FBC SUMMIT

Daily Bible Reading Plan
Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus calls His followers to love beyond the boundaries of friendship, familiarity, and reciprocity. We are to love our enemies, pray for those who mistreat us, and reflect the perfect love of our heavenly Father.

Monday, October 12, 2026
Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain: Jesus challenges His followers to love people who may not love them in return. Christian love is not limited to people who are easy to love or who treat us well. Jesus calls us to demonstrate the kind of love that reflects God's character.

Apply: Think about the people you naturally find difficult to love. What would it look like to show Christlike love toward them?

Respond: Ask God to give you a heart that loves difficult people.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain: Jesus connects loving our enemies with praying for them. Prayer changes our posture toward people. Instead of wishing harm on someone who has hurt us, we can bring that person before God and ask Him to work in their life.

Apply: Choose someone who is difficult for you to love and spend time praying for that person today.

Respond: Pray that God will work in the life of the person whom you have chosen.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain Jesus points His disciples to the character of God. God shows kindness to both the righteous and unrighteous. His common grace is extended to people regardless of whether they acknowledge Him.

As God's children, we are called to reflect His character in the way we treat others.

Apply: Ask yourself: ***What do my responses to difficult people reveal about my understanding of God's character?***

Look for one opportunity today to demonstrate kindness to someone who may not expect it.

Respond: Ask God to help you reflect His character to others.

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain: It is natural to love people who love us. Jesus says His followers are called to something greater. Christian love does not depend on receiving something in return.

This kind of love demonstrates that following Jesus changes the way we relate to people.

Apply: Where are you tempted to love only when love is returned? Consider one person you can intentionally encourage, serve, or show kindness to without expecting anything in return.

Respond: Pray for opportunities to serve without recognition.

Friday, October 16, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain: When Jesus says, “Be perfect,” He is calling His followers toward completeness or maturity. Jesus is describing a life that increasingly reflects the character of God.

None of us loves perfectly, but Jesus calls us to continue growing in love, holiness, and mercy.

Apply: Where do you need to grow in your love for others? Ask God to identify one specific area where you need greater Christ-like maturity.

Respond: Pray for greater patience, humility, and compassion.

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

Explain: Jesus ends this section by pointing us toward the Father. The goal is not simply to become nicer people. The goal is to become people whose lives increasingly reflect the character of God.

The gospel reminds us that God loved us when we were separated from Him. Having received His grace, we are called to extend that grace to others—even those who are difficult to love.

Apply: Reflect on these questions:

- Who is difficult for me to love?
- Am I willing to pray for those who have hurt me?
- Do I love people only when they love me back?
- How can I reflect God's character in a difficult relationship?
- What is one specific step I can take toward loving someone differently this week?

Choose one person and one specific action that will help you put Jesus' command into practice.

Respond: Ask God to help you love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you.

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Highlight: Matthew 5:43-48

At the end of this week, ask yourself:
Does the way I love difficult people reflect the extraordinary love of my heavenly Father?