

Series: God & The Election #1837

Title: Matthew 5.48; Titus 3.1-7; Daniel 4.17
Christians Are Unique

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. Welcome back. Let's conclude this series, *God & The Election*. If you would like to hear this again and/or pass this on to someone else, just visit our website and click the series link for *God & The Election*. The web address: godisministry.org, that's godisministry.o-r-g. We will have the podcasts posted there for you! Please take advantage of these free podcasts and do share them with others.

Last time we finished this portion of Jesus' sermon that deals with loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us. This is how we are to live during the season of this election, and yes of course, always! And we ended by saying that only Christians can do this. Jesus Christ says, "**Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**" Only men and women who are genuinely Christ's can be perfect. There's absolutely no way any of us can be perfect in this life *in our own* competency or will power or strength. Perfection for the human is impossible.

However, what is impossible with men and women is possible with God. When the righteousness of Christ is applied to our lives, when the Spirit of the Living God comes to live in us, when *God* lives in us, well then the impossible becomes the possible. We *can* be like God. We *can* live like God. We *can* love like God. Brothers and sisters, we *can* love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We *can* live by the highest standard for love. God's love.

The Lord said, "If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" Non-Christians do love. They are capable of love. Self-love. Loving those who love them back. *But only Christians* are capable of truly loving those who do not love us back. Our Lord again, "If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them."³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return..."

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in his excellent book on the Sermon on the Mount writes about the unique people that Christians are. He rightly says there is something special about us. We are persons who cannot be explained by natural terms, but only by supernatural terms. It is what God has done for us and in us, through Christ, that sets us apart from people who love not and know not Christ. Quoting him now, "The Christian, you see, is a man who is different from others. He does what other people do, yes, but he does more than they do. That is what our Lord has been emphasizing all along...The Christian, by our Lord's definition...is not only a man who is doing more than others; he does what others cannot do...The Christian is a man who can do things which nobody else can do (*Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, 276-277)." Close quote.

That is so true as you listen to Christ preach. What He is commanding and calling us to be and do in Matthew and Luke is only possible because we possess the very righteousness of Jesus. So we do not just love those who love us, but we go above and beyond that to love those who hate us. We go much further than others. Dr. Lloyd-Jones again, "Loving your enemy does not just mean that you do not fight and kill. It means that you are positively loving that enemy and praying for him and for his salvation...It is the Christian who can rise to this (280)." End quote.

Are you a Christian? Then you are uniquely positioned in this world to love others. There is not a lot of love out there. There is a lot of hate out there. My concern throughout our time together has been that too often Christians are living, acting, speaking just like people who are not Christians. We've gotten all caught up in the heated rhetoric of a political campaign and season. And so here is a penetrating question on which to end. Lloyd-Jones asks it, "Is there something special and unique about me and my life which is never to be found in the non-Christian (277)?" Again: is there something special and unique about me and my life which is never to be found in the non-Christian?

Believe me, I am asking that question of myself. I hope you will too. And that we will find, as we walk with the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit, that yes, we are special and unique in that we truly love our enemies, political and otherwise. If we will do this. If we will boldly obey Christ, then we will influence many others towards Jesus, who is our only King. He is King of all kings and Lord of all lords and President of all presidents. It is to Him we want to point *everyone!*

Let us be very careful that we do not confuse unbelievers. Whoever is president, that person is not our Messiah, our Savior, or our Lord. Christ Jesus is our Messiah, Savior, and Lord. Let me read – just read (I do not have time to teach) – let me read to you Titus chapter 3, verses 1-7. This is Titus 3.1-7, **“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, ² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. ³ For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”**

Friends, this is a very good word to us. Remember whom we once were. Remember who we now are. Remember who we will be, all because of the kindness of God our Savior and His loving salvation for us. Let us remember that God is sovereign over all elections. Let us remember that elections do not change our mission, which is disciple-making. And let us not become overly involved in political movements. Rather, let’s walk by the Spirit, to be who Christ calls us to be and to do what He commands that we do.

As I think about the results of this election, I realize that for me nothing has changed. My calling remains the same. I will be who I was before this new president takes office. I will do what I did before this new president, whomever it is, takes office. Because my citizenship is in heaven. Because the One who has sole governance over my soul is in heaven. And because it is Christ to whom I owe my allegiance and life, I want to fulfil my mission to love others, to pray for my enemies, and to share the Good News of the gospel with everyone whom I meet; to make disciples of others, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commands.

And there is something else I have been doing a lot of, and that is worshipping God. That hasn’t changed. The more people talk about how great these politicians are, the more I remember Daniel 4, verse 17 **“The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men.”** Did you catch that? God is the Ruler. And He bestows human, earthly leadership to who? *The lowliest of men* and by implication *women*. The lowliest. Friends, our governing leaders are not the highest, the best of our men and women, they are the lowest, they are the worst!

But we have *The God* in heaven and He is worthy of all our worship, praise, honor, and glory. He is the highest. He is the best. Beloved, join me and millions of others in worshipping God alone. Pour out your heart to Him. Tell Him how much you love Him; tell Him about how much He means to you. Thank God for being gracious to you such that you believe in His Son Jesus, you are saved and being saved, and you possess the peace that passes understanding. You have nothing to be anxious about, because you know that no matter what happens to this country, God is in charge, God reigns and God rules and you are on your way to see Jesus face-to-face in all of His glory.

You are a person only you can be. You can do something only you can do today. You can be Christ to someone in your sphere of influence, friendship, and family. Be peaceable, be gentle, and show consideration for all people. Do not be hateful, hating one another. Be kind. Love God and love others, especially those who do not love you in-return. And worship God alone.

I submit all that has been said to you prayerful that you will hear Christ’s word and be and do what He says. Please continue with us in the days ahead as we discover who God is!

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