

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES "Upside Down, Inside Out Living #4"

Jonah 1:1-3; 4:2

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*"<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." <sup>3</sup> But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.*

*... <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."*

**Jonah 1:1-3; 4:2 (NIV)**

*"You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 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, too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

**Jesus, Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)**

### 1. Know that God **will never let me go**. (John 10:27-29 (NIV))

*<sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

*<sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

### 2. Accept everyone in my life as a **gift from God**. (Luke 6:31 & Eph. 1:15-16 (NIV))

*"<sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

*... <sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."*

3. Practice **"live and let live"** with everyone every day. **(Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV))**

*<sup>1</sup>Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

4. Forgive as I have **been forgiven by God** as a way to "let go and let God".  
**(Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV))**

*"<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*

5. Be filled with **the Holy Spirit** as I yield myself to God. **(Eph. 5:18-21 (NIV))**

*"<sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*