

Love Your Enemy (Luke 6:27-38)

It isn't a suggestion; Jesus doesn't simply encourage his followers to love their enemies. It's a non-negotiable for those who follow him. Love that knows no bounds and has no barriers, that's the kind of love Jesus modeled and invites us to walk in. How is that possible? Has Jesus gone too far? Are we willing to go that far with him?

1. Marching orders: The command to love (Luke 6:27-31)

Love is the "non-negotiable centerpiece" of those who follow Jesus. Not an optional add-on.

Many live with mindset; *"I love you - til you cross the line, til you hurt me."*

An enemy always *takes* something from us: dignity, respect and NOW we're being told to give; not get back, to bless, to bring the one who hurt us to God in prayer. Everything in us shrinks away from this! Jesus illustrates from things we value most – our bodies and possessions.

6:29 *"the other cheek"* **6:29-30** *"your cloak (outer covering) and your tunic (inner clothing)"*

6:31 The heart of it all up to this point. The "golden rule"!

2. Go further still: The question of love (Luke 6:32-34)

When you think you've taken it far enough, Jesus is saying you've only begun; go further still.

Three questions. Three responses. Same point. = It's not enough to love those who love you back.

Imagine a world / a life lived under God's loving rule; where we who have received love, give it away radically, generously and courageously.

Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-14 What will happen when we love this way?

3. Identity Markers: The reason we love (Luke 6:35-38)

VV35-36 *"Be like this because that's what God is like!"* Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 4:10-11

Where have we placed boundaries, limits on love?

- When tempted to judge
- When tempted to write others off
- When tempted to walk in unforgiveness (animosity + bitterness)

Running over = generosity. The illustration in 6:38 isn't about money! It's about LOVE!

An absurd (ridiculous) love. Shocking, hard to grasp love – one that will come back to us.

QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you? Did anything encourage, challenge or convict you?
2. Describe a time when someone treated you or another person according to just one of the instructions by Jesus in 6:27-38. What was it like?
3. Why is this command (instruction) to love so difficult for us? What does it require?
4. In 6:29-30 Jesus illustrates from things we value most: our bodies and possessions. What are these illustrations ultimately calling us to?
5. We often hear 6:31 quoted alone. Describe what happens when we filter our speech and actions through this verse. What kind of culture is built as a result?
6. When we think we've taken love far enough, Jesus is saying we've only begun, go further still. How does he challenge your understanding of love and sacrifice in 6:32-34? Read Romans 12: 9-21 and 13:8-14. Where do you feel the need to make steps toward love?
7. What are some ways you have set boundaries on love (or been tempted to)? Do you need to repent, own up to wrong and make things right with someone? Pray for help.
8. According to 6:35-36 what is the reason we're to love this way?

Take some time to pray that we would be a community of Jesus followers determined to live a lifestyle of absurd generosity and ridiculous (radical) love. A love that knows no bounds and has no barriers.

