Welcome to the Family



David and Debbie Higgins

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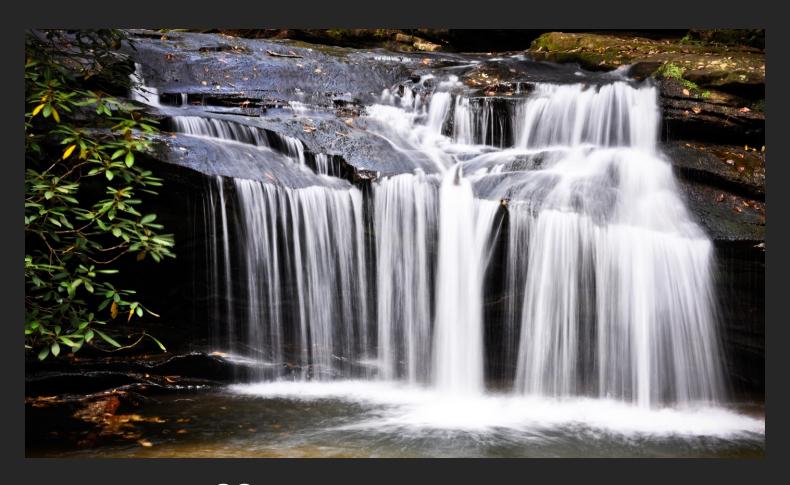


Rick Stewart

April: Missions Encouragement Month



Christian Practices That Bless the World



A Different Response



Genesis 12:2

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;



We are transformed in Christ,

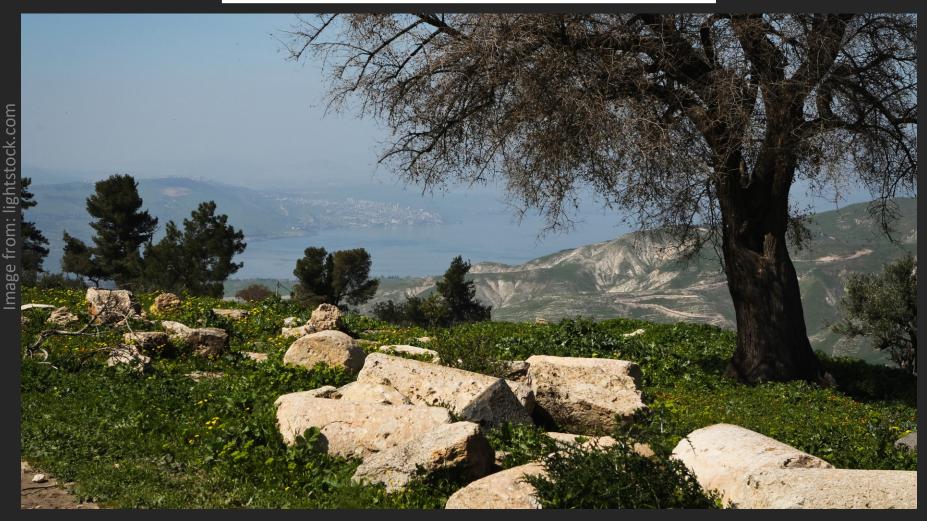
Colossians 3:9-10

- ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,
- ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—



We are <u>transformed</u> in Christ, and those new qualities <u>bless</u> the world.

This Morning's Passage: Matthew 5:43-48



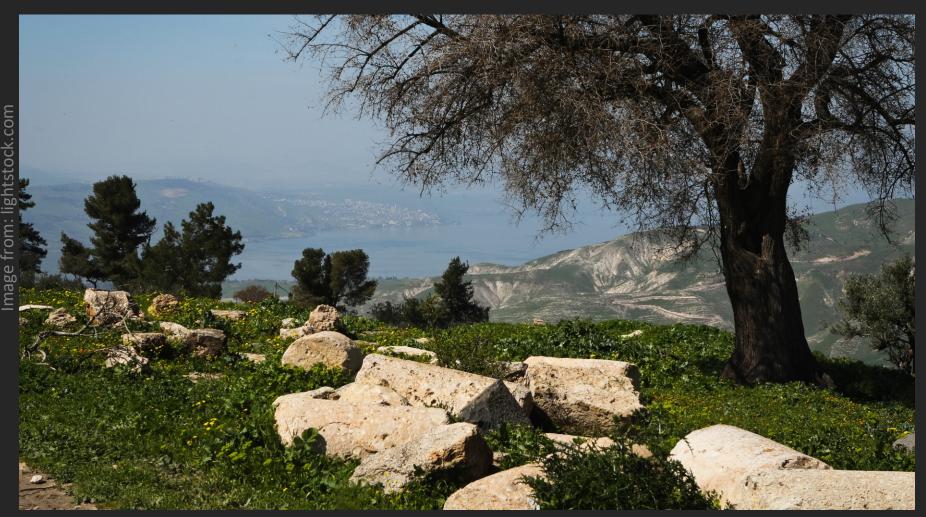
43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

- ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1) The world's way creates a revenge cycle.



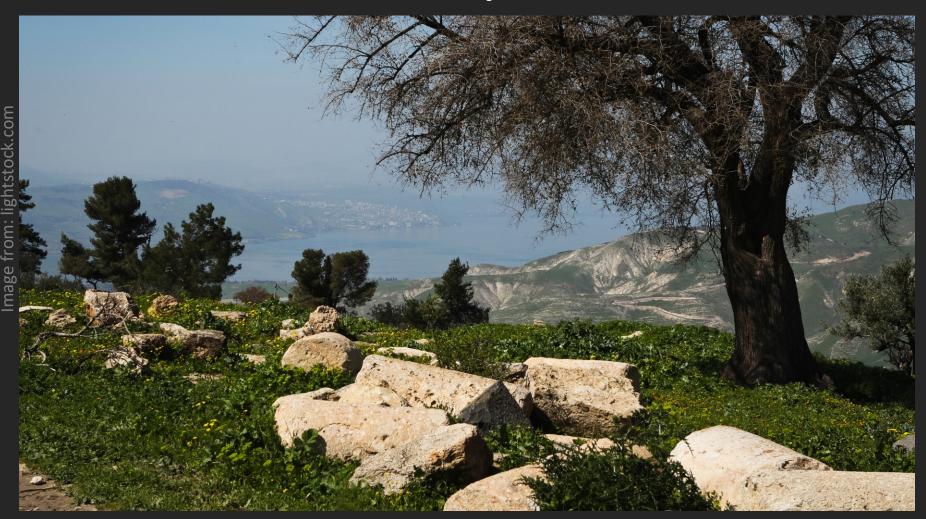
Matthew 5:43

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Leviticus 19:17-18

- ¹⁷ 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.
- ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

2) God's way shows <u>kindness</u> even to those who practice <u>evil</u>.

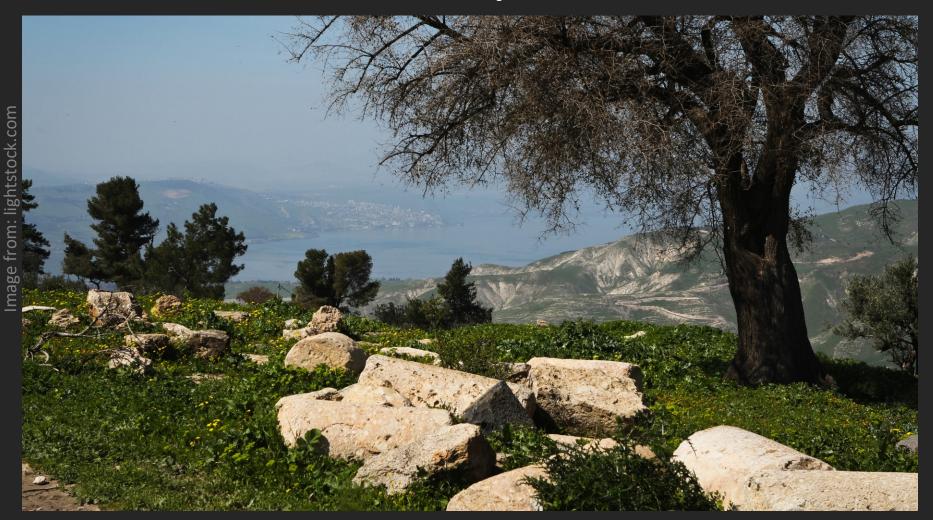


⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

3) Our way is to follow God's example.

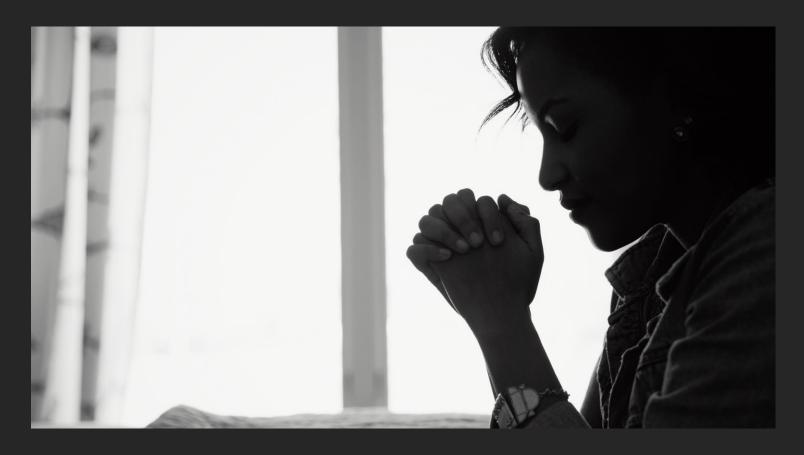


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What Christians Do Instead...



Verses that show us Christian responses:

1 Peter 2:21-23

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Peter 2:21-23

- ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;
- revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Luke 6:27-28

- ²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, <u>do good</u> to those who hate you,
- ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, <u>forgiving</u> each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

Romans 12:21

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Blessing the World:

⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.



Blessing the World:

<u>lives</u> are changed not through evil,
but by God's goodness.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear

• Learn about Christ (Rom. 10:17)

Believe

• Believe in Christ (John 8:24)

Repent

• Commit to Follow Christ (Acts 2:38)

Confess

• Confess your faith (Romans 10:9-10)

Be Baptized

• Baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3-4)

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and <u>pray for one another</u> so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.