

# 30 DAYS IN THE BIBLE

Click [here](#) to read Matthew 5

Key Verse – Matthew 5:46–48

We live in a culture that more and more promotes the idea of self-love as the solution to our problems. The growing idea that we are the center of our lives seems innocuous at first. After all, who doesn't want more time for themselves? It's easy to believe in the idea that we should place ourselves above the needs of others, and, in fact, prevail upon them to meet our needs. We're even taught this idea by some preachers. Give to the church, pray for blessing, and God will grow our business, improve our marriage, and bring us all the opportunities we want.

Okay, maybe that is a bit of an exaggeration. As Christians, we know not to follow these creeds. We've all read the verses about giving to others and loving selflessly. But I want to challenge us today in how and when we do these things. Jesus says in Matthew 5:46, "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" And this is a direct challenge to our modern way of thinking. Often we give by the easiest means possible. We buy a friend groceries, we tithe to our church, we do the dishes for our spouse. These acts are of course valuable and push us out of selfishness, but they're actually not what Jesus is talking about (at least in this chapter) when He asks us to love others. He calls us to love those who spite us, who are hostile, who are openly difficult in our lives. If we're being honest, we tend to choose to avoid those people. I'm not talking about your friend who was difficult this week either – I'm talking about that person that you can barely spend 20 minutes in a room with, or the person you avoid at all costs on the street.



God calls us to love the most difficult of people. He calls us out of the comfort of our community and into the hard task of loving those that no one else will. God can see the worth in those people, and He pushes us to do the same. So my challenge to you today is: where in your life can you love someone in this way? Where can you reach out and care for someone that no one else will?

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

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

**How can I respond in obedience?**

**How can I pray?**