



Living Out God's Vision!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 9, Monday, August 14th —All People

You have heard that it was said 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he make his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matthew 5:43-47 ESV

Jesus was a straight forward kind of guy. In the above passage, He was teaching the crowds about the way they should live. Imagine sitting in a crowd, listening to Jesus, then BAM - He says you should love your enemy. And then He says that even Gentiles and tax collectors can love their brothers. So, in order to be different, we need to love our enemies. I don't know about you, but I have a hard time loving people who don't love. I think that's something we all struggle with but Jesus says we should love ALL PEOPLE.

ALL PEOPLE - the angry co-worker, the rude bank teller, the annoying kid at school. We are called to love every single one of them! Love them all; that's a daunting task. It's actually a physically impossible task. No human can do it. Only Jesus can love all people. And if Jesus is in your heart, He will love them through you.

WE are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Earlier in Matthew 5, Jesus said we are the light of the world, the city on the hill, the salt of the earth. We were made to stand out, to be different. We weren't created to conform to the world. We were made to stand out, to show love to ALL PEOPLE. We love because He loved us first. How can you show Christ's love to your community, family, small group, or friends? Now think about how you can love to the people in your life that aren't so easy to love.

Dear Lord, help us to show your love to all people. Let us be your light in this dark world. Help us be the city on the hill that can't be hidden. Let our love be like your love, unrelenting and unfailing. Thank you for loving us before we loved you. Let us be good examples of who Christians are and how they act. Help us to not just go through the motions but love others the way we are loved by our heavenly Father. Amen.

Ellie Armstrong