

## Thought for the day - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

by Revd John Ohen.

### Excuse or Explanation.

The most common objection to loving our enemy is that it's simply too hard, sometimes impossible, but by God's grace we can do it. God can help us to overcome the most difficult of challenges. Please note that God is so kind, loving and gentle, that he cannot force himself on us. We must invite him into our lives and our hearts.

Do you have enemies or people who cannot stand the sight of you? Are there people who wish you and your family harm or ill-will and would delight in any hardship or failure you might suffer? Hopefully most of us don't have such people in our lives, but some do, this is a fact of life.

Some believers can be perceived as having their heads in the clouds and not addressing the real issues of life. The Sermon on the Mount encourages us to address the nitty-gritty and difficult issues and learn to master them. The Torah or the Jewish Law during the time of Jesus taught people to "love your neighbour and hate your enemy" Our Lord Jesus transforms this understanding, teaching us to love both our neighbour and our enemy. We should do this because God does the same because God loves both good and bad. God loves everybody and we are called to imitate God. Thomas Kempis once said that in Jesus and for him, enemies and friends are to be loved. It is best to see love as a weapon. Abraham Lincoln once said that "the best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend. Equally Nelson Mandela refused to hate his jailers. These are some of the reasons why we should love and not to hate.

Bible passage: [Matthew: 5: 43 – 48](#).

Prayer:

Lord Jesus thank you for giving me a peace that nothing can destroy. Let my ways be your ways and may the love you have for all people, be expressed through me for your name's sake. Amen.