

But to You Who Are Willing to Listen

The Rev. Dave Fisher | Luke 6:27-36



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Luke 6:27-36 (NLT):

27 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

This passage is part of Luke's parallel account of some of the same teachings we know as The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. After beginning with some pretty shocking statements about who "has it good" and who should watch out based on their present circumstances (the "blessings" and "woes" of verses 20-26), Jesus begins to teach about the way his disciples should respond to people who orient themselves in opposition to them.

Enemies

1. Who are your enemies? Do you have any?
2. Are your enemies people you know personally and meet face-to-face in life, or are they individuals or groups that you know *of*, but don't know personally?
3. Maybe you've never thought of yourself as a person who has enemies. Are there people in your life or in the world who you assume don't have your best interests at heart? People or groups you see as a threat to yourself or to the world?

Commands

1. "To love is to make the choice to seek the well-being of another without expecting anything in return." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. Which do you find easier: to obey a command, or to follow an example?
3. "Love your enemies.
Do good to those who hate you.
Bless those who curse you.
Pray for those who hurt you."
When you are insulted, don't retaliate.

Opportunities

1. When have you or someone you know been given an opportunity to respond in a way that is unexpectedly loving? How did it go? What was the outcome, as far as you can tell?

2. Do you pray for your enemies? Why or why not? If so, has your heart been changed in the process?

