

~THE BOOK OF LUKE~
~Chapter 6~

Looking At Luke 6:27-36

A) **Lk. 6:27-28.** Jesus teaches us about responding to those who may not like us.

- **Who would we consider to be an enemy? How would we define this word?**
- The word “enemies (vs. 27) describes someone who opposes us, who may be hostile in words and action, who hates or dislikes us because of our faith.
- Or they may not like us because they feel threatened because we are a better worker than them or they do not like our values. The reasons may be many.
- We are told to “love” our enemies. Nowhere in the OT was the Jew told to “hate their enemy.” They were told to “love their neighbor” (Lev. 19:18).
- The religious leaders may have reinterpreted Scripture to support their “hating the enemy” (Ps. 139:19-22; Ps. 140:9-11). They taught that “neighbors” were fellow Jews.
- Jesus is not saying we must accept the negative conduct towards us. We don’t retaliate.
- **How do we show God’s love towards those who are hostile towards us?**
- Vs. 27 also tells us to “do good” to those who “hate” (detest, have ill-will towards) us. Nothing good comes out of their mouth. They are rude and unkind. In fact, they may tell us that they hope we lose our job, etc.
- **How do we do good to people like this? How do we bless people who are unkind?**
- Vs. 28 tells us to “bless” those who “curse” us. This person is simply an unkind person who wants the worst for us. We are to “bless” them. We are to tell them, in response to their actions, “Have a great day,” or “be safe.”
- Again, this is not about us being doormats. It is about us not acting like the world around us and honoring Christ in our response.
- Vs. 28 tells us to “pray” for those who “abuse” us. To “abuse” means “to insult, to mistreat, harass.” This is the person who verbally attacks us. They may hate us; they may be our enemy. They put us down, they call us names. They treat us like dirt.
- **What do we pray for when it comes to this individual?**

B) **Lk. 6:29-31.** Jesus continues His thoughts about how to react to people who mistreat us.

- The first part of vs. 29 is not about self-defense. There is a place for that. This verse is not talking about allowing ourselves to be abused.
- Vs. 29 reminds us about retaliation, getting even, or getting back at someone for what they have to us. Rom. 12:17-21 tells us to leave it with God.
- Vss. 29-30 remind us to hold loosely to what we have. It is about showing compassion. There could be the idea of justice here. We do not take the law into our own hands.

C) **Lk. 6:32-36.** Jesus continues His thoughts about how to react to people who mistreat us.

- In these verses Jesus reminds us that the real-life application of what He has talked about is seen in the challenge of how treat those who are not kind to us.

- It is easy to love those who love us (vs. 32), for the unbelieving world does the same.
- Unbelievers do good to those who do good to them (vs. 33) and lend money and get repaid (vs. 34).
- Vss. 35-36 show us the real challenge. We are to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us, help others, and expect nothing in return. Then we will be like our Lord.

Looking At Luke 6:37-42

A) **Lk. 6:37-38.** Jesus teaches us about judging and explains what it is and is not.

- **What comes to mind when we talk about judging others?**
- Vs. 37 says we are not to judge according to manmade rules and such (Mt. 7:1-6). When we do so we look down on others who do not measure up to our standards.
- The judging here is unfair and severe, finding fault with basically everything in another person's life.
- If we judge or condemn, it will come back on us at some point. This is based also on manmade standards. We need to show a little grace and mercy.
- We are to forgive also (vs. 37). Some people refuse to do so.
- **How do we know if we have forgiven someone?**
- Vs. 38 to me is one of the most abused verses in the Bible. This is not a promise of wealth if we follow vs. 37. The context is connected to not judging, condemning, and forgiving others, not wealth.
- The idea of vs. 38 is taken from the marketplace where grain was poured out, shaken down, and filled to overflowing so the buyer received as much as possible put into their basket. Or you could hold up your coat to catch the grain.
- How we are towards others will come back to us at some point, as God sees fit. Think about it this way. Generally, when we treat people right, we get treated the same.

B) **Lk. 6:39-42.** Jesus teaches us about judging and explains what it is and is not.

- Vss. 39-40 talks about who we allow to influence us. For us, the Bible is to be our textbook for how we are to live. Christ is our example.
- Jesus was speaking about how the religious leaders had not been good examples.
- Vss. 41-42 speak of self-righteous judgment. Jesus is not condemning righteous judgment; He is condemning man's judgment. Vs. 41 is Jewish humor.
- The word "notice" in vs. 41 has the idea of "focusing one's complete attention."
- Jesus shows the absurdity of judging by noting that someone sees a small fault (vs. 41) in someone's life and yet has a big problem in their own life. Some people focus on the faults of others, wanting to "fix" them. Jesus is attempting to correct that in vss. 41-42.
- In vs. 42 Jesus is not saying we should not help others. But when we go to help someone else (Gal. 6:1-2), we need to be right with God. Note that Jesus uses the word "hypocrite" to describe the one who judges wrongly.
- **We should want to help others but first we must make sure we deal with ourselves.**
- **How in practical ways do we guard against being self-righteous in our judgment?**

