



The Sermon on The Mount
Bible Study Session 11
Matthew 5:43-47



Study By
Lorin L Cranford

Greek NT

43 Ἰκούσατε ὅτι ἐρρέθη· Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου καὶ μισήσεις τὸν ἐχθρόν σου. 44 ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν διωκόντων ὑμᾶς· 45 ὅπως γένησθε υἱοὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς, ὅτι τὸν ἥλιον αὐτοῦ ἀνατέλλει ἐπὶ πονηροῦς καὶ ἀγαθοῦς καὶ βρέχει ἐπὶ δικαίους καὶ ἀδίκους. 46 ἔάν γὰρ ἀγαπήσητε τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας ὑμᾶς, τίνα μισθὸν ἔχετε; οὐχὶ καὶ οἱ τελῶναι τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσιν; 47 καὶ ἔάν ἀσπάσησθε τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ὑμῶν μόνον, τί περισσὸν ποιεῖτε; οὐχὶ καὶ οἱ ἐθνικοὶ τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσιν;

La Biblia de las Américas

43 Habéis oído que se dijo: “AMARAS A TU PROJIMO y odiarás a tu enemigo.” 44 Pero yo os digo: amad a vuestros enemigos y orad por los que os persiguen, 45 para que seáis hijos de vuestro Padre que está en los cielos; porque El hace salir su sol sobre malos y buenos, y llover sobre justos e injustos. 46 Porque si amáis a los que os aman, ¿qué recompensa tenéis? ¿No hacen también lo mismo los recaudadores de impuestos? 47 Y si saludáis solamente a vuestros hermanos, ¿qué hacéis más que otros? ¿No hacen también lo mismo los gentiles?

NRSV

43 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

NLT

43 You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’* and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies!* Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

The Outline of the Text:

You have heard it said...

But I say to you...

I. Thesis: love neighbor; hate enemy, v. 43

Love your neighbor: Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου.¹

Leviticus 19:18, (NRSV): You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Hate your enemy: μισήσεις τὸν ἐχθρόν σου.

Not a quote of any Old Testament text as is true of the first one. Rather, it is a summation of several Old Testament texts as they had come to be understood in Jesus’ day. See Psalms 139:21-22; 26:5; Deut. 7:2; 30:7.

Neighbor = fellow Jew; enemy = Gentile

II. Antithesis: love enemy, vv. 44-47

1. Core declaration: ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν διωκόντων ὑμᾶς· ὅπως γένησθε υἱοὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς, ὅτι τὸν ἥλιον αὐτοῦ ἀνατέλλει ἐπὶ πονηροῦς καὶ ἀγαθοῦς καὶ βρέχει ἐπὶ δικαίους καὶ ἀδίκους., **vv. 44-45.**

Compare Luke 6:27-28; Rom. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:13-16

¹Mt. 22:39 (NRSV): 37 He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 *And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Lk. 10:25-37, Parable of the Good Samaritan

2. Expansion elements, vv. 46-47

a) **Doing more than the tax collectors**, ἐὰν γὰρ ἀγαπήσητε τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας ὑμᾶς, τίνα μισθὸν ἔχετε; οὐχὶ καὶ οἱ τελῶναι τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσιν; **v. 46.**

b) **Doing more than the pagans**, καὶ ἐὰν ἀσπάσησθε τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ὑμῶν μόνον, τί περισσὸν ποιεῖτε; οὐχὶ καὶ οἱ ἔθνηκοὶ τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσιν; **v. 47.**

Role of verse 48:

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" ("Ἔσεσθε οὖν ὑμεῖς τέλειοι ὡς ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τέλειός ἐστιν).

"Therefore" (οὖν) pulls an implication from each of the six antitheses to a climatic declaration.

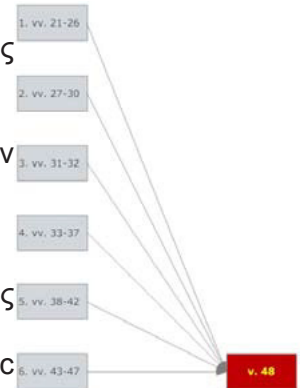


Diagram of Matthew 5:43-47

56 ^{5:43} **You have heard**
that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor,
and
You shall hate your enemy.

^{5:44} But

57 **I say to you,**
Love your enemies,
and
pray
for those persecuting you,
^{5:45} so that you may be sons
of your Father
in Heaven,
because He makes the sun shine
on evil people
and
good people
and
He brings rain
on righteous people
and
unrighteous people.

^{5:46} For

58 **what reward do you have?**
if you love those loving you,

59 **Do not the tax collectors also do the same thing?**

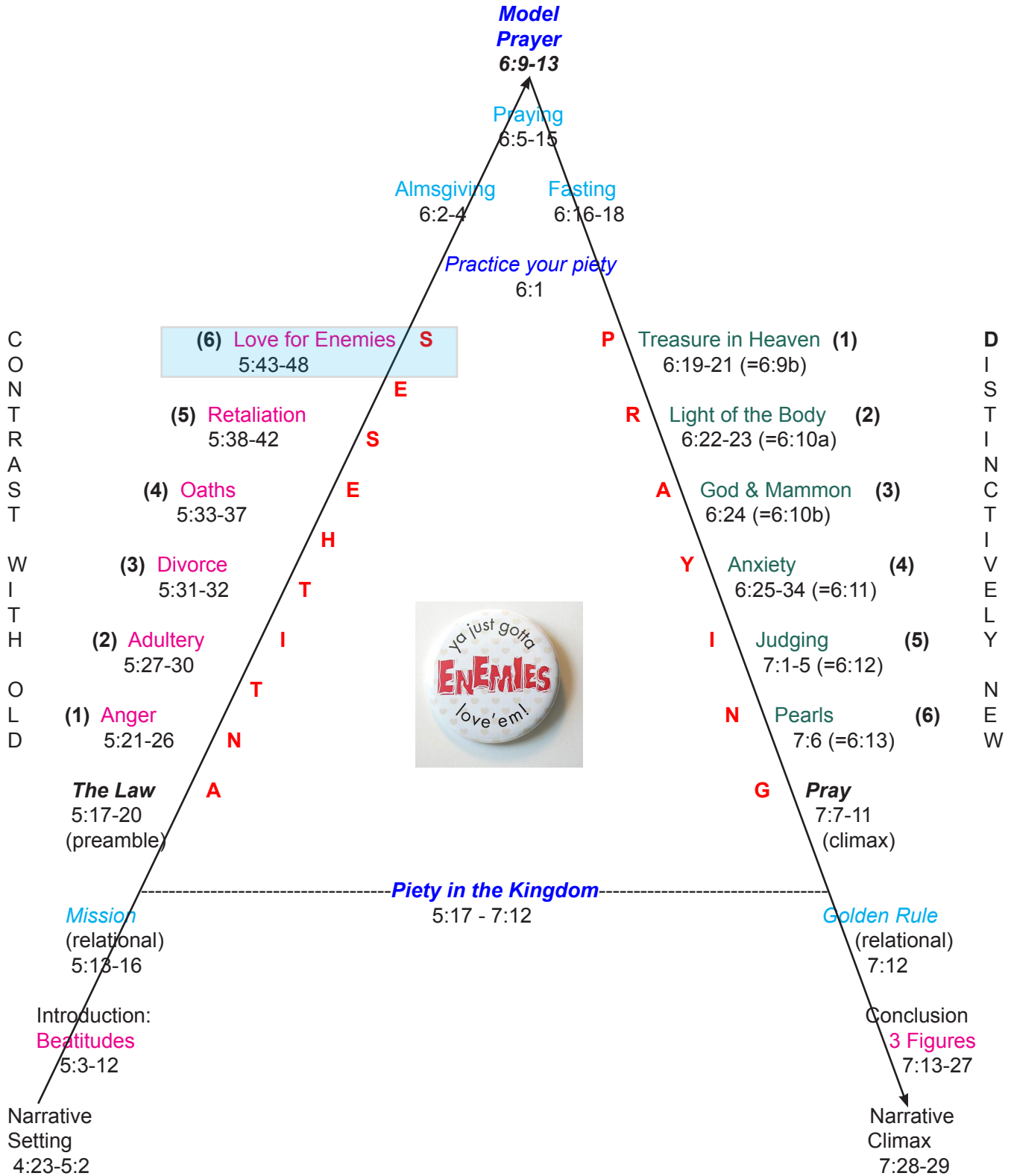
^{5:47} And

60 **what extra thing are you doing?**
if you greet only your brothers,

61 **Do not the Gentiles also do the same thing?**

The premise declaration is found in statement 56 in the twofold declaration 'you shall...'. Statement 57 contains Jesus' response that stands in stark contrast to the premise declarations. The expansion elements are set forth in two 'what if' scenarios: 1) loving only friends, #s 58-59, and 2) greeting only brothers, #s 60-61. Jesus casts these as four pointed rhetorical questions in order to heighten emphasis on the point being stressed. To His initial audience these questions were quite blunt and provocation because they challenged long established prejudices among the Jewish people.

The Literary Structure of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 4:23-7:29



Source: Lorin L. Cranford, *Study Manual of the Sermon on the Mount: Greek Text* (Fort Worth: Scripta Publishing Inc., 1988), 320. Adapted from Gunter Bornkamm, "Der Aufbau der Bergpredigt," *New Testament Studies* 24 (1977-78): 419-432.