

SERIES TITLE: Becoming More Like Jesus

PART FOUR: LOVING LIKE JESUS

TEXT: LUKE 6:27-35

INTRODUCTION.

At this very moment, if your faith is in Christ alone, God is at work shaping you into the image of his Son (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). One day, in God's presence, you will be fully like him (1 John 3:2). Until that day of perfection, your growth in Christ-likeness won't happen accidentally. It takes intentionality. Through this seven-week study in Luke's Gospel, we are pursuing this together as an assembly of God's people.

DISCUSSION.

When you think of enemies, what type of person comes to mind and why?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.27-28

Jesus has been speaking to his disciples (v.20). Is there anything significant about Jesus now addressing "those who hear"?

Are these imperatives (love, do good, bless, pray) different than what the Old Testament taught? Why or why not?

Vv.29-31

Read what Jesus did when he was struck in the face (John 18:22-23). How does his reaction compare then with this instruction in this verse?

Someone taking your cloak seems to refer to a street crime by a person who is in need. Why would Jesus say not to stop them from taking your tunic too?

What other Scriptural principles would guard you from becoming destitute if you actually "gave to everyone who asks"?

Vv.32-35

Why doesn't Jesus give credit for loving those who love you, or doing good to those who do good to you?

What would be the reason for lending to a "sinner" or "enemy"?

What is the purpose or end goal of loving enemies in this way?

In what way is the Most High kind to the ungrateful and wicked?

APPLICATION.

- Which of these ways of treating enemies do you find the most challenging or difficult and why?
- In terms of being hated, cursed at, or mistreated, which have you experienced?
- Have you ever responded to abusive treatment in a loving way? What was the result?
- Of the responses Jesus describes for loving our enemies, which seems the most countercultural and why?
 - When mistreated, don't retaliate
 - When you give there should be no strings attached
- Jesus calls his followers to take positive action toward whoever opposes them. What one good thing can you do this week to an "enemy" that will be beneficial for them?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?