

The Kingdom of God, pt.12, 11.18.07

Doing Good To The No Good

Luke 6.27–36

Introduction

1. Paul Yongi Cho story

2. Read text

3. Review – these are Kingdom values; he’s telling them it’s about to get ugly; their devotion to Christ will cause problems.

a. The more zealous we are the greater the reaction from others; it creates discomfort in others. Fire stirs action! Some want it out & others want it on!

b. If you don’t have enemies/strained relationships/strife with others because of your walk with Christ I’m not sure how close your walk is with Christ. I’m not suggesting you should be looking for a fight (a bully with a Bible/bible bully), but you will meet with resistance from others (even other Christians) when you seek God.

i. Some of you are sad b/c of broken relationships due to your walk with the Lord but Jesus says, “Jump up & shout!” (6.22f.)

I. The Command – Love your enemies.(6.27, 35)

a. This is a command not a multiple choice.

i. “But to you who are willing to listen” – are you willing to listen? This applies not only to openly hostile relationships, but to strained & broken ones.

ii. Some are already justifying their attitude & behavior...”You don’t know how much this person hurt me...”

iii. There is no option, but to bless...if you withhold forgiving & blessing...God will not forgive you.

iv. The word for “love” is agape. It means you desire nothing but good for the person. This type of love

doesn't necessarily have affection or emotion attached to it. You don't feel love, but you chose love.

- b. How Jesus dealt with his enemies (other than the devil & demons)?
 - i. Luke 11.37–52 – He spoke the truth to them. He came to do his Father's will which meant he had to say some hard things. Jesus' purpose in life wasn't to make people happy but to do his Father's will. Therefore, when he ran across people who were not doing God's will when they thought they were there was a collision.
 - 1. Appl – Sometimes the most compassionate thing you can do is to speak the truth. Jesus wasn't just pestering people, but had their best interest at heart.
 - ii. Luke 11.53f. – He didn't argue with them, but moved on.
 - iii. Matt.23.2f – He told them to respect & obey their teaching.
 - iv. Luke 8.40–42: He responded to their needs & didn't turn them aside.
 - v. Mt.26.50: He still cared for Judas even at his betrayal
 - vi. Luke 23.34: He forgave them.
 - vii. Jesus lived this command!
- II. The Foundational Premise – Your Father is compassionate even to His enemies. (6.35f.)
 - a. We are to reflect to others what we have received.
 - i. The rain falls and the sun shines on the atheist, devil worshipper, drug addict, wife beater, unscrupulous stock broker, crooked business person and immoral preacher. By loving them, we're reflecting God's heart
 - ii. **Mandisa quote**
 - b. How do you act like God/become like God? You give & forgive w/o expecting anything in return.
 - i. How often are we thankful to God? Not often enough
 - ii. How often do we complain about our plight? Too often.

- iii. Despite our thanklessness God continues to extend his love, forgiveness and grace.
 - iv. The story of the 10 Lepers (Luke 17.11–19). Jesus didn't curse the other nine. God provides "common grace" to all, but not all respond with common gratitude.
 - c. Compassionate – filled with mercy that expresses itself in action. Jesus was moved with compassion. It means the inside of him was stirred to do something. Jesus sees us in our plight & rebellion and he initiates a plan of action towards us. Most resist but he persists. We are to do the same.
 - i. **Story of soldiers giving blood to an insurgent (compassionate even to his enemies)**
- III. The Principle – Do to others as you would like them to do to you.(6.31)
 - a. The Golden Rule. Treat others the way you want to be treated!
 - i. In the home, work place, school & neighborhood. You often get what you give.
 - ii. Another way of saying it is, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Treat your neighbor as you would treat yourself.
 - iii. **Forgiveness video**
 - b. This is aggressive action – you have to take action. THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE – 6.27b – 30, 35)
 - i. Specific activities: Do good, bless, pray, give, lend, etc & don't expect it to be reciprocated..
 - ii. This is bringing the atmosphere of the KOG into a relationship and possibly changing the environment.
 - 1. **Wade Boggs story**
 - 2. Appl – don't you want to see this happen?
 - c. I love dealing with conflict because of the joy of seeing reconciliation. I don't like the conflict, but I like the

opportunity that conflict affords, which is deeper understanding, trust & love.

- i. Seeing it play out in relationships over the last two weeks
 - d. Inaction leads to greater hostility, bitterness & distancing from them. Jesus said, “Don’t allow for drifting.” You can’t just put it away, and act like it didn’t happen.
 - e. Normally, it isn’t just A blessing or A prayer for the offensive party, but rather a series over a period of time. You’ll forgive & bless and then return to it later. Scars don’t disappear, but eventually we no longer notice them. It’s the same way with dealing with our enemies. Eventually, it takes.
 - f. You do it regardless if you feel good about it or not; The type of love Jesus tells us to demonstrate here is “agape” love. It’s a love not based upon feelings or closeness or if the offending party merits, but a choice to forgive despite what the person did or how you feel.
 - g. Isn’t that how you want others to treat you?
- IV. The Outcomes – Acting like a child of God and you’ll receive a great reward. (6.35)
- a. You look like Jesus. This is how you live the Cn life!
 - b. God sees what you have done and he rewards it. The reward is always greater than the sacrifice

Conclusion

1. I know there are many questions about whether this passage is teaching we should let people continuously run over us & even if we should stay in an abusive relationship. Jesus is talking about how we should inter-relate with our enemies and those with whom we have broken relations.
2. The Year of Jubilee – releasing those who have hurt you & bless them...this is a huge Kingdom value! You can do it today!
3. If you don’t release them, then you will continue to experience God’s discipline

4. I believe one of the reasons some of you might be struggling with depression or aggressive behavior is b/c you haven't released & blessed your enemies/those who hurt you.
5. This also opens the door for healing!
6. Who do you need to bless, pray for, give to, show courtesy? Love them. Your Father loves you in your rebellion. Treat them like you want to be treated. You'll look just like Jesus!
7. This is bringing what's up there down here...on earth as it is in heaven.