

It Rains on All

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke words that continue to challenge and inspire. “That you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:45.

This verse reminds us that God’s love and provision are not limited by human categories of worthiness. The rising sun and falling rain, symbols of life and blessing, are given freely to all, whether righteous or unrighteous. In this, we see the heart of our Father, impartial, generous, and merciful.

Jesus calls His followers to imitate this divine love. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35. Jesus explicitly commands His followers to love as He loves. To love only those who love us is natural, but to love those who oppose us is supernatural. It is the mark of true spiritual sonship. When we extend kindness to those who frustrate us, patience to those who test us, and compassion to those who wrong us, we reflect the very character of God.

Think of a referee on the field. He applies the rules fairly to both teams, regardless of who is winning or losing. In the same way, God’s blessings fall impartially, and we are invited to show fairness and mercy in our own relationships.

When Jesus calls us to embody divine compassion, He is asking us to live differently in the everyday moments of life. This means responding to difficult people with patience rather than retaliation. When someone criticizes us unfairly or undermines us, our instinct may be to strike back, but true maturity is shown when we answer with calm words or respectful silence that diffuses the situation.

It also means extending kindness without expectation, just as God sends rain on the just and the unjust, we are called to offer help even to those who may never return the favor. A simple act of generosity reflects the impartial love of our Father.

God’s blessings fall on all people, and our love should do the same. Ultimately, to love like God is to shine His light in a dark world. Our words can heal instead of harm, and our service can bless even when no one notices. When we do this, we reflect the heart of the Father.

In these ways, Matthew 5:45 becomes more than a verse, it becomes a way of life. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy,’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and send rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?” Matthew 5:43-46.

As we go about our week, may we remember; the sun rises and the rain falls on all. Let us, too, be generous in love and service, so that others may see in us the reflection of our Father in Heaven.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by ChatGPT)