

Love your Enemies

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:39-47

When our friends do something against us, for a short time we stop speaking to them. When someone by mistake stamps our feet, we find chances to somehow stamp over their feet. If they are elder to us, we stare and scold at them. Jesus said that we have to show our other cheek when slapped on one. We have to do it whether we were slapped intentionally or by mistake. We are unable to forgive a friend just because he did something against us. But Jesus said that we have to love even our enemies. Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to love those whom we can never love, those who always backbite and murmur against us, those who persecute us, those who do evil for the good we did unto them, those who blame us and cause us to be frustrated.

A young brother was planning to work in some place in his vacations and use that money for his higher studies. He was earnestly praying about it. He got the job of driving a passenger bus. He was excited of his new work. He was very joyful on his first day. The second day, a few notorious guys got into the bus. In spite of being warned many times, they refused to take the ticket for their travel. They ridiculed him. He did not know what to do. When others tried to speak on his behalf, they would even mock at them and trouble them. This happened for a few days. One day, unable to bear what the guys did, the man stopped the bus and informed the police about them. The police warned the guys and asked them to take the tickets for their travel. After the police left, they once again proved him who they were. The man, totally upset, wanted to somehow payback these guys. He filed a complaint against them. The day before he had to go to the court for hearing their case, he was unable to sleep. The wounded hands and legs and the robe dripping with blood was continuously a vision before his sight. He prayed, "God, I want to do your service". That is when the love of Jesus flooded his heart. After that he was able to sleep peacefully. The next day he went to the court. The guys were very angry on him. Before the judgment was given, the young brother wanted to speak to the judge. He said to the judge that he was willing to take the punishment that was to come over the guys upon himself. All the people there were totally confused. He looked at the guys and said that he forgave them. Though he was not sent to the prison as he asked, God gave him the grace to lead all the guys to Christ.

Questions:

1. Whom should we love?
2. How should we love?
3. Why should we love?