

Matthew 5:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Analysis

Greeting only your brothers is ordinary behavior that even pagans practice. Christians must exceed this baseline, showing kindness to outsiders, strangers, and enemies. This distinctive love becomes visible witness to the transforming power of the gospel and God's indiscriminate grace.

Historical Context

Greeting in ancient culture involved not just acknowledgment but blessing and friendship. To limit greetings to one's own group was tribal thinking. Jesus calls His followers to practice boundary-crossing love that violates social norms for Kingdom purposes.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you practice hospitality and friendship toward those outside your normal social circles?

2. What would your neighbors or coworkers identify as distinctively Christian about your kindness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔὰν ἀσπάσησθε τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ὑμῶν μόνον τί
And **if** **ye salute** ^{G3588} **brethren** **your** **only** **what**
G2532 G1437 G782 G80 G5216 G3440 G5101

περισσὸν ποιοῦσιν οὐχὶ καὶ οἱ τελῶναι οὕτως
ye more **do** **not** **And** ^{G3588} **the publicans** **so**
G4053 G4160 G3780 G2532 G5057 G3779

ποιοῦσιν
do
G4160

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:20 (Parallel theme): For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 6:32 (Parallel theme): For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

1 Peter 2:20 (Parallel theme): For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.