



Lenten Reflection for Saturday, March 12th

Marcel Saghir

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Matthew 5:43 - 48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is a difficult verse for me as well as for many of us. It is difficult to feel charitable and loving toward those who offend us, ignore us, or treat us thoughtlessly. Those individuals may not be our enemies, but it feels like it and it can be difficult to rise above the hurt feelings, the anxiety, and the anger that is generated by such individuals. Still we strive to be true Christians and Christ-like. Therefore, we are called upon to go beyond our earthly feelings, thoughts and behaviors as sinful and imperfect individuals. We must reflect on those that hurt us or that we may consider our enemies. An important part of this verse to me is that God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. It is easy to love those who love us and treat us kindly and thoughtfully, but what about those that do not? It is a struggle, but as Christians the struggle is to get closer and closer to God’s purpose and His will. As we grow in our faith and in our relationship with God we strive to be more like God, as he intended us to be as his creation.



Marcel Saghir is the father of Peter Saghir, father-in-law to Alexandra and grandfather to Luke and Scarlett. Marcel is a retired psychiatrist and is married to Jane. Marcel spends most of his time in Florida cultivating his garden, painting, reading and enjoying retirement.