

Proverbs 25:21-22

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

I think we all know this Proverb and are familiar with it, but the question is, how many of us really do it? Notice I used the word “us” because I am just as guilty of not really doing this.

But if there is someone at work or school or in our family or neighborhood that we don’t like, how do we treat them or even talk about them to others? Just because we don’t like him or her do we badmouth or make them look like they are the worse scum of the earth?

Remember Jesus said:

✠ **Matthew 25:40** *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*
(underlined for emphasis)

We read that and always think of the poor or needy, and that is what the parable (Story) is all about. But what if we look at this in another light, thinking of it as one that Jesus died for, and maybe they don’t need a physical feeding or drink or clothing, but rather a spiritual one.

I’ve heard it said, (and I may have said it myself over the years of teachings) that, we need to remember that Jesus said:

✠ **John 14:2-3** *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

So, what if the place right next door to yours in heaven was being prepared for someone you consider an enemy or just don’t like?

“Well, God wouldn’t do that to me, it just wouldn’t be heaven if He did.” you may be thinking.

Really, I would be cautious on saying that, because it could very well be true. I’ve heard pastor Greg Laurie say that there are three things that will shock us when we get to heaven.

- First, those that we thought would never be there, are there.
- Second, those we thought would be there, are not there,
- Lastly, that we’ll be there.

Heaven is where Jesus is and remember Jesus also said that

† **John 13:35** *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

If we are to love one another, why do we continue to make others our enemies and not try to reconcile with others. Jesus even expounded on today's proverb, which I think says it all.

† **Matthew 5:43-44** *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.*

† **Hebrews 12:14-15 (NLT2)** *Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.*

† **Romans 12:17-18** *Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*