



Confessions of a Minister:
“Sometimes I Don’t Like People”
Matthew 5:43-48

Who comes to your mind?

Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-10, 4:1-3

Have you ever felt justified in your dislike of someone? *Luke 23:34a*

“EGR’s” - Extra Grace Required.

Like does not equal love.
Matthew 5:43-48, John 14:15

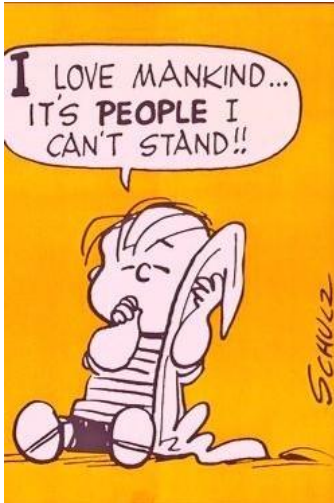
We are called to love, even if we do not like the person.

We love them not because of who they are but because of who God is.
Romans 5:8

Slides

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Matthew 5:43-48**

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Sometimes I don’t like people.

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Who comes to your mind?

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Jonah 1:1-2 NLT The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

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Jonah 1:3 NLT But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

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Jonah 3:1-3 NLT Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” ³ This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.

Jonah 3:4 NLT On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!”

Jonah 3:5-10 NIV The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce

anger so that we will not perish.”¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened.

Jonah 4:1-3 NLT This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry.² So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.³ Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.”

Have you ever felt justified in your dislike of someone?

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Luke 23:34a NTL Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

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Were there times when Jesus thought, “I don’t like you”?

“EGR’s” - Extra Grace Required.

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Like does not equal love.

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Matthew 5:43-44 NLT “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy.⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

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John 14:15 NLT “If you love me, obey my commandments.

Matthew 5:43-48 NLT “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy.⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

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We are called to love, even if we do not like the person.

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We love them not because of who they are but because of who God is.

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I didn’t deserve to be treated harshly. I didn’t deserve to be lied about. I didn’t deserve to be betrayed.

Romans 5:8 NLT But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

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I didn't deserve to be treated harshly. I didn't deserve to be lied about. I didn't deserve to be betrayed.

Jesus didn't deserve to be treated harshly. Jesus didn't deserve to be lied about. Jesus didn't deserve to be betrayed.

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