

SURPRISING LOVE

Scripture of the Month: Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

PRIMARY TEXT: Matthew 5:40-48 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Based on other passages it is appropriate and right to take a human life in the case of:

Capital punishment, maintaining law and order, self-defense and a just war.

Just war: 1. Just cause 2. Just intentions 3. Last resort 4. Formal declaration 5. Limited objectives 6. Proportionate means 7. Non combatant immunity.

Generally speaking God is the avenger. Government has the role of executing judgment on evildoers (Romans 13:1-7)

This passage is about our individual responsibility. We are called to be ministers of reconciliation

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU CONSIDER TO BE AN ENEMY IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW CAN WE LOVE OUR ENEMIES?

I. _____ GOD

Matthew 5:40-48 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for

it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[a] says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[b] ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

II. PRAY FOR YOUR _____

Matthew 5:43-44 ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

III. INTENTIONALLY _____ YOUR ENEMY

Matthew 5:40-48

What is God's will for you? Love People.

CONCLUSION:

I love a summary Scripture about Jesus found in 1 Peter.

1 Peter 2:23-24 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Notice He entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He trust God the Father.

And through the cross he intentionally blessed us, his enemies.