



June 12, 2022

“Children of the Most High”

Luke 6:27-36

Fleshing Out “Loving Your Enemies” from Luke 6:27-31

Notice the beggar thrown into the group of aggressive violators: 6:30

Giving without any expectation of a return

As you wish others to do to you, so do to them: 6:31

Different than the more common golden rule in the negative (don't do what you don't want)

A conclusion: Our deep desire to be loved with no strings attached

Reciprocity is included in most love acts: love invites mutuality: 6:32-34

This does not diminish that act as loving but it unavoidably clouds it

The deepest expression of love: unambiguous unrequited love: 6:35

Modeled by Jesus on the cross: forgive them they know not what they do: Luke 23:34

The call: expecting nothing in return from the person: 6:35

What Can Motivate Us to Love This Way?

To love others in order to get something from others is now off the table!

Jesus promises a rewarding of this kind of love from the Father: 6:35

Our reward for loving in this way is “becoming children of the Most-High”: 6:35

The Most-High (full & without need) is kind to the ungrateful and evil: 6:35

Which means we get call “Father” the One Who loves with no strings attached!

(Remember He loved us while we were still His enemies: Romans 5:10)

And this meets the deepest desire of our heart (to be loved with no strings attached!)

Final Exhortation: Be Merciful

Creates a positive cycle: knowing this kind of love from God allows us to give it to others

Mercy is shorthand for loving others with no strings attached

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy: Matt 5:7

Certainly wise discernment is needed in the particular dynamics of individual situations

But the “love your enemies” ethic is the northstar of God's kingdom

Final question: chicken or the egg?

Begin with acts of loving those who will not or cannot return anything and watch!

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Who is my enemy?	What does it look like to love?
The one who hates you	Do good
The one who curses you	Bless
The one who mistreats you	Pray for them
The one who strikes you on the cheek	Offer the other cheek also
The one who takes your cloak	Make available your tunic
The one who begs from you	Give
The one who takes your goods	Don't demand your stuff back