

# "You must be perfect"

## Matthew 5:43-48

### In a world that lowers the bar, Jesus sets a standard of perfection.

#### **Jesus' standard is not about undoing the law, but about doubling down on love. (43-45)**

The twisting of God's word is the devil's greatest tool.

Verse 43 is likely a common proverb of the day (it is not in the Old Testament).

Right now, people have a "Google understanding" of scripture. Jesus says that there is nothing special about doing what everyone else is doing. We love and pray for our enemies. Love is the victory, not winning every argument.

#### **Jesus' standard is not about being good, but about being godly (46-48)**

If your standard is as low as those around you, that's nothing special.

Our standard is God himself, and the Christian life is not about being good, it's about being godly. Is Jesus calling us to a standard that we cannot attain?

#### **Perfection: being godly. τέλειος ("telyos"): having reached its end, spiritual maturity, complete, presentable to God. Finding fulfillment and fullness in God**

#### **How do we do this? What does mean for us in our lives?**

1. Our perfection gives the world a window into heavenly happiness (happiness in everyday obedience)
2. Our perfection comes from imputation, not reputation (imputation: our perfection does not come from within us, Jesus' righteousness and perfection is imputed (counted towards our account) upon us.