

Live To Benefit Others
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Luke 6:27-49

SOME PEOPLE! Life would be great if it weren't for SOME PEOPLE!
You know the people I mean. The people who USE you; LIE about you; STEAL from you;
INSULT you both behind your back and to your face. Mean, obnoxious, hurtful, hateful people.

- When people hurt us it's HUMAN NATURE to want to RETALIATE.
- What do we mean when we say "revenge is sweet"?
- You know the feeling you get when that hot rod rides your bumper, cuts you off, and zooms up the hill. I confess my sin before you, I start fervently praying "Lord, let there be a cop over the hill!" and if you crest the hill and see blue lights and old hot rod pulling over...SWEET!
- But, WRONG!
- Do you ever rehearse in your mind what you'd like to say to someone who hurt you or someone you love? You silently come up with things to say that would emotionally tear them limb from limb.
- How about shooting back in response when someone insults you. I'm a big fan of Churchill.

There's a story that may or may not be accurate but as it goes, Churchill encountered another member of Parliament named Bessie Braddock:

She looked at him and said: "Winston, you are drunk, and what's more you are disgustingly drunk."

Churchill replied: "Bessie, my dear, you are ugly, and what's more, you are disgustingly ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober and you will still be disgustingly ugly."

- Revenge is sweet. But wrong. Who does revenge belong to?
- Jesus called us as believers to a HIGHER STANDARD in how we treat others...even those who hurt us. Christians are to be DIFFERENT. Turn to Luke 6:27...Jesus said:

Luke 6:27-29

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

- Verses 27 and 28 Jesus is very specific and concise:
- Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.
- The LOVE he describes is AGAPE LOVE. The love that desires what? The BEST for another.
- We think of LOVE as being EMOTIONAL. How is this love DIFFERENT? A choice of will.
- What do you think it means to "bless those who curse you"?

- The Greek word is the same as “eulogy”...saying good things about the person. I take it to mean in spite of their hatefulness toward you, speak well of them to the extent you can and it’s true.
- Jesus said pray for them. Pray WHAT for them? What you pray for yourself...their good.
- Verse 29 is familiar to us all. Turn the other cheek.
- Does this mean if we are physically mugged or attacked we should just take it?
- What about JUSTICE or WAR? Jesus wasn’t talking about Government but INDIVIDUAL CONDUCT.
- Some scholars believe Jesus wasn’t describing a punch in the jaw. Ever hear the expression: “Well that’s a slap in the face!” When people say that do they generally mean a physical slap?
- In Jesus culture we’re told a back-handed slap on the right cheek was the ULTIMATE INSULT.
- To put it in context of today. People don’t generally insult you with a slap...it’s a gesture we often see in traffic involving a hand. You know it. When they shoot, do we shoot back?
- In verse 29, What does Jesus say we’re to do? If they take your coat give them the shirt too.
- Does this mean we just let people run all over us? Let’s consult a couple of theologians.

Chuck Swindoll makes a good point:

“I think it’s worth noting that our Lord suggested two cheeks not dozens of them, lest we become a doormat to the abusive...be assured, nowhere in scripture are we instructed to be submissive doormats to rapists, silent victims of sexual or physical abuse, or helpless pawns in the hands of a would-be murderer.”

R.C. Sproul writes:

“Jesus is saying that we should bend over backward to not be involved in a spirit of bitter vindictiveness. The rest of Jesus’ teaching indicates that it’s not wrong for someone to seek justice in the law courts. If a widow is defrauded of her inheritance, that doesn’t mean that she has to go out and give everything else she has to the one who stole from her. But Jesus is talking about an ethic here that calls for us to imitate the attitude of mercy and forbearance and patience that is found in God himself.”

Imagine how many times we OFFEND and INSULT a Holy God and yet he turns the other cheek and is patient. The love of enemies is another way Jesus taught us to IMITATE GOD.

Luke 6:30-31

30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

- Verse 30: If someone needs something, you have it and feel led to give to them...don’t look for it back.
- Verse 31: Is known as what? The Golden Rule
- In today’s society, if people “twist” the Golden Rule around, how do they likely state it? (Not “He who has the gold rules”) If you don’t want someone to do something to you don’t do it to them. In Jesus’ day the Jews took this same approach: Don’t hurt other people and they won’t hurt you. In their law it was “an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth” If I break your nose...
- Jesus is taking it much farther than that. Look at verse 31. How did Jesus change it?

- He made it positive: DO TO OTHERS AS YOU'D HAVE THEM DO TO YOU. TREAT OTHERS AS GOOD AS YOU WOULD TREAT YOURSELF.
- Verses 32-34:

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

- In these verses, how did Jesus explain the difference between His followers and those he called “sinners”? It’s not DIFFERENT to love those who love you or be good to those who are good to you. THAT’S EASY. Pagans do that.
- Christians are to go FURTHER by loving those who HATE you; who are MEAN to you; who RIP YOU OFF!
- QUESTION: How ON EARTH could we actually LIVE THIS WAY? What’s the answer?
- Christians are to be DIFFERENT...we are to IMITATE Christ. Verses 35 and 36 underline this.

Luke 6:35-36

35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Again, we are IMITATING our Heavenly Father when we act this way toward those who hurt us. What about our ATTITUDE?

Luke 6:37-38

37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- Ponder these three questions and let’s discuss:
 - Does “judge not” mean we should never make a moral evaluation about someone?
 - What if you discovered a close friend was having an adulterous affair? Do you ignore it?
 - What DOES “judge not” and “condemn not” mean?

Mark Driscoll writes:

On a more personal level, sometimes love means letting things go. Love “covers a multitude of sins,” as 1 Peter 4:8 says. Other times love requires us to confront. If someone is doing something that will be their undoing and destruction, the most loving thing in the world is to confront them. One commentator writes that Jesus’ concept of love is not “simply being nice to people” and “allowing error to go unchallenged” —sometimes love means “controversy and rebuke.” But, it is doing so with hope for the person being confronted, without bitterness, in an effort to not defeat them but to bring them to repentance. The issue is never our victory as much as God’s glory.

- To get some more perspective on what Jesus may have meant by “judge not” and “condemn not”

Luke 6:41-42

41 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

- First of all, what is Jesus using here? Humor and absurdity. Imagine: a plank in your eye!
- What does it mean to focus on the “spec” in someone else’s eye while ignoring the “plank” in our own? What action does it call for on our part?
- When Jesus said “judge not” and “condemn not” he was referring to us NOT HAVING a judgemental or condemning ATTITUDE about others while IGNORING OUR OWN SIN.
- Two last verses to round this lesson out. If love is a CHOICE then we’re called to OBEDIENCE.

Luke 6:46-48

46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

Warren Wiersbe writes:

We must not look at these admonitions as a series of rules to be obeyed. They describe an attitude of heart that expresses itself positively when others are negative, and generously when others are selfish, all to the glory of God. It is an inner disposition, not a legal duty.

[HOWEVER, Wiersbe GOES ON TO SAY]

We must have wisdom to know when to turn the other cheek and when to claim our rights (John [18:22–23](#); Acts [16:35–40](#)). Even Christian love must exercise discernment (Phil. [1:9–11](#)).

Rabbi Story (if time) <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/05/nyregion/05rabbi.html?pagewanted=all>

- Jesus said to YOU and ME:
Love your enemies; bless those who curse you; pray for the GOOD of those who use you; when you’re insulted, LET IT GO; Be merciful because your Father (in Heaven) is merciful; Don’t have a judgemental attitude while ignoring your own sin;
- Be IMITATORS of GOD to the GLORY OF GOD.

That’s the TAKEAWAY!