

Luke 6:27-35 - Impossible Love

Humanly speaking we say this is impossible

Luk 6:27-36

The Principles of Love

27 But I say unto you which hear, **Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,** 28 **Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.** 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that **taketh** away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. 30 **Give** to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that **taketh** away thy goods ask them not again. 31 **And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.** 32 For **if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye?** for sinners also **love** those that **love** them. 33 **And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye** for sinners also do even the same. 34 **And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye?** for sinners also **lend** to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But **love** ye your enemies, and **do good,** and **lend,** hoping for nothing again; and your **reward shall be great,** and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

He is calling to those who have ears to HEAR...

27 But I say unto you which hear

- Isaiah 30:20-21 ESV And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. (21) And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

It is a rebellious house that has ears but WILL NOT HEAR

- Ezekiel 12:2 ESV "Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, who have eyes to see, but see not, who have ears to hear, but hear not, for they are a rebellious house.

He is calling us NOT just to love, but to love our ENEMY

27 (b), Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

It is only those who HEAR who are willing to LOVE in this manner - the rest will make an excuse as to why it can't or shouldn't be done.

How to love my enemy

Do good to them who hate you

- Rom 12:17-21 NIV Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear 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.

- It is God's prerogative to avenge - I need to step away from it and do good

- **I don't want to be overcome by evil**

Bless them who curse you --- This word "bless" means to speak well of them

- Rom 12:14 NIV Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 1Co 4:12-13 NIV We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world--right up to this moment.
- 1Pe 3:9 NIV Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Jesus was spoke evil against - He is almighty God

- Luke 12:10 ESV And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.
- Jesus was called --- (John 8:13 - a liar) --- (Matthew 11:19 - a glutton and drunkard) --- (John 10:20 - Accused of being demon-possess and raving mad)

Pray for them who spitefully use you

- Pray God will grant them repentance to acknowledge the truth
- Pray for their salvation
- Pray for understanding and wisdom concerning the issue
- Pray for a breakthrough in the relationship
- Pray for their forgiveness - "Father forgive them, they know not what they do"

He call us to be willing to overlook an offense

29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that **taketh** away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. 30 **Give** to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that **taketh** away thy goods ask them not again.

Proverbs 19:11 NIV A person's wisdom yields patience; **it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.**

Smite you on the cheek - "a slap in the face"

- 2Co 11:20 NIV In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face.

Take away your cloak

- 1Co 6:4-8 NIV Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court--and this in front of unbelievers! 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

Give to those that ask

- He places no restriction here or qualifying criteria
- I think that love becomes the qualifying criteria - love is the foundation of this section of teaching
 - A parent would not give 5 pounds of candy to a child
 - Php 1:9-10 NIV And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

The Golden Rule - And the call to impossible Love

31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that? love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

We tend to treat others the way they treat us

- Jesus turns it around and tells us to FIRST treat others the way we want to be treated
- **Why not be first -**
 - If you aren't getting along with your spouse, a neighbor a co-worker, a child, a parent - why not take the initiative to start treating them the way you would want to be treated
- **We are not left with the option to respond to the treatment of others**
 - We are called instead to set the tone of our relationships
 - We don't just love, do good and lend when we know it will be reciprocated

The High Calling -- and the motivations behind proactive love

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

We are not doing it to gain anything from man - but to receive His reward
Hoping for nothing again --AND your reward will be great

To Be like Him --- You shall be children of the HIGHEST

- He draws a contrast between “sinners” and being children of the HIGHEST
 - The only reason we can love like this is He dwells in us
 - Our love shows that WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD
- 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

HE IS KIND to the UNTHANKFUL and the EVIL

- Rom 2:4 KJV Or despisest thou the riches of his **goodness** and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the **goodness** of God leadeth thee to repentance?
- Eph 4:32 KJV And be ye **kind** one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- Eph 2:7-8 KJV That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his **kindness** toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- Tit 3:3-5 KJV For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the **kindness** and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

To You Who Hear

What keeps us from Loving in this way is that we have adopted many thoughts that are contrary to scripture - we need to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God

- **Love my enemy** - do good to them, speak well of them and pray for them
- **Overlook an offense**
- **Be First to the table with the Golden Rule**
- **Be More like my FATHER in heaven**