LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 5:44

Love your enemies. Well this is not the easiest thing in the world to do. Though not easy, it is not impossible. I suppose most everyone has dealt with enemies. It is sad to say but most of us have wanted to share vengeance on our enemies instead of love. Through Jesus Christ it is not only suggested that we love our enemies but rather is a command. Even if you are one of the Hatfields or McCoys, you are commanded to love your enemies.

I read a little story this week that took place many years ago. A slave owner was attending a slave auction. He had taken with him a servant who had reached a high status with the owner. Near the end of the auction a slave came up for bid whose hair was totally grey. His bodily form was stooped and broken. It was evident that he was suffering from old age and would not bring much service to anyone. Still the master’s servant asked his owner to purchase this old Negro slave. The owner was very surprised but did as his servant asked. Upon arriving at the plantation the servant laid the old man in his own bed. When he was hungry he fed him from his own plate. He used his own cup to give him water. When the old slave was cold the servant took him and sat him in the sun. If the old man became too warm he would take him to the shade. One day after much observation, a fellow servant asked what the reasoning was for doing all these deeds for the old man.

“Is he your father?” He asked.

“No.”

“Is he your brother?”

“No.”

“Is he your friend?”

“No, he is my enemy. He caught me and sold me to the slave traders many years ago in my home country. I have learned that Jesus said, ‘if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.”

This is how Jesus loves us. By nature we are enemies to God yet God has loved us so much that he has sent his son Jesus into this world to express the greatest love ever known to us. Although we have offended God he loves us anyway. He offers us his cup; his plate; his resting place and his home in heaven.

Aren’t you glad that God loves HIS enemies?

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram