

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

TO WHICH KINGDOM DO YOU BELONG



MIDDLETOWN
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

MARCH 19, 2017

SERMON NOTES

Dr. Philip C. Rogers

“The Biggest
Difference of All”

Matthew 5:42-48

The love-hate continuum

Love Like Indifference Dislike Hate

An enemy is someone with whom

I have a history of them doing me harm
They intend to inflict pain on me
They have betrayed my trust
I perceive them to be a threat

Enemies may be:

Terribly evil
Sadly insensitive
Frighteningly different

Why should I love and not hate?

Jesus commands me to love
That's what God does
To be different than the world
To become what God intends

What does love not require?

That I change my feelings
That I am required to trust
That I become best friends

What does love require?

A deep desire to forgive
A decision to act with compassion
A willingness to faithfully pray

Enjoying the benefits of love:

Freedom from poisonous bitterness
Peace of soul and mind
Joy unspeakable and full of glory

Getting the questions right:

Not: Who is my neighbor?
But: Will I be a neighbor?
Not: Who is my enemy?
But: Will I be an enemy?

Bottom Line:

**I can risk loving my enemy because
Jesus risked loving me!**