8:26 "but the **Spirit** Himself makes **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered".
- James 5:16 "The effective, **fervent prayer of a righteous man** avails much" – Are you and I right with God so our prayer would be effective?

Jesus describes an enemy as someone who:

Curses you

- By words spoken
- Talked down to, loud
- Humiliation, embarrassment
- Bringing harm through words

Hates you

- Thoughts kept in the heart
- Thoughts born in the heart and stay in the heart

Spitefully use you and persecute you

- Does some action to hurt you

You shall be complete in Christ

Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you shall be **perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Perfect = Complete, Spiritual Maturity, Finished.

Philippians 1:6, Colossians 2:10,