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## Love Your Enemies

*By Shannon Ford on January 11, 2021*

**READING:** Luke 6

Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to love our enemies and bless those who curse us. To return good for evil is to treat my enemies the way my Heavenly Father treats me. He is patient with me, He forgives me, He wants the best for me, and He always gives me another chance to do better.

Jesus lived a perfect life and never harmed a single person, yet He was hated by the religious crowd and crucified. Even while hanging on the cross, Jesus prayed for His enemies (Luke 23:34).

Paul writes, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18). When your enemies return evil for good, do not stop extending love and blessings. Keep loving, praying, and doing good, and leave the results with the Lord. The Lord can turn curses into blessings (Deuteronomy 23:4-5) and He can use our blessings to defuse the enemy's curses.

**PRAYER:** "Father, in a world that returns evil for evil, help me to love like Jesus loved. Help me to extend grace to the people who do not like me or want to hurt me. Help me to rely on the Holy Spirit who is with me and desires to use my life to bring glory to God."

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Luke 7

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