



A NEW HUMANITY: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Welcome back to our final message in this New Humanity series. And I hope this past week was more about our Giving Thanks for the relationships God has given us, our friendships, our church Ohana than giving thanks for the many Black Friday shopping deals you got.

I get to close out this series where we have been learning about Jesus' teachings from His teachings from the mountain about how we ought to live differently in the world around us, being the people God made us originally to be, radically special than how people are today in our way we live individually and how we live in relationships with one another. To live as new kine humans marked a little strange even, special, why, cuz we have the power of God's spirit in our lives to treat others in love. If you've missed any of our last teachings about the new way, or I should say God's original intent for us to live as humans, go to our website to take in those teachings of Jesus in these so called Be-attitudes. Da kine life that we can be happy, blessed, as translated in DGASB, good inside if we choose to live in this way.

OHANA GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION Q1: What teaching of Jesus in this New Humanity series has challenged you or been the most life changing for you?

Blessed are those who. . . And Jesus went through eight of these. Jesus taught, as we go through these situations, we'll be good inside. We'll live a good life.

And today, Jesus ends this section of his teaching with the most mind blowing challenge about being a right human. And it's his teaching to love our enemies. Are you ready to be challenged? Are you ready to be blessed, be good inside? Say, yes!

Let us read together Jesus teaching as reported in Matthew:

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect," (Matthew 5:43-48).

Fo da braddah braddahs here, I go read um Jalike Jesus talk to you today.

⁴³ "You guys wen hear wat God tell: 'Show love an aloha fo da peopo all aroun you.' An da peopo tell: 'Hate da guys dat hate you.' ⁴⁴ But I stay tell you guys dis: Show love an aloha fo da guys dat hate you! An aks God fo help da guys dat make you suffa! ⁴⁵ Wen you do dat, you goin show fo real kine dat you da kine kids dat come from yoa Faddah dat stay in da sky. He make da sun come up fo da bad guys an da good guys. An he sen rain fo da guys dat do da

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right tings, an fo da guys dat no do da right tings. ⁴⁶ Az why, if you guys ony get love an aloha fo da guys dat get love an aloha fo you, you figga God owe you guys money fo dat, o wat?! No way! Even da tax peopo dat colleck tax money fo da govmen, dey get love an aloha fo da guys dat get love an aloha fo dem. ⁴⁷ If you guys tell 'Howzit' ony to yoa braddahs, you tink you spesho, o wat? Even all da diffren peopos all ova da world dat donno God, dey tell 'Howzit' to dea braddahs too. ⁴⁸ All da time you gotta go all out fo be good, jalike yoa Faddah in da sky, he erytime go all out fo be good," (Matthew 5:43-48 DGASB).

You may tell, Pastor, I no mo enemies. Really? Have you ever been so wronged by somebody and you so don't want anything to do with them? And because you are so hurt, you want to hurt them back? Retaliate? Someone made you and your family suffer? Been betrayed? Trust is broken, and you have so much disdain for that person. Maybe you were trying to do good to someone and they turned on you and stabbed you in the back? Or maybe there are those you have done wrong to! Have you had anyone like these in your life? That you so wanna get even with. Make them feel the pain you went through? You hate their guts and/or they hate your guts?

Anyone get people like this in their life? You guys not raising your hands, maybe you neva lissen PTheresa's message on being real authentic, taking off the masks? If we are honest with ourselves, I'm sure we all have people like this in our lives, don't we. And if not, you will!

OHANA GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION Q2: Are there people in your lives that you realize are and/or have been your enemies? Have you released them from their offense against you?

And maybe you coming to church now, trying to get healing from those hurts, those wounds, those betrayals!

And now you all jammed up cuz Jesus is in your face with this teaching fo you to be good, perfect jalike him, cuz he's real good and perfect for us to love our enemies. I realize I may have caused you, just in this moment, to feel angry, bitterness, and hate again as I bring this up. But stay with me as I'll share the good news of Jesus to help you deal with those strong emotions.

And as we learned heard from Pastor Mark's first message in this series, there is our real enemy that wants to throw us off and plant lies in our lives. The devil wants us to live jalike him, to kill and our destroy relationships. And one strategy of the devil is to pit you against those closest to you and make them your enemies. Aren't some of those closest to us, the ones, that have wronged us? And the devil so wants to make you believe that they are your enemies. Hurt people hurt people.

Paul reminds us that our enemies are not flesh and blood, those relationships around us. It's against the devil and his band of demons.

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Aren't some of those you feel are your enemies maybe in your family, coworkers, neighbors? And Jesus is saying to love them.

Try wait Pearl, you telling me to love these people that have made me suffer? Those who have spoken against me, ruined my reputation, want bad to come to me? No thanks! So when these people try to attack me or when they attacked me in the past, what are you telling fo do? Love these people?

I'm having a hard time with this teaching Jesus. Read what Jesus say, right before he teaches about loving our enemies.

³⁸ "You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also," (Matthew 5:28-39).

Give them my other cheek for hurt me more? That's crazy stupid. Be one Doormat? A Christian Doormat? Being willing to be taken advantage of? You know what a doormat is.

It is a small rug placed just inside a doorway where people stomp on to wipe their dirty shoes before entering the house. People who let themselves be walked over by others. A doormat Christian does nothing. Just takes the abuse. Have the enemy walk all over you.

So you telling me not to defend myself, let me be abused, disparaged, or taken advantage of without mounting a defense.

OHANA GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION Q3: Have you been a Christian doormat and done nothing or done the opposite and taken vengeance into your own hands? Read James 5:16 with someone that can help you find forgiveness and healing for this matter.

Now listen carefully, if you are in an abusive situation, this message is not "Stay and Pray" and get continued physical and emotional suffering. Maybe the best is for you to leave the situation/cleave to Jesus.

Instead, Jesus was teaching that we can show how awesome God is and show ourselves to be His true children, by fighting back, How? With love! To be pure inside and out and to be as accommodating as possible for the sake of a broken fellow humans. To "turn the other cheek" does not mean we place ourselves or others in danger or that we ignore injustice. When we are the objects of personal slaps on the cheek, our first response is not to retaliate in the same way. Instead we are called to radical love. That's not being a doormat and doing nothing. Jesus is asking us to give the other cheek in love.



Now I don't know why I've been given this message because maybe God has had to work on this area of my life the most of any of the pastors. Did you know the old earl was a fighter? No not MMA. I would get into fistfights all the time in my BC days, you know, Before Christ days. So much so that I didn't learn my lesson. I broke this bone twice cuz punched people in their heads. You must have been elementary school, nope, one in HS and one in my 1st year in college.

You know the movie of the 1980s and 90s, Back to the Future. The character Marty McFly. Michael J Fox. He'd be taunted by the bully, remember his name Biff. And he'd get the best of Marty, just by saying dis one word "what you "Chicken". And that would provoke Marty.

That was me. Whenever, someone would say, "Earl" you one "Girl" Earl da Girl. That was it! I'll show you who the Girl and I'd go nuts.

And after coming to Jesus, God started to change my identity. And I didn't feel like punching people out no moa! Instead of earl the girl, I became Earl the Pearl. And I believed that about me. That's why when people come to church, sometimes I wear a name tag that says, 'Pearl'. And people think my name is Pearl and it is. But sometimes the old Earl rises up cuz still live in this body. New Spirit, but same body.

I'm gonna share with you this real life situation, not gonna mention names and I don't want you to even guess who it is, cuz that's not the point, but I want to share because I struggle to love my enemies even today as Earl Da Pearl. And I need this teaching just as much as you do from Jesus cuz so easy to love those who love you and me or like and respect you and me. But it's so hard to love those who are against us, want wrong to come on us, hate us, isn't it.

In one of our past locations to do church, you know we've not had our own place to call home, so we've had to lease places, rent out space. And in each of those places, (and we've been at least four different locations, so no guess who dis is) we've had to interact with the caretakers of those facilities. Well at one of these facilities, I wanted to make a good impression on the church, so I offered to do some cleaning (we could pay for it or even do it ourselves as a church) there was some big misunderstanding. And what was offered as help was taken the wrong way, and if I could do it again I would have handled the situation differently, so I take the blame too, but offense happened, the provocation occurred. And now I was the liar. Da Only talk guy. Well, it made it difficult from that point on to do church at this facility.

And on one occasion, the person confronted me and I was with my two kids and eating breakfast and they were young. And the person went off at me. I only heard, "Earl Da Girl" and I so wanted to call him out and say, brah, let me punch you out, how dare you bring this up in front my kids.

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Now, with some people in your lives that wrong you. You can avoid them. But others you can't. Well, I think God places these people in our lives because these are the people that need to see Jesus the most and I believe he wants to use you and I in these situations to show radical love, not be doormats.

So what did I do in that situation? It took so much effort to not retaliate, and give him my other cheek. I did not return insult for insult. Even though everything in me was screaming at me to do so. God gave me supernatural self-control.

Plus I didn't want the reputation of our church be damaged and make the news, Pastor at New Hope charged with assault!

God was working overtime on my heart to love this person. And I so didn't want to love this person. But I knew this is where the rubber meets the road on my call as a God's Kingdom kid to be radically different by having radical love for this person.

Changing the subject litto bit? What is your favorite variety of mango? Hayden, Rapoza, Pirie, Mapulehu?



This pic no even show my favorite. Purie. Pastor Mark like the Hayden. And dass ono too, and if you grow up in Hawaii, you no go da store fo buy mango, but you wait fo somebody give you mangos.

Well someone came church and asked "Pearl, you like mangos, what kine, Purie, how much you get" and gave me a bag of ripe juicy, freshly picked Purie mangos. Dis was gold! And then God spoke to me, go give one to da guy? No ways God! Dass fo me. So when the service pau gotta close up the facility and gotta interact with da guy I had the package mangos, and I wanted to give him this whole teaching. Dis my favorite mango, and God told me to love you,

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but I really not like, but since you my enemy I goin give you dis! But, I didn't do that. I just said, "You like Purie mango, I go give you one" Ah shoots. Your pastor gave him one. Yeah, maybe I should have given him more, but I confess, I wanted to eat the rest. I gave him the biggest one.

Now, did that change anything in da person's life? I'm not sure, but it did for me. Earl, just show love! Live special, differently! Be the kind of human that represents me to the world, be that agent of aloha, expressing radical love to those who are your enemies.

And in the natural without Jesus, there's no way I could offer the mango, express radical love like this. It's only with the spirit of Jesus in my life.

It should be the radical love of Jesus that we experience from him that empowers you and me to love our enemies. Paul says it this way,

⁹ "And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God," (Romans 5:9-11).

Da Hawaii Pidgin Bible tell um lidis:

¹⁰ "Befo time us guys stay agains God. But den God Boy wen mahke fo us come pono wit God. So now, cuz us guys stay pono wit God, we even mo shua Christ goin take us outa da bad kine stuff we do cuz he stay alive. ¹¹ An get one mo ting! Cuz Da One In Charge, Jesus Christ, wen mahke fo us guys an make pono wit us guys, us can talk big bout God,"

(Romans 5:10-11 DGASB).

All of us have been against God, maybe not intentionally, but by the way we live, we didn't want anything to do with God. It was like we were telling God, "laytas with you" (show 'up yours' gesture)

But instead of telling us laytas with you and me cuz you no like follow me, God says, I so love you that I goin show you how much I love you. I not just goin tell you I love, I goin do something so radical. I going make my bestess perfect son fo die for you to come pono with you. Yeah, we deserve to die cuz we've been enemies of God, so instead of us dying, God our heavenly father gives up his best, his son, Jesus the one who never wronged his father, to die for us instead.

If we have come pono with God cuz of the love we've experienced, hear me now, church ohana, we have the power to make pono, be initiators, with those who are our enemies. Does that make sense? We have the power now.

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And when I'm faced with an unbearable situation where I want to say, "up yours" retaliate, instead of showing love, I have a chance to think about how Jesus didn't say "up yours" to me.

Hebrews 12:2 reminds me of this, *"Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Jesus endured so much opposition, so much pain, suffering, and in his moment of shame of being displayed for everyone to mock him, he says to his father in heaven, "Father forgive them cuz they dunno what they doing"

OHANA GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION Q4: What do you discern God is calling you to do in loving those enemies in your life? Remember he wants to use you to show how awesome God is.

I'd like to call up the Rosarios, the next generation of leaders who are examples of radically loving those around us like Jesus. Listen, watch, and be moved by what God is calling us out to do through this song and dance! (For the One)

We have an opportunity to love our enemies with open arms like Jesus. And the only way we can do this is if we experience the love of the father over us. We once didn't want anything to do with Jesus. But he still loved us still with open arms and died for us. It's starts here. And then, we all have someone in our lives that have wronged us, still wants to wrong us, and God is saying to you and me, would you love them like I have loved you, with open arms. Yes, they want to hurt us, defame us, get revenge over us, they curse us, want bad to come to us. God would you help me love them as you would. I choose not to be offended by them, provoked to anger or revenge by them. Instead let me turn my other cheek and offer them love. Not choosing to do nothing as a doormat, but expressing radical love to them. Fight back with radical love (Radical love of Jesus - he died for us, instead of retaliation, he asked his father to forgive them.

Let's go out in singing: BENEDICTION

Let's invite everyone to our Xmas series and especially to Christmas. Maybe even inviting once an enemy and maybe now your friend to celebrate the goodness of Jesus. Dass it! Aloha!