

# Matityahu 5n

## v.43, 44

'You have heard' - You have received this law or tradition.

'Love your neighbor' - vaYikra (Leviticus) 19:18

When you might have revenge do not repay either your neighbor or your enemy. Enoch 50.1-4

Also, love the stranger - vaYikra (Leviticus) 19:34

'and hate your enemy' - is not found in Tanakh!

See Sh'mot (Exodus) 23:4-5; Mishle (Proverbs) 25:21

'pray for those who persecute you'

Pray for your enemy that he serve God. Orchot Tzaddikim 15c

The Talmud recounts anecdotes illustrating Beruryah's piety, compassion and wit. In one source she admonishes her husband Meir not to be angry at his enemies and not to pray for their death. She suggests that instead he pray that their sins cease and that they repent (b. Berakhot 10a).

We pray for our enemy's repentance.

## v45

'children (lit. sons) of your Father'

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 14:1a

'he makes the sun...' God is merciful to both righteous and unrighteous by providing for all needs. If God is merciful, so should we be merciful.

## v46, 47

'tax collectors' - universally despised persons

Usually were Jews employed by Rome to collect taxes from Jews.

'goyim' - in this context, used as 'am ha-arets' (country folk, unlearned, pagan)

## v48

'be perfect' - Gr *telos*, Heb *tamim*: complete, whole, entire

In context, this may better read 'be merciful'.

Imitatio dei - imitate God

Just as He is, so should you [strive] to be. Talmud Nedarim 32a

