

Love Your Enemies!

You need them!

Lesson's from a Reindeer

By Rev. Thomas A Robb

Jesus tells us to *“Love your enemies!”* Of course the enemies of Christ have manipulated this to mean something entirely different from what Jesus is telling us. At least that is the way I see it! Here is what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44.

“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”



So let me tell you a story about *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*. I am sure you are all aware of the little deer that led Santa's sleigh through the night on Christmas Eve. I realize some of you don't believe in celebrating Christmas, however I hope you understand that I am using this only to illustrate a point about the statement made by Jesus to love your enemies.

So the story goes like this. Rudolph was evidently born with a nose that glowed in the dark. I am sure it was an embarrassment to both him and mama and papa reindeer. This had never happened before and Rudolph was looked upon as a strange character indeed. In fact, he was a freak and all the reindeer were quick to let him know it. No one wanted to be seen with Rudolph. All the other reindeer made constant fun of him. He was taunted endlessly.

Dasher, Dancer, Prance, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen would all mock him. Rudolph would look in the mirror and wished his nose was like all the other reindeer. But it wasn't, and when he looked into the mirror all he could see was this big red shining red nose. *“If only I could cut it off!”* he would say as he lay alone at night.

All the reindeer laughed at him, called him names and they wouldn't let poor Rudolph play

any reindeer games. It was really sad! But things were about to change. *One foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say, Rudolph with your nose so bright, Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?*

Rudolph was delighted and all the other reindeer who had made fun of him suddenly wanted to be connected to Rudolph's "star power." Rudolph was now "somebody." Santa needed him. He was important!

HERE IS THE REST OF THE STORY!

Rudolph began to plot his revenge! He came up with all kinds of devilish ways to "get even." He had long dreamed of the day when each of those Reindeer which had laughed at him would PAY! He felt he could get away with anything. After all - **he had connections!** Santa needed him, the public loved him and the children adored him. One night as he was about to put his plot into action. He had a dream!

In the dream he was sitting behind his large lavish oak desk and he was being interviewed. A reporter sat there amazed by the power this deer accumulated. The reporter looked up on the wall of Rudolph's office which proudly **displayed the heads** of all those deer that made fun of him.

His plot was complete and this would be the first year he would not have to look into the faces of his enemies. It was at this point the reporter casually pointed out to Rudolph.

"Yes, but don't you know, now you have to pull the sleigh by yourself?"

Rudolph was suddenly awake. *"I can't pull that sleigh by myself! I need those reindeer, I may not like what they did. But I need them. We are on the same team! It doesn't matter that we don't like each other. We need each other to move the team forward. We all need each other. In some strange way we have to actually sort of love each other!"*

That is what Jesus is telling us. He is not telling us to love His enemies, those that have raised their fist against all those things we love and hold dear. We are never commanded to love "His" enemies. We are commanded and must understand that we don't have to like each other but we do have to Love each other.

We all are part of this amazing team (the church) called to bring a message of hope and deliverance to our people. We all miss the mark of perfection. We all have those irritable things, habits and shortcoming. For that reason, our sinful "flesh" sometimes makes us "enemies" to each other. We may wish this sinful nature wasn't there. But it is!

We are all fighting against a nature that controls us. None of us can cast the "first stone." In this, Jesus tells us to love each other! Remember when that young lawyer came to Christ and asked him *"What is the greatest commandment?"* Matt 22:37-39.

He probably thought Jesus was going to name some law that we had to obey. But Jesus didn't give him a law. He said, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind and soul."* Then he added, *"The Second is like the first, Thou should love thy neighbor as thy self."*

The issue wasn't about how many church laws we can obey or which is the most important. The issue was our relationship to God and our relationship to our neighbor. Unfortunately, too many churches, (even in Christian Identity) focus on perceived laws, dates and rituals which they painfully struggle to keep. But Jesus wasn't talking about **rules** - he was talking about **relationships**.

And I suggest that your relationship to God is measured by the level of your relationship to our people. In other words, you show your love to God by the measure you love our people!

This neighbor is a reference to our kinsmen - our racial brothers and sisters. We will have to

leave the reason I say this to another time. But for now a reading of Lev 19 may be helpful. Rudolph awoke from his dream realizing he *needed all those other deer* he had hated. Perhaps he still didn't like them all that much, but like it or not, they were on HIS TEAM and they were all committed to the same mission.

Remember the lesson from Rudolph. You don't have to like everyone on our team, but they are **STILL** on our team! And we can't pull this "sleigh" by ourselves. **We need all the team members.** Therefore Christ said, "Love your enemies!"

We need them! **END**