

ARE PEOPLE YOUR PRIORITY? MATTHEW 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes 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 have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Once, a college student stayed up all night studying for an important Science test. When the kid entered the classroom he noticed ten mounted birds lined up across the front of the room. Each stuffed bird had a bag over its head. All you could see were its legs.

The test consisted of identifying each bird - *its genus, species, habitat, feeding regiment, and its migratory patterns* - simply by looking at the its legs.

Well, this student was angry. *How unfair could a test be! He'd studied all night for this?* The more he stared at the silly birds the more outraged he became.

Finally, the young man exploded! He threw his paper on the professor's desk, and shouted, "What a stupid, idiotic test. How can anyone tell the difference between birds by looking at their legs?" Then he stomped out!

It was a large class and the professor didn't know the student, so he asked, "Excuse me, what's your name?"

That's when the boy pulled his pant's legs up to his knees, and shouted, "You guess, mister, you guess!"

And I tell you this story to ask you a question... when you're treated harshly - or taken advantage of - or tested unfairly - how do you respond to the injustice?

There's something in all us that likes to explode, to get even - to get back at the person who's harmed us.

Revenge, repay, retaliate are all natural reactions.

Seven year old Billy started to cry. His mom rushed in to discover his two year old sister with a clump of his hair hanging through the fingers of her clutched fist.

The mother comforted her son, "Billy, your little sister didn't mean to hurt you, she doesn't understand yet."

A few minutes later the little girl was screaming.

When the mother entered the room, little Billy looked up at her and said proudly, "Mom, she does now."

We cheer at the movies, when a Clint Eastwood-type hero points his long-nose revolver at the villain, and puts him in his place... "Go ahead, make my day!"

We love expressions like... "Do unto others before they do unto you..." Or "Shoot first, ask questions later..." Or "I don't get mad, I get even..." When our rights are infringed upon the American way is to call a lawyer - stick it to the other guy - relish a little revenge!

Actually, the human reaction isn't to get even - it's to "one up" the other guy! You kick me in the shins, and my desire isn't just to kick you in the shins... it's to kick your shins - then stomp your toe - scratch out an eye - and maybe even knock your teeth down your throat.

It's back at you - a little harder than you hit me.

Former Soviet Premier, Nicholas Khrushchev, once said, "There is much that Communists have in common with Christ, but I cannot agree with Him when He says when you are hit on the right cheek turn the left cheek.

I believe in another principle. If I am hit on the left cheek I hit back on the right cheek so hard that the head might fall off. This is my sole difference with Christ." And yet that is a very significant difference!

The human tendency is a pound of flesh for an ounce of offense. It's not an eye for an eye, but an eye for an eye *and* a foot. The OT principle, *Lex Talionis* or the *Law of Retaliation* - sometimes called, the *Law of Tit for Tat* - wasn't intended to promote vengeance, but to limit the punishment and temper it with fairness.

The penalty should fit the crime - no more no less!

Retribution should *match*, not exceed, the injury.

Deuteronomy 19:21 states, “Life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

And when God gave this Law He gave it to the leaders of the nation. It was to be a tool in the hands of government to execute justice and to restrain evil.

The Pharisees though interpreted it as an excuse for personal vendetta... This was never God’s intention. God said in Deuteronomy 32:35, “Vengeance is mine.”

Vigilante justice was never God's plan. God intended for human government to keep the peace. This is what Paul states in Romans 13, “Rulers... are God’s minister(s) to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” It’s only on very rare occasions that we’re justified in taking matters into our own hands.

God knew that when the only premise humans live by is “eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth” all it makes for is an eyeless and toothless society. This is why Jesus provides His followers a better way. The Lord knew, “You can never win by trying to even the score.”

In His sermon, Jesus teaches His followers that God wants us motivated by love, not revenge. He presents us a new way of relating to people... *the power of love.*

Jesus begins in verse 38, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

But I tell you not to resist an evil person.”

And almost immediately, Jesus has some of us squirming in our seats. *“How can He be serious? In the dog eat dog world I live in, the moment I drop my guard they’ll walk all over me... If I don’t stand up for myself, who will?... If I don’t resist evil, I’ll get bowled over...”*

Jesus makes some difficult statements in the Sermon on the Mount, but none more challenging than what He says here in verse 39, **“But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”**

Before we tackle the meaning of Jesus’ controversial statement, let’s take a look at what He doesn’t mean...

First, **Jesus isn’t stripping governments of their right to wage war and defend their citizens.** The Sermon on the Mount is for individual believers not governments.

God’s calling on the Church and on government are radically different... *government keeps the peace, the Church offers peace with God - Government promotes justice, the Church shows mercy - Government makes laws, the Church extends love - Government imprisons, the Church pardons.* The roles are different.

When a nation’s citizens are threatened, as an agent of the government, it’s a soldier’s duty to take up arms.

Second, **Jesus isn’t stripping people of their right to self-defense.** Notice, Jesus is very specific, if someone slaps you on the **“right cheek.”** *Why the right, not left?*

Statistics show that 90% of the population is right-handed. So, how does a right-hander hit you on the right cheek? There’s only one way - *with the back of the hand...* And in almost every culture a back-handed slap is more of an insult, than it is a violent attack.

Jesus is saying if you're insulted - slough it off - turn the other cheek... He isn't saying, if I'm walking down the street and get mugged, I need to let the thugs beat me up and take my wallet. No, I can defend myself.

I'm not loving anybody by letting them beat me up!

It reminds me of the Irish boxer turned evangelist. He came to town, and was setting up his tent for a service that night. All of sudden up strolled two roughnecks.

One of the punks took a swing at him, and landed a glancing blow. The preacher stuck out his chin and took another punch on his other cheek. That's when he jumped back, rolled up his sleeves, and shouted, "[The Lord gaveth me no further instructions](#)" *And pow!* He landed a combination of jabs, hooks, and upper cuts.

If someone breaks into my house to harm me and my family, then I'm responsible for defending those under my care. I got a gun and it's not just a collectible.

I pray I never have to, but I got it to use it if need be. I do no one a favor by letting my family be victimized.

And third, [Jesus is not suggesting we become doormats in personal relationships.](#) Turning the other cheek isn't allowing yourself to be repeatedly *used* or *abused*. Sometimes we love another person by standing up to them, and opposing their evil actions.

Martin Luther once described a person who had misinterpreted this text, as "[the crazy saint who let lice nibble at him and refused to kill any of them, maintaining that he had to suffer and could not resist evil.](#)" Obviously, that kind of interpretation is ridiculous.

The NT describes the committed Christian with *masculine metaphors* like boxer, runner, soldier, sailor.

Jesus Himself was certainly no doormat! Don't think for a second, Jesus was a weak, mamby-pamby person who allowed Himself to be manipulated, and abused, and controlled, and pushed around by people.

He bounced the moneychangers out of the Temple with His bare knuckles... In the city of Nazareth, He walked through an angry mob, a potential lynching...

Our Lord Jesus was rugged, strong, and assertive.

Yes, He suffered for our sin, *but He did so voluntarily*. Jesus endured His suffering as part of God's plan.

In fact, at no time was Jesus' strength more apparent than on the cross. Jesus was spat on, beaten, pierced.

He could've called for sword-swinging seraphim and special-ops cherubim, but He ordered His troops to stand down. He took it on the *chin* to pay for our *sin*.

His suffering was for a higher goal. And when God calls on us to suffer there's always a higher purpose!

A town in Mexico has an annual passion play. One year, on the day before the performance, the actor playing Jesus became sick and had to be replaced.

They needed someone who was the right height and weight. The only guy available was an unsavory fellow. The organizers were so desperate they took a chance.

What they didn't explain was how He'd be treated on his way to the cross. He'd be hit, spit on, cursed...

During the play, the ole boy took all he could take.

Finally, as they were lifting him onto the cross, he turned to the men playing the Roman soldiers and growled, "I'll get you guys after the resurrection."

Well, Jesus also could've *gotten* the Romans and the Jews after His resurrection, *but He didn't!* From the cross He asked His Father to forgive His enemies!

Even on the cross Jesus was motivated by love.

Of course, that doesn't mean we're suppose to sit in silence while 1.5 million unborn babies are murdered in America every year... or allow our boss to mistreat us without filing a grievance... or let our neighbor beat the stuffing out of his wife without calling the police...

Jesus wasn't addressing situations calling for justice, or defense of the weak, or government doing its job...

He was speaking to His followers, and advocating a way of life that prioritizes others - and lives His grace!

Jesus said earlier, 5:20, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Jewish religion was a loveless brand. It was a mechanical, merciless adherence to rules and rituals.

Jesus is saying to His followers that in all we do, our motivation should be love - not revenge or retaliation.

Even when I take action my motive should be love.

Say someone breaks into my house, I can shoot him. I'll shoot him in the leg - then I'll hold him there until the police arrive, and we'll try to get him some help!
I'm not loving him by letting him victimize my family.

When Jesus tells us to *“give to him who asks”* He isn't advocating indiscriminate giving. Hand an alcoholic 100 bucks and you'll *hurt him* not *help him*.

In this passage Jesus is teaching His followers that *love* not should be our motivation in all we do. When evil strikes, *fight back...* not with retribution - *with love*.

Here's another way to think of it, *as Christians other people not our own rights should be our top priority*.

Jesus didn't deserve the treatment He received, but He died to His rights to pursue a greater goal - our salvation. And as a believer I need to follow in His footsteps - I should die to my rights, to live for Jesus.

Spreading mercy - showing grace - should be more important to me than insisting on my rights. Like Jesus, I should care more about *your soul* than *my rights*.

And this is a big pill for us Americans to swallow. Nothing is more important to us than *individual rights!*

We reverence the Bill of Rights!... People march for their rights... It's a patriotic duty to stand for our rights.

And if your rights are violated you call your senator, or lawyer, or the press... Our society has made an idol out of our personal rights. It's what we value most.

Yet Jesus is telling us that as Christians there's something more important than *our rights - it's people*.

In verse 39, when Jesus tells us "*not to resist an evil person*" the term "*resist*" means "*to make an enemy*."

Jesus is saying other people may view you as their enemy, but don't you make an enemy out of them.

Abe Lincoln once said, "*The best way to destroy an enemy is to turn him into a friend*." And we do that by prioritizing other people even above our own rights.

Never let a demand for *your rights* supersede your concern for *another person's salvation*. In the long run, *our love for people* is more important than *our rights*.

And here Jesus mentions four rights in particular that often get in the way of people loving other people...

First, is our right to **dignity**. *Another person's insult shouldn't stop my love...*

Second, our right to **possessions**. *His soul should mean more than my shirt...*

Third, our right to **convenience**. *I'll forfeit what suits me, to save him...* And **fourth**, our right to **money**. *I'd rather a person survive than me thrive...*

Love is willing to forego its rights!

Again hear Jesus' words, verse 39, "*Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also*."

Are you willing to endure an insult - an indignity... *to sacrifice your pride* - for the soul of another person?

The ongoing feud between Winston Churchill and Lady Astor was legendary. Once, Lady Astor reprimanded Churchill, *“Why Winston, you’re drunk!”*

Churchill replied, *“And Astor you’re ugly! But I’ll be sober in the morning.”* How do you respond to that kind of barb and degradation? It stings. Words can hurt.

How do you reply when someone insults your work? Or belittles your child? Or criticizes your decorating?

“I’ll never have anything to do with her again!”

That’s the attitude Jesus is combating. Don’t let your pride write off another person.. *“Nobody can say that to me and get away with it!”* Why not? What’s so special about you that you can’t be criticized - even unfairly?

It’s been said, *“Where pride is present, love is absent.”* 1 Corinthians 13 teaches, *“Love suffers long. Bears all things. Endures all things. Love never fails.”*

Jesus is telling us to swallow our pride! *“Turn the other cheek.”* Refuse to let what you think is your **right to dignity** hinder you from loving that other person.

Verse 40 deals with our **right to possessions**, *“If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.”* In Jesus’ day everyone wore two garments - a tunic, or an inner robe - and a cloak, or outer garment. It doubled as a bedroll.

Under Hebrew Law you could sue a man for his tunic. You’ve heard the expression, *“take the shirt right off his back”* - this is its origin. You could sue for a man’s inner garment, but not his cloak. Without a good coat a man wouldn’t be able to survive a cold night.

Yet, Jesus is saying if a man really needs a tunic, be willing to give him your cloak also. The point being, ***his soul is more important than your possessions.***

How often do we put *stuff* ahead of *people*? Have you ever missed an opportunity to extend love because you were too stingy with your stuff... *that's shallow?*

Once there was a woman whose husband bought her a new car. It was just two days off the lot, when she scraped the side of another vehicle in the grocery store parking lot. *What was she going to tell her husband?*

When the police asked for her proof of insurance she reached into the glove box and pulled out an envelope.

Inside was the card with a note from her husband. It read, "**Honey, in case of an accident, remember it's you I love, not the car.**" Here was a man who valued the people in his life, more than his earthly possessions.

Have you ever put *stuff* before your *spouse*? Made your *money* more important than your *marriage*?

There's a scene from an old movie where a horse owner chews out his daughter for riding his prized stallion. Ugly words are exchanged. She storms out.

His sister tells him, "**You treat that wretched colt better than your own daughter.**" Some of us treat the car we've restored, or our furniture, or our golf clubs with more care and gentleness than we do our kids.

Never value your **possessions** more than people!

The same is true with our **right to convenience.**

This is the point in verse 41, “**And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.**” Under Roman Law, a soldier could legally recruit a civilian to carry his armor one Roman mile - *a tad shorter than our mile*.

Needless to say this could be an inconvenience to the person recruited. You could be late for work.

Thus, the average Jew would count each step. When he reached the 5,280th foot that was it! He'd drop the armor, thumb his nose at the soldier, and go his way. There was no love in this - no concern for the soldier.

This is why Jesus calls His followers to take a different approach. Rather than *an inconvenience* they should treat the same circumstances as *an opportunity*.

Don't go just one mile, go two! You should let the soldier know God cares for him. Seek to build a friendship. Use it as an occasion to convey God's love.

And this is how Jesus wants us to view *our inconveniences*. Perhaps you've been sent to an office across town - it's a hassle... Or maybe you're being required to work longer days... Don't just work 8 hours, go another hour, *and be happy about it*, do it because you care about the person who's asking for your help.

Love puts people above our **right to convenience**.

If you understand this you'll never lack opportunities to share the gospel, or people who'll want to listen.

And verse 42, don't put your **right to money** ahead of *love for people*. “**Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.**”

Of course, Jesus is assuming we have money to give - some savings. Thus, there's nothing wrong with saving for a rainy day. Jesus isn't telling us to give our savings to anyone and everyone who wants a handout.

All giving should be accompanied with discernment.

But here's what Jesus *is* saying, never let your *financial security* become more important than someone's *eternal destiny*. All we have belongs to God, and should be made available for His purposes.

Don't be more concerned with adding *cash to your stash* than showing the love of Jesus to other people.

Once, the cows and pigs were discussing why the cows were more popular than the pigs. *A pig snorted...*

"Its not fair, all you cows give is milk and cream, but we pigs give bacon and ham. People even pickle our feet. I don't see how you cows are more popular than us pigs." The cow thought for minute and replied "*Maybe it's because we give while we're still living.*"

One day, we'll give it all to somebody - *some to the government* - since none of us can take it with us.

Jesus is telling us that true righteousness loves people more than it worries about its **own security**.

Love for people needs to be a Christian's priority - not our **dignity, possessions, convenience, or money**.

Are people your priority?

People topped Jesus' priority list, and hopefully the same is true for us... *even people considered enemies!*

Listen to verse 43, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."

It's hard enough to always love our friends. *Have you ever been betrayed or disappointed by a friend - even a church friend?* Of course you have. We all have...

Ever heard the little jingle, "To live above with saints we love will certainly we glory, but to live below with saints we know, well, that's a different story."

It's tough enough to love a friend, but in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus stretches us far beyond our limits.

He expects us to love our enemies!

"Lord, You've gotta be kidding? Are You serious..."

I'm suppose to love the gal who tells vicious rumors about me?... Or the boss who's out to get me fired?...

Or the next-door neighbor who plays his music into the wee hours of the morning? Or who doesn't take care of his 357 stray cats? Or who parks his 18-wheeler in front of his house - therefore your house?

Is a wife suppose to love the husband who turns his back on her, and runs off with a younger trollop?

Is a man suppose to love the competitor who puts him out of business?... Is a girl suppose to love the animal who raped her?... How can a man love the drunk driver, with the DUIs, who hits and kills his son?

Are you telling me you're suppose to love the sperm donor who never cared enough to bother to check in and find out how life was going for the son he sired?

Well, if you've chosen to follow Jesus the answer to all these question is *Yes and more!* Jesus commands us to *"love... bless... do good... pray for those who spitefully use you..."* **Love even your enemies!**

For Jesus knows the greatest force on Earth isn't a tornado, or tsunami, or lightning bolt, or volcano, or even a nuclear warhead. The mightiest power is love.

It's said, *"To injure an enemy puts you below him. To take revenge on an enemy makes you even. It's only by forgiving an enemy that you rise above him."*

Kill your enemies and you'll only make more. Their sons will seek revenge and hunt you down. The only way to truly destroy your enemies is by turning them into friends. And the only way to do that is with love!

As Jesus mentions in verse 43, the Jews taught, you should love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

They were half-right. The OT did say to love your neighbor, but nowhere did it teach to hate your enemy.

And our enemy is anyone who's undeserving of our love or unloving in return. Your enemies are the folks in your life who don't deserve the time of day. They're leeches. All they care about is them. They take, and take, and take some more. They suck the blood out of everyone around them, and never bother to give back.

An enemy is the person least deserving of your love, yet the person the love of Jesus has you target!

And understand what exactly He means when Jesus tells us to *love* our enemy... There're four Greek words that get translate by our one English word "*love*"...

Storge is parental love. It's shared by a family.

Eros is romantic love. It's sexual in nature.

Phileo is brotherly love. It's love between friends.

And fourthly, there's **Agape**. This is the love spoken of most often in the NT. It's a supernatural love. It's God's love, and it's the love that's spoken of here...

Agape love is more than a feeling, or goose bumps. It's a decision. Other types of love are generated when conditions are ripe, but agape is an act of the will - it's a commitment to love, that's unaffected by my mood...

And this is the love of Jesus!

When His body buckled under the weight of the wood, and the spikes were hammered into his flesh, there was nothing pleasurable about His experience.

It was about proving His commitment to the will of God, His love for us, and His desire for us to be saved.

God would never ask a rape victim to have warm, fuzzy feelings for her assailant... or a wife to get giddy over a husband who abused her... that's inhumane.

Notice, Jesus doesn't even ask us to LIKE our enemy, just LOVE him. Love him with the love of God.

Richard Lenski writes, "I cannot like a low, mean criminal who may have robbed me and threatened my life; I cannot like a lying, slanderous fellow who... has insulted me again and again; but I can by the grace of Christ love them all, see what is wrong with them... and work... to free them from their vicious ways."

It's interesting, when Jesus tells us to love our enemy the first specific action He mentions isn't a handshake, or hug, or handout. He just asks us pray...

"Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..." Before you even face your enemy, pray for him!

Once we make our enemy an object of our prayers then something happens to soften our heart - *pity replaces resentment, compassion replaces bitterness.*

By looking at our enemy through God's eyes we get a new perspective. We can look past the hurt he's inflicted on us, and see the hurt that's motivated him.

One author wrote, *"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm our hostilities."*

Notice how Jesus begins verse 45, *"That you may be sons of your Father in heaven..."* Realize, we're never more related to Jesus than when we love our enemies.

This is our greatest opportunity for Christ-likeness.

And yet, this is the point of my greatest failure...

There is no way I can love my enemies in my own strength. It becomes possible only when I realize that **what God asks me to do, He equips me to do.**

The rest of verse 45 reads, “For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Realize, none of us deserve to see another sunrise. If you got what was coming to you it would rain on your neighbor’s yard and not yours.

But God shows everybody a common grace.

Just as a rain-soaked lawn, or a golden tan has nothing to do with the merits of its owner, likewise God’s forgiveness and acceptance has nothing to do with our worthiness. Our history with God is all grace.

Now, we should treat others with that same grace.

Verse 46, “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” In the first century, no profession was as hated as tax collector. They worked for Rome. They were enemy collaborators - traitors - greedy - seedy. *Yet even a tax collector loves the person who loves him.*

It doesn’t take God to love a friend. Oswald Sanders writes, “The Master expects from His disciples such conduct as can be explained only in terms of the supernatural.” The God-quality - or the lack thereof - will always be seen in how we treat our enemies.

“And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” I’ve heard it said, “To return evil for good is devilish. To return good for good is human. But to return good for evil is divine.” You’re never more like God than when you welcome and love your enemy.

Ed McCully was one of five missionaries to venture into the rainforest of Ecuador to take the Gospel to the Auca Indians. Just two days after the men arrived they were murdered by the natives they'd hoped to reach.

Rather than grow bitter, Ed's dad prayed, "Lord, let me live long enough to see those fellows saved who killed our boys, that I may throw my arms around them and tell them I love them because they love my Christ."

Two of the widows, Elizabeth Eliot and Rachel Saint, refused to let *bereavement* make them *bitter*. These women returned to Ecuador to share the Gospel with the very Indians who had murdered their husbands.

Ten years after their husband's martyrdom, a group of Auca Indians, now Christians, traveled to England to testify of the love of Jesus... *Love had conquered hate*.

CS Lewis made a profound statement, "Do not waste time bothering about whether you love your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you love someone, you will presently come to love him..."

In other words, if God lives in you, then have faith enough to give His power and love a chance to kick in.

Don't worry so much about *your feelings*, put your faith in *God's faithfulness*. He'll come *through* in you!

Which brings us to verse 48, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

What's spoken of here isn't moral or religious perfection - it's **love**. It's more than an outward righteousness! It's putting love before your **pride**, and **possessions**, and **convenience**, and **finances**.

It's a love for your enemies, not just your friends.

Martin Luther King once said, "**I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.**" Here's the irony, hold on to your hate and your *heart hardens*.

Infection spreads... Wounds fester... Fever rises... Grow bitter and the healing you desire eludes you.

But choose to love and prioritize people - even love your enemies to the point of praying for them - and a mysterious healing will begin to occur in your heart...

Here's a profound truth, "**Love cures people. Both the ones who receive it, AND the ones who give it.**"

The Nazi Concentration Camp at Ravensbruck was the site of 92,000 Jewish murders. In the horrific ruins there was a note found near the body of dead child...

It read, "**O Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but also those of ill will. But do not only remember the suffering they have inflicted on us, remember the fruits we bought, thanks to this suffering; our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of all this, and when they come to judgment, let all the fruits that we have born be their forgiveness.**"

Love for one's enemies is not what you'd expect to find in the flames of holocaust, yet God's loves pops up in the strangest places. Love has healing properties...

You may never see love win over your enemy, but love will save you from the bottomless pit of bitterness.

Here's my closing thought, **are people you're priority?** More than your **dignity**, and **possessions**, and **convenience**, and **money**... Love is what matters most.
When your enemies attack... fight back with love!