



Today's Message

Date: June 14, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Christ's Kingdom Message, Part 2 –
Love Your Enemies***

Text: Luke 6:27–36 (ESV)

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To 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. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And 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. ³⁵ But 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. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Introduction: Luke records Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” in chapter six. Jesus introduced it by pronouncing hope-filled blessings on those who follow his teachings. He also pronounced cursings (woe) on those who reject him (6:20-26). In today’s sermon text, Jesus focuses on the core element of the ethical norms for his Kingdom. It is love. But not just any kind of love will do. Jesus requires a radical kind of love.

**Today’s take-home truth: “We love because he first loved us”
(1 John 4:19).**

I. Jesus calls his followers to a radical kind of love. 27-31

- A. The principle: Love your enemies . . . 27-28
 - 1. with your actions, 27b
 - 2. with your words, 28a
 - 3. and with your prayers. 28b

- B. Four illustrations of radical love: 29-30
 - 1. Love does not retaliate against insults. 29a
 - 2. Love does not insist on personal rights. 29b
 - 3. Love does not withhold from those in need. 30a
 - 4. Love does not demand repayment. 30b

- C. A “golden” summary 31

II. This radical love marks a difference between pagans and God’s children. 32-35

- A. Pagans love with a selfish kind of love: 32-34
 - 1. Pagan love is selective. 32
 - 2. Pagan love is reciprocal. 33
 - 3. Pagan love is utilitarian. 34

- B. But God’s children display selfless love to all. 35
 - 1. Selfless love toward all pleases God . . . 35a
 - 2. because it displays a “family resemblance.” 35b

III. We can show such radical love because God has thus loved us. 36

- A. The radical love Christ requires puts mercy on display.

- B. We will be merciful only as we remember God’s mercy given to us.