

Luke 6 pt 4 vs. 27-36 (NIV)

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

1. Jesus selected 12 Apostles and is now describing Kingdom life
 - a) Last time we looked at the blessings of the
 - i) Poor
 - ii) Hungry
 - iii) Weeping
 - iv) Hated
 - v) Excluded
 - vi) Reviled for the sake of Jesus
2. **Vs. 27 – 36**, He speaks about the highest attribute: The very nature of God:
Love
 - a) **Not Eros**
 - b) **Not Phileo**
 - c) **Agape**
 - I. A love to Replicate**
 - II. A love to Reward**
 - I. A love to Replicate (imitate)**

1. By virtue of being Christ's disciple
 - a) His goal is to replicate His character in us
 - b) His desire is to change me into the image of Jesus Himself
 - c) "This is where I'm taking you"
 - I. Not to a physical destination

II. The final destination is Christ likeness

- d) Be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect (**Matthew 5:48**)
 - e) But as he who has called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conduct;
(**1 Pet 1:15**)
2. **He calls us to imitate Him**
 3. **His commandments are His enablement's**
 4. **God's way of doing things are the best way, not always the easiest, but always the best**
 5. God will never ask us to do anything he has not already done himself.
 - a) Whenever God tells us to do something, it's because he's already accomplished it.
 - b) When He tells us to love our enemies to be good to those who hate us to turn the other cheek, these are things that He demonstrated
 - I. We can look at examples of Jesus doing this throughout the Gospels.
 6. As we look back over these guidelines, our Lord Jesus Christ lived by these standards

a) It was his lifestyle to use **agape love** as He depended on the Father to give Him the Spirit to work this out

7. **I say to you who hear: love your enemies**

8. **In loving enemies: those who hated Him**

a) Jesus said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Luke 13: 34).

9. **In doing good to those who hated Him.**

a) When Jesus was arrested & Malchus had his ear chopped off

b) Jesus touched his ear and healed him" (Mark 14: 46-47; Luke 22:51).

I. What an example of doing good to those who hate you!

10. **In praying** for those who mistreat you" (Matt. 5:45).

a) After being whipped, mocked, scourged and crowned with thorns: "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing**" (Luke 23:34).

b) Jesus was the only innocent in all creation.

c) He did not deserve the treatment He was receiving, but He continued to pray for those who persecuted Him.

11. "**Whoever hits you on the cheek**, offer him the other also."

a) This is not a simple slap in the face,

I. He's referring an insulting gesture to humiliate

II. Our natural response is to take vengeance when we're embarrassed in front of those we want respect

III. Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit to give Him the courage & ability to turn the other cheek

IV. When He was struck on the cheek, He didn't retaliate

V. "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness of the wrong; but if rightly why do you strike me?"

12. I don't just appreciate Jesus for handling Himself so well with other people

a) This is how He dealt with me when I was His enemy

b) He forgave & forgives me when I blame Him wrongfully for my situation

c) He loves me unconditionally when I turn my back on Him

d) He prays for me as I place the nails in His hands and feet with my wrong choices

e) This is why I'm drawn to the Savior – His love is out of this world

f) His forgiveness is matchless

g) And this is one of the great blessings we have as believers - forgiveness

h) Not long before she died in 1988, in a moment of surprising candor in television, a secular humanists and novelists, said, "What I envy most about you Christians is your forgiveness; I have nobody to forgive me."

13. Because Jesus loves like this, He tells me who "hear" – love your enemies...

a) **Lord, you are asking too much**

b) No one can really live like that

3. A person who has not received love, forgiveness... from our Lord, will not be able to extend to others

- a) **I Peter 2:21-23** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.
 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

 - b) This is the same Peter who didn't understand what Jesus is saying here

 - c) **Matthew 18:21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven**"

 - d) Parable of the king who forgave his servant
4. Jesus is NOT talking about FALLING IN LOVE with your enemies
- a) He's talking about a loving action born out of CHOICE
 - b) Like the love of God for the world
 - i) For GOD SO LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son
 - c) This is a love based only on the CHOICE of the one loving and NOT on the MERIT of the one being loved
5. To love your enemies means that YOU.... by a choice of the will.... chose to act in their best interests
6. **But It is NOT in my capacity to LOVE like that**
- a) We're not supposed to do this in our own strength.
 - b) These commands FORCE me to TURN to Jesus and TRUST in Him
 - c) These commands are NOT intended to MAKE me righteous

d) **They are intended to make me see how UNRIGHTEOUS I am**

7. God says I am working in you & I will be faithful to complete that work that I have begun in you as you abide in Me!!!

8. **In Him I have a HOPE to be transformed into His image**

9. These are unnatural commands

a) They irritate me.

b) In the flesh I find myself arguing with them.

c) As long as I am argue with them, I am never going to change.

d) I'll always be trying to get even.

10. But if I just **will** to obey, "God I am willing to love, but you're going to have to do it, I can't do it."

11. If I am **willing**, I will find that He will provide for me all that is necessary for me to obey that command

a) My part is to be willing to obey

b) In that willingness you'll discover the secret of victory.

c) The Lord will give to you the capacity and the power to obey the commands that He has given.

12. **Lord, can't I do anything else and skip this step?**

a) Vs. 35 **love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**

i) We should be merciful because our Father in Heaven has been so merciful to us !!!!

1. As God shows me mercy, I'm to show that same mercy

2. MERCY = Not getting what I deserve

3. IF someone is unkind towards me.... Mercy means that I will NOT give them what they deserve

4. So living like Christ begins by realizing -and being constantly aware of the grace & mercy that God has given to me

5. Once I realize - how He is with me - that is how I need to be with others

b) O.T example: Aaron & Miriam spoke against Moses

i) The Lord heard it and was angry

ii) That must have hurt Moses much

iii) Moses prayed for Miriam's healing

1. Where did he get that from?

a. Spending time with God on the mountain

(i) Realizing his own wretchedness

1. Seeing the leprosy on his own skin

a. He forgave as he was forgiven

iv) Moses also prayed the people who rejected him and rejected God.

c) N.T example: Paul was hated by his fellow Jews

i) He says he wished he were separated from Christ for their sake

ii) Instead of considering them enemies, he loves and prays for them

1. Where did you get this from Paul

a. 3 years in Arabia

(i) Direct revelation from Jesus

1. I once hated too and was loved by Christ

13. Living like this Validates the fact that I am a child of God ! I will be like my Father

14. In doing so I will be demonstrating the NATURE of the Father BECAUSE he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil.
15. God's patience and longsuffering is incredible. He is so patient with me
16. We're to extend that same mercy to others.

II. A love to Reward

1. Your reward will be great
2. This reward is 2 fold

a) We will be rewarded in heaven

- I. Paul wants to encourage us by telling us he saw things unspeakable
- II. After a preacher died and went to heaven, he noticed that a New York cabdriver had been given a higher place than he had. "I don't understand," he complained to St. Peter. "I devoted my entire life to my congregation."
"Our policy is to reward results," explained St. Peter. "Now what happened, Reverend, whenever you gave a sermon?"
The minister admitted that some in the congregation fell asleep.
"Exactly, " said St. Peter. "And when people rode in this man's taxi, they not only stayed awake, they prayed."
- III. We do know it's going to be glorious for those who honor God and obedient to His will

b) Here on earth, I'll experience the God kind of life

I. Loving my enemies and doing good to those that hate me is an opportunity to walk in the path that Jesus did – divine love

1. When we participate in the act of aggressive love we receive joy, love, peace and wholeness.

2. God sees the love and goodness and lending from the heart of His true sons as all done to his glory
 3. The Lord says: Treat all men, but especially those who are our enemies, the way you would like to be treated.
 4. When you meet people, treat them with the gracious mercy of God.
 5. What is at stake is not our rights but their eternal destiny.
 6. My reward will be watching people get saved, healed, restored
 - a. That is like being born again, again
 7. It was the love of Christ extended to us when we were his enemies that brought us into the kingdom of God.
 8. Now that we are in, we must not forget how we got in!
 9. Live in such a way among your enemies that they might see God the Father, his Son, and the Holy Spirit extending agape love toward them; and pray that many of them might come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior
3. As I see God loving me with his kind of incredible love because while I was yet still a sinner Christ died for me
 4. This kind of love can only be demonstrated when we declare our spiritual bankruptcy and trust our Lord to love our enemies through us.
 - a) The way to love an enemy is not to rely on ourselves, but acknowledge that we cannot do so
 - b) As I receive this love, as I receive His grace, I can then allow God's love in me to love those that hate me the way I used to hate God