

Treasure Hunt

- Does the Jewish tradition agree or disagree with the OT verse on which it is based?
- How are the four commands in 5:44 related to each other?
- Give an example from the OT of somebody obeying each of these commands.
- What is an “imprecatory prayer,” and where do we find examples?
- What determines whether we pray for somebody or against somebody?
- Is it possible to do both?

The Structure of the Sermon

	Setting	4:25-5:2	7:28-8:1
Consequences →	Blessings & Warnings	5:3-12	7:13-27
	Our Mission	5:13-16	
	Law & Prophets	5:17-19	7:12b
Conduct →	Toward Man	5:20-48 It was said ... but I say	7:1-12a
	Toward God	6:1-18 Be not as the hypocrites	6:19-34

Principle: the Lord is not *canceling* or *modifying* the OT law, but *reinforcing* and *explaining* it.

The Structure of 5:21-48

The Manward Contrasts

	21 Murder	27 Adultery	31 Divorce	33 Oaths	38 Revenge	43 Love
Ye have heard that	x	x		x	x	x
it was said	x	x	x	x	x	x
to them of old time	x			x		

- “it was said” → The Oral Law (Jewish tradition)
- “it is written” → The Written Law (the OT)

Principle: The Lord is challenging Jewish tradition, *not* the OT law.

The Tradition and the OT, 5:43

The Tradition	Lev 19:18
Thou shalt love thy neighbor	Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself:
And hate thine enemy	

5:44, Progression in the Commands

Increasing



Thought

Love your enemies,

Speech

bless them that curse you,

Action

do good to them that hate you,

Prayer

and **pray** for them which
despitefully use you, and
persecute you;

OT Examples

Love your enemies

1Sa 24:11 Moreover, **my father**, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; ..

2Sa 1:11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him: 12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, **for Saul**, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

Bless them that curse you

2Sa 16:5 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: ... 7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: ... 9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head. 10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? 11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it*? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

Do good to them that hate you

Exo 23:4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. 5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

Examples of Prayer for our Enemies

Moses:

Num 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard *it*. ... 13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

Our Lord:

Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Stephen:

Act 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Paul:

2Ti 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

How about prayer *against* enemies?

Imprecatory psalms (mainly 35, 69, 109)

Psa 35:4 Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. 5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase *them*. 6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

Psalm 69 in the NT:

Joh 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up (69:9)

Joh 15:25 But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. (69:4; cf. 35:19; 109:3)

Act 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. (69:25; 109:8)

Rom 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. (69:9)

Imprecation in the New Testament

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

Rev 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the saints:

“Pray for” προσευχομαι υπερ in the LXX

Twice in 1 Sam 2:25. KJV:

1Sa 2:25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?

LXX:

1Sa 2:25 If a man should at all sin against another, then shall **they pray for him to the Lord**; but if a man sin against the Lord, **who shall intreat for him?**

Hebrew:

1Sa 2:25 If one man sin against another, then shall **he** pray for him to **God**; but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him?

Compare:

1Jo 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Song of Moses: Our Attitude toward the Wicked

Deu 32:41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. 42 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; *and that* with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy. 43 Rejoice, O ye nations, *with* his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, *and* to his people.

In the land:

Deu 27:13 And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; ... 14 And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice, 15 Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen. (12x)

In the Kingdom:

Isa 66:23 ... from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

As the Lord returns:

Rev 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Our Twofold Attitude

<p>1Sa 2:25 If one man sin against another, then shall he pray for him to God;</p>	<p>Matt 5:44 pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you</p>	<p>2Ti 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all <i>men</i> forsook me: <i>I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.</i></p>
<p>but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him?</p>	<p>Psa 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.</p>	<p>2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.</p>