

## Your Standard of Living

Matthew 5:43-48

### Introduction

- Fathers can make a big difference
  1. N\_\_\_\_\_ difference
  2. P\_\_\_\_\_ difference
- Our h\_\_\_\_\_ Father ought to be our difference-maker
  1. We live in a world of v\_\_\_\_\_ standards.
  2. God gives us a standard that we m\_\_\_\_\_ achieve

### What about religious standards?

- Jesus refers to what His disciples had h\_\_\_\_\_ concerning the law of love found in Lev 19:18.
  1. Rabbis were notorious for developing doctrine on what the Scripture did not s\_\_\_\_\_ (*The law says to love your neighbor, but it does not say anything about loving anyone else.*)
  2. The Rabbis taught that people should h\_\_\_\_\_ their enemies, and the people tended to live by the religious standards given.
- What we see today
  1. Some depend upon c\_\_\_\_\_ leaders to dictate their standard – they are being led away from God.
  2. Some depend upon certain p\_\_\_\_\_ to dictate their standard – they could easily be led away from God.
  3. Religious standards v\_\_\_\_\_ greatly because man's word is exalted above God's word.

### What about natural standards? (46,47)

- Jesus names the standards of two classes of immoral people
  1. The t\_\_\_\_\_ collector
    - a. This was a Jew h\_\_\_\_\_ by the Roman government to collect taxes from their fellow Jews.
    - b. They were known for overc\_\_\_\_\_ and pocketing the rest (see Luk 19:2).
    - c. They l\_\_\_\_\_ those who love them.
  2. The G\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. They were non-Jewish people who honored their gods by drunken f\_\_\_\_\_ and sexual immorality.
    - b. They were c\_\_\_\_\_ to their fellow-pagans.
- It is n\_\_\_\_\_ and instinctive to love those who love you and to be cordial to those who are like you. But our standards must move beyond this.

### What about God's standards? (44,45,48)

- Jesus said, *But I s\_\_\_\_\_ to you*

1. Jesus is the W\_\_\_\_\_ of God (Jn 1:1; 14:10; Mk 13:31; Jn 17:17)
2. God's standard is higher
  - a. Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors as a  
 1\_\_\_\_\_ ( v. 44 - Greek present tense emphasizes this).
  - b. The purpose is to be s\_\_\_\_\_ of your heavenly Father
    - 1) This DOES NOT mean that our lifestyle m\_\_\_\_\_ us  
 into God's sons (that contradicts the context of the entire  
 Bible which states that God's work in Christ did that).
    - 2) The word "be" is NOT in the Greek present tense but in a  
 tense which refers to p\_\_\_\_\_ action – as situations  
 rise (*Make it your habit to love your enemies and to  
 pray for your persecutors so that for the moment that  
 you do that you be sons of your heavenly Father TO  
 THEM*).

● Jesus meant TO THEM by the words in verses 45-47

1. The illustration (v. 45) – The Father makes the sun shine on  
 e\_\_\_\_\_ people, not just good people. He makes the rain fall on  
 the unrighteous not just the righteous. Thus, God as a Father to all  
 by doing good TO THEM all.
2. The application (v. 46,47) - believers are to act like sons of God  
 not only to their fellow believers but to a\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The principle (v. 48) – God's standard
  - a. P\_\_\_\_\_ - see Phil 3:12-16
    - 1) In one breath Paul states that he has not b\_\_\_\_\_ perfect  
 (v. 12) but in the next breath he says that he has (v. 15)
    - 2) The word carries the meaning of m\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. C\_\_\_\_\_ always determines the meaning of a word
    - 1) The word "t\_\_\_\_\_" in Matt 5:48 is important. It is  
 pointing to what has been said before.
    - 2) The immature standard is to love only those who love you  
 or to be nice to those who are nice to you (vv. 46,47)
    - 3) The m\_\_\_\_\_ standard is to act like the heavenly  
 Father (v. 48).

**Conclusion:**

- We live in a world of varying standards – i\_\_\_\_\_ standards.
  - God demands that we live by His standards – m\_\_\_\_\_ standards.
1. God revealed this standard – His w\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Jesus spoke it – He is the w\_\_\_\_\_
  3. The apostles preserved it – We have His w\_\_\_\_\_

*Pay attention to God's word. Believe God's word and live  
 God's word. Be mature!*