

March 2019

From the Pastor



## A Lesson from Saint Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is in March. We all wear green and feast on corned beef and cabbage. In Chicago they dye the Chicago River green. There is a big parade in Binghamton with much celebrating. When our son was in the high school, he had the privilege of marching with the Vestal Band in that parade.

When you investigate the life of Saint Patrick, you find him to be someone who lived out Matthew 5:43-48. Look at what it says.

### Matthew 5:43-48

43 "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. 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. (ESV)*

Patrick was living in England when, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland and became the slave of a pig farmer. He had what one would consider a very shallow faith, but while working for the farmer, he turned to his only hope; God. He prayed often. He wrote in his confessions...

*"I would pray constantly during the daylight hours," he later recalled. "The love of God and the fear of him surrounded me more and more. And faith grew. And the spirit roused so that in one day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and at night only slightly less." <sup>1</sup>*

His faith grew and deepened, and after being enslaved for six years, he escaped back to England and went into training for the ministry. He felt called back to Ireland to share the gospel and followed the first missionary to Ireland, a bishop named Palladius, whose ministry did not go very well.

Patrick went to the chiefs of the various tribes in Ireland, thinking that if the chiefs turned to the Lord their people would follow. This is exactly what happened.

This man lived out Jesus' command to love those who persecuted him. This St. Patrick's Day consider Saint Patrick as a model for you to follow to love and care for your enemies.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.



