

# 30 DAYS IN THE BIBLE

Click [here](#) to read Matthew 5

Key Verse – Matthew 5:43

Jesus says in Matthew 5:43, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Do you have a mental checklist? Mine usually goes something like this: get gas tomorrow, work out tonight, don't forget to buy ice cream...With all the responsibilities of life, it's easy to add to it: pray for a friend, go to church, don't forget to read the Bible...And sometimes I get so caught up in completing the items on my checklist that I forget to really be present in the moment. I forget that following Jesus isn't about ticking off boxes.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives a series of teachings where He brings up parts of the Law, and then explains how following the letter of the law isn't good enough. The point isn't that we need to perfectly follow a long list of rules in order to be in relationship with God – the point is that God wants MORE than a checklist from us. He wants our hearts. The Jewish religious leaders had gotten so focused on checking off boxes, they had forgotten to truly seek God with all their hearts. To hunger and thirst for righteousness. Jesus calls us to a different way, where we tear our eyes away from our checklists and look to him. He calls us to learn to become the light of the world.



Read Matthew 5 again. Not to check off “read the Bible” from your list today. Read it and genuinely ask God to draw your heart closer to Him. What might you be missing? We all need to learn to be pure in heart, to obey God out of genuine love and not just for the sake of appearances. Not just to check it off our list.

**What Scripture can I meditate on today?**

**What did God speak to me today?**

**How can I respond in obedience?**

**How can I pray?**