

Rediscover Jesus, 12: “Love Your Enemies”

Luke 6:27-36

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*Love your enemies genuinely and do good generously
for our Father has given us his great mercy.*

I. Jesus resets our natural behavior and beliefs (vv.27-31)

Luke 6:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

- We naturally hate our enemies because we believe they do not deserve our love.

Luke 6:29-30 (ESV)

²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.

- In order to love our enemies:
 1. We do not take or seek revenge.
 2. We offer them a second chance to become our friends.

Luke 6:31 (ESV)

³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

- Jesus’ teaching is indeed radical, but what he is saying is not ridiculous when we think about what we want others to do to us.

Life Application #1: Consider who your current enemies are.

II. Jesus reveals our sinful “self-serving love” (vv.32-34)

Luke 6:32-34 (ESV)

³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

- A significant hindrance in loving our enemies is our skewed, sinful understanding of what true love is.
- True, genuine love is what distinguishes “sinners” from “disciples” (sinners who have received the benefit of God’s grace).

Life Application #2: Confess your sinful “self-serving love” to God.

Some questions that can help guide your confession:

- Do I selfishly choose who to love?
- How is my love often a “self-serving love” and not a genuine, sacrificial love?

III. Jesus reminds us of our Father’s mercy (vv.35-36)

Luke 6:35-36 (ESV)

³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

- Our sin is a constant reminder that we were ungrateful and evil before God.
- Jesus’ death in our place is our ultimate reminder that our Heavenly Father is merciful to us.

Life Application #3: Cover your enemies with God’s mercy, starting with prayer.