

Sermon: Loving Your Enemies.
Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 6:27-36.
Date: May 5, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read Romans 5:6-11. God loves his enemies. Do you see yourself as an enemy of God before your conversion to Christ? How might your attitude change if you take this scripture to heart?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) We all have enemies (even if we are not trying to be an enemy toward others). An enemy is anyone who harms, annoys, disregards, or is different from you. Who are your enemies? In what ways have you found it impossible to love your enemies apart from the love of God in you?

b) Do you tend to respond to criticism with passivity or aggression? How are both of these different from turning the other cheek?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does Jesus' teaching to love our enemies point our hearts ahead to the cross?

b) Read 6:35. Jesus calls us ungrateful and evil, and yet we are Sons of the Most High. This is the gospel – we are more wicked than we could ever imagine, yet more loved than we could ever hope. Why do we need to remember BOTH of these truths if we are going to love our enemies?

APPLICATION

a) Christ's lesson on "turn the other cheek" allows us to love our enemies while identifying and not excusing wrong behavior. It gives our offender another chance to reconcile. Is there a situation in your life that you can think of where Christ is asking you to turn the other cheek?

b) Loving our enemies will mean living by the "golden rule" (v.31) – doing good for others sacrificially without them having to do something for you first. What is a specific way that you could live out the golden rule this week with an enemy? Do good? Bless? Pray?

PRAYER

- Praise God for the love he has shown you, even when you were his enemy.
- Confess ways that you have failed to love your enemies.
- Thank Jesus for "turning the other cheek" on the cross, giving us countless chances to reconcile with him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to love your enemies, do good for them, bless them, and pray for them. .