SERMON NOTES

The New Commandment

Ps Nathan Bean
Nexus Church
25 OCT 2026

Matt 5:43-48; John 13

opening prayer

- Lives that would be shaped by the person and work of Christ.
- Softened and open hearts ready to engage in vulnerability both with the Lord and with one another.

ice breaker

What's the nicest or most surprising thing someone has done for you recently?

overview

- Jesus loves every person, even those who fail Him. We are called us to do the same.
- Blessing comes through obedience, not just *knowing* what is right or doing what you *think* is right (**John 13:17**).
- The world recognises Jesus through the way we love (**v. 35**).
- Love your enemies by relying on Holy Spirit and revelations of the love of God, *not* willpower alone (**Rom 5:5**).
- Pray intentionally for your enemies and release your need for vindication.

go deeper

What does it look like to love the way Jesus loved? Drawing from **John 13** and **Matt 5:43-48**, Ps Nathan challenged us to move beyond loving those who are like us to embrace a radical, Chrislike love that extends even to our enemies.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus washed the feet of twelve men who would soon deny, betray, and abandon Him. He knew what was coming, yet he loved them to the very end. This is the kind of love Jesus calls us to demonstrate: not merely a theoretical love, but one expressed through humble, practical action, even towards those who we want to reject.

Jesus' commandment was to love one another as He has loved us. This is how the world will recognise that we belong to Him; yet, such love cannot be produced through willpower alone. It comes as we allow Holy Spirit to pour His love into our hearts, reshaping who we are from the inside out.

Ps Nathan encouraged us to begin praying specifically and sincerely for those who have hurt us. Through personal experience, he shared how this practice can lift pain, break down bitterness, and open our hearts to God's presence.

The challenge for us is whether we *truly* trust Jesus' words enough to put His teaching into practice, because blessing is found not simply in knowing what He said, but in doing it.

application 01

Make a list.

Take a few moments this week to write down the names of people you find difficult to love. Commit to praying for them by name, praying blessing over them. You could even look for practical ways to show Christlike love to someone you would normally reject.

discussion

1. The sermon described how we naturally tend to love people who are like us, who agree with us, or who belong to our group. Do you see this in your own life? Elaborate.

2. In **John 13**, Jesus washed the feet of the betrayer, the denier, the deserter, and the doubter. Much like the disciples, Jesus knows the ways we have failed and betrayed Him, and yet still died for us and pursues us with His unending love. If we are to be Christlike and have been forgiven of much (**Luke 7:47**), how, then, should we then love those who we naturally want to reject?

3. We cannot love our enemies by using a moralistic approach of human effort. What is the difference between trying harder to love someone and first being changed by God's love, yourself? Discuss any examples from your own life.

4. **Rom 5:5** describes God's love being poured into our hearts by His Spirit, like water reshaping a landscape over time. What does it look to open your heart to more of His love... does anything get in the way?

application 02

Spend time in His presence.

It's that simple. Look at your upcoming 24-48h right now and carve out time to spend with your Heavenly Father.

closing prayer

- Hearts that are filled with and changed by God's love.
- The commitment to loving our enemies and loving our neighbour as ourselves.
- Blessing over those specific people that are difficult to love.