

## Running On Empty

### Who Deserves To Be Loved?

February 9, 2020 / Chris Johnson

<sup>43</sup> You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **Matthew 5:43, NIV**

The cultural lie is that we should only love those who are \_\_\_\_\_ or who \_\_\_\_\_. (Conditional Relationships)

Who do we give ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ not to love?

<sup>44</sup> But I tell you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you. **Matthew 5:44, NIV**

Jesus' kind of love is \_\_\_\_\_ different.  
(It is an \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship.)

<sup>45</sup> that **you may be children** of your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:45a, NIV**

Unconditional love \_\_\_\_\_ from  
our \_\_\_\_\_ with God the Father.

<sup>34</sup> Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing. **Luke 23:34, NIV**

<sup>45</sup> He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **Matthew 5:45b, NIV**

Unconditional love seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ to  
everyone, even to those who don't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

<sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, **what reward will you get?** Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

**Matthew 5:46-47, NIV**

Unconditional love \_\_\_\_\_ us with \_\_\_\_\_ from  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of conditional love.

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear. **1 John 4:18, NIV**

<sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matthew 5:48, NIV**

Who deserves to be loved? \_\_\_\_\_. However,  
\_\_\_\_\_ needs to be completed with God's love.

Two practical ways to love less than perfect people:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 5:44)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 5:47)

## MEMORY VERSE

<sup>44</sup> Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. **Matthew 5:44, NIV**

**My next step:** I will seek to love less than perfect people with God's perfect love by praying for them and greeting them with a smile.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.