

November 27, 2016
Heal Our Land Series
Part 3: Love Your Enemy
Ted Cunningham

1. What are the four strategies for dealing with your enemies? (**Get even, Stay angry, Wait for them to die, Love them**)
2. Give an example of how the first three choices are hurtful to everyone concerned.
3. Can you give an example of someone who “gets even”? Actually, revenge is a popular theme in many movies. What are some of them and why do we like them?
4. Do you know of a situation where someone has stayed angry with someone? What effect did that have on the person who is angry and others?
5. Have you had unresolved conflict with someone who died? How did you deal with it?
6. Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, “‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Do you recall praying specifically for an “enemy.” What was the outcome?
7. The psalmist wrote, “Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them. I count them my enemies. (139:21-22).
 - *Have you ever been angry at those who “hate” God and are in rebellion to him?
 - *What other things make us “hate” or make us very angry?
 - *The next two verses might seem unexpected after the scathing admissions in vv. 21-22: “Search me, God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (23-24). How do you connect the two ideas in these verses?
 - *Ted says venting takes place in prayer. Have you ever vented to God and found you were able to love your enemy as a result?
 - *Do you think praying Psalm 139:23-24 (Search me, O God) would change your heart? If so, what keeps us from doing it?
8. Besides Satan himself, whom might Jesus have considered an enemy? How did Jesus treat those enemies? Could loving our enemies be one aspect of taking up our cross and following him?

9. Romans 12:18 says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” How can we promote peace in difficult relationships?