LOVING OUR ENEMIES

1. SHOWING MERCY

Exodus 23:4-5 If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.

Proverbs 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Romans 12:17-21 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

There are 2 possible interpretations for "...you will heap burning coals on his head."

1) Embarrass him, agitating his shame.
2) Win him over, melting his hard heart.

Two responses are required:

- Passive – "do not repay evil for evil"
- Active – "if he is hungry, feed him"