



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

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There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 1992

Subject: 'How To Love Your Enemy'

Matthew 5:43-48

1. **The perversion of the law (v 43):** it deliberately narrowed both the standard of love (leaving out the crucial words 'as yourself' and its objects qualifying the category of 'neighbour' by specifically excluding enemies from it and adding the command to hate them instead). The words 'hate your enemy' were a parasitic growth upon God's law.

2. **The Israelite wars and the imprecatory psalms:**

(a) The wars of Israel were the only 'holy wars' in history for they were the wars of God against the world of idols. God used Israel in wars against various nations, judically. (Lev. 18:25,28. 20:22).

(b) In imprecatory psalms the psalmist speaks not with any personal animosity but as a representative of God's chosen people, Israel (see Psalm 69:22,28). Evil men should be the object of our 'love' and of our 'hatred' as they are simultaneously the object of God's. To 'love' them ardently to desire that they will repent and believe and so be saved. To 'hate' them is to desire with equal ardour that if they stubbornly refuse to repent and believe they will incur God's judgment (see Rev. 6:10 & 19:1-4).

3. **How to love your enemy:**

(a) By your deeds and words (v 44).

(b) By being like your Father (v 45).

(c) By outstripping unbelievers in virtue (v 45-47).

*'Many have learned how to offer the other cheek but do not
know how to love him by whom they were struck.'*

-AUGUSTINE