

Luke 6:27-42 Bible Study

1. For what reasons would someone usually show love and kindness to another person?
2. Read Luke 6:27-36. In showing love to an enemy, Jesus gives some pretty strong examples of what that might look like (29-30). Can you think of some other practical ways you could show you love an enemy?
3. This instruction, to love our enemies, from Jesus is counter-cultural and counter-intuitive. What things might; 1) help us do it, and 2) stop us doing it?

Help – not trying to do it under our own strength, remembering God’s love for us, while we were enemies (Rom 5:6-11). Praying for God to change us, strengthen us (Romans 12:2). Realise that even when we fail, our salvation does not depend on it, God forgives us, and, free from guilt continue striving to do it

Stop us - seeing it just as a moral decision we have to do. When we realise it is too hard we will either ignore it, or feel guilty because we can't do it, and stop trying.

4. How does knowing that God is the ultimate and righteous judge help us love our enemies? (see 1 Peter 2:21-23, Rom 12:17-21)

God will bring people to account for their actions, he judges fairly. So when we face injustices, we know that he will not let them go unpunished, and so we leave it to him.

Knowing this though, we should, in love, pray that our enemies will find forgiveness in Jesus, and receive mercy from God in the end.

5. Read Luke 6:37-42. How should a follower of Jesus go about judging, forgiving and being generous? What shapes the way they do this?

Do these in a way that reflects the way God deals with us, and how we would like him to deal with us. Being slow to judge and ready to forgive and don't skimp on generosity.

6. What is Jesus saying about the sort of teacher and leader we should be following? (39-40)

Blind leaders are those who lack faith or insight, people who lead without direction and particularly away from Jesus' instructions.

A teacher teaches a disciple what they need to know, and shapes them to do, think and act the way they do. We need to be wise who we listen to and follow. The leader and teacher we need in Jesus.

7. According to vv41-42, is there place for rebuking a brother or sister and how should it be done?

In the right circumstances Jesus does encourage rebuke. We need to pay attention to our own faults and deal with them before we point out other people's. The warning is for those who see and point out the fault in others, but not in them self. We need to make sure we're not harsh in addressing others' failings, while being lax with our own.

8. How has the principle of love that Jesus instructs in the passage contrasted with your answers in question 1?

Spend some time praying together about what you have learnt about God.