MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is 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 5:43-48

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you
have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if
you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than
others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You
therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Outline

1. The Problem
2. The Call
3. The Way

1. The Problem: Fragmented Hearts, Tribal Love

Matthew 5:43

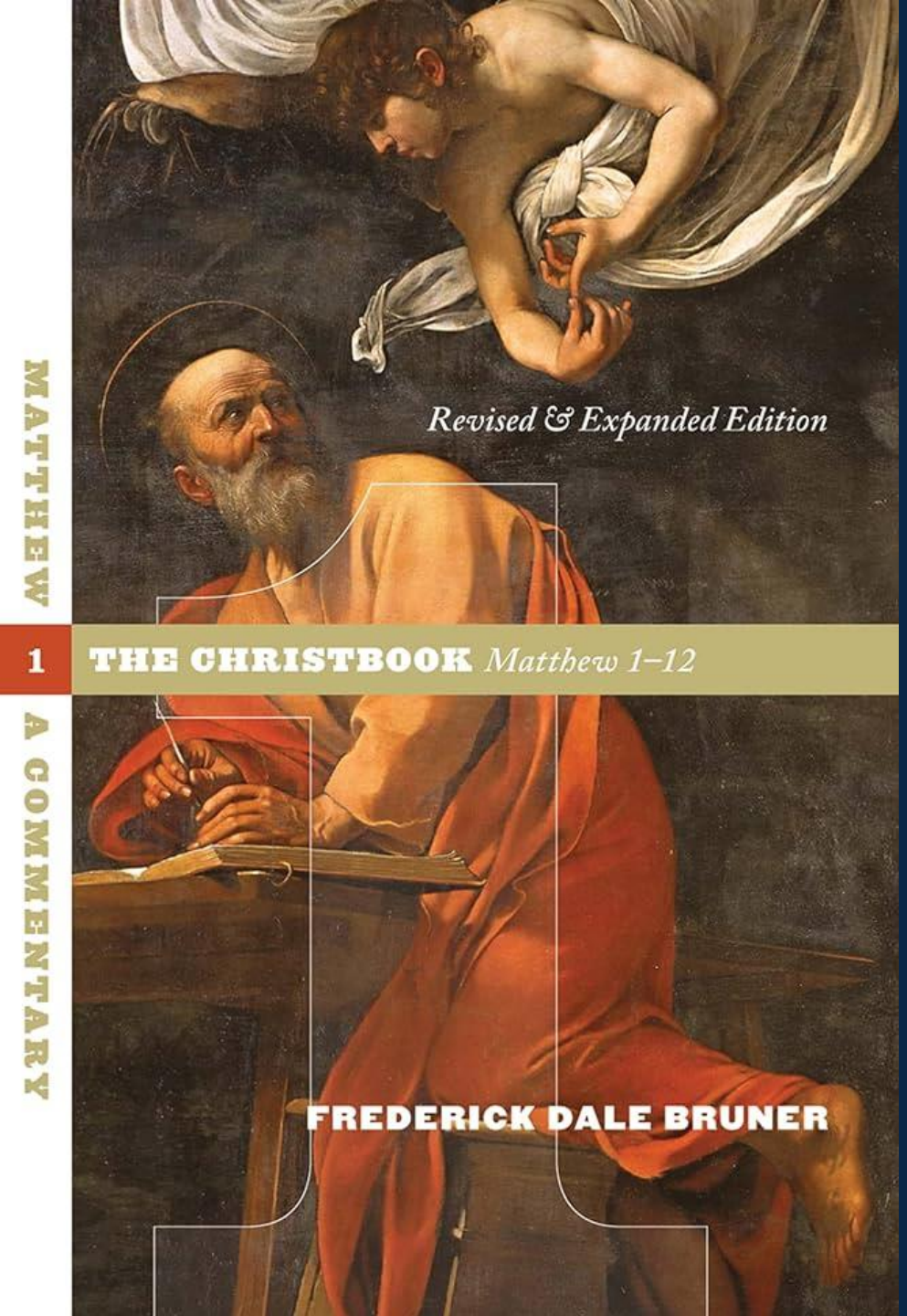
2. The Call: Love, Imitation, and Wholeness

Matthew 5:44-48

2. The Call: Love, Imitation, and Wholeness

<u>Jesus's three-fold call:</u>

- Love your enemies (v. 44)



Christian maturity is a whole-souled commitment, for Jesus' sake, to protect other people. Christian maturity is looking at everyone we meet and saying, at least to oneself, 'I will never, God helping me, do anything to hurt you: either by angrily lashing out at you, lustfully sidling up to you, fearfully slipping away from you, verbally oiling you up, protectively hitting you back, or even justifiably disliking you. "

2. The Call: Love, Imitation, and Wholeness

Jesus's three-fold call:

- Love your enemies (v. 44)
- Imitate your Father in heaven (vv. 45-47)

2. The Call: Love, Imitation, and Wholeness

Jesus's three-fold call:

- Love your enemies (v. 44)
- Imitate your Father in heaven (vv. 45-47)
- Be *teleios* (whole, complete) as your Father is *teleios* (v. 48)

3. The Way: Kingdom, Cross, and Spirit

Various Texts

3. The Way: Kingdom, Cross, and Spirit

How do we become whole people who imitate God's love?

- Kingdom: life under God's saving reign

3. The Way: Kingdom, Cross, and Spirit

How do we become whole people who imitate God's love?

- Kingdom: life under God's saving reign
- Cross: Jesus loved his enemies and mended the broken

3. The Way: Kingdom, Cross, and Spirit

How do we become whole people who imitate God's love?

- Kingdom: life under God's saving reign
- Cross: Jesus loved his enemies and mended the broken
- Spirit: The new covenant gift who empowers love

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