



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Who Do You Love?” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | February 24, 2019

Luke 6:27-35

27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.

31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

32 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Background

What does the Christian life look like in this world when we talk about loving our enemies? Tim wants us to tackle this passage by discussing three topics: The Call, The Look, and The Reason. These three things will help us understand what it looks like to love our enemies.

The Call: Luke 6:27 calls us to love our enemies. That is being Christian. Christ proclaims during a time where Christians were using God's law through loopholes. They were practicing an eye for an eye and doing unto others as they did unto you. This meant that if someone slaps you on the cheek, you slap them back and do not offer your other cheek. If we practiced this, we would live in a state of perpetual conflict. We'd always feel wronged. Our life would be a continual source of critique and complaint.

The Look of Love: 1) Turning the other cheek was more than just refraining from reacting to pain; a slap was insulting and rejecting. It was an emotional hurt instead of physical. But let's be clear, it's not ok to allow mental or physical abuse. But when you are insulted, don't insult someone back and hold a grudge and shut the door of forgiveness. Love them by not returning the insult or shutting them out relationally. 2) Be ridiculously generous – give to those who cannot give back, not necessarily just to those who can repay you. Also don't expect payment when someone takes from you (obviously don't let that become a problem or injurious to you and your family). Tim broadens this to not just goods but how about our reputation? He charges us to change the narrative if someone tries to take our reputation. We don't have to demand it back. But that also requires us to not live in bitterness or paralysis. Only the love of God can help us not demand back what's been taken.

So after the Call and the Look...Why?! Why does Jesus say all this?

The Reason: Jesus asks what benefit is that to you? We are supposed to be unique! See question(s) #3 below. If we are after Christ and not the world, we have to live like he does because he doesn't give to those who expects to pay back. How could we?!

Tim finishes with the story of Joseph and his brothers. We do to God what Joseph's brothers did to Joseph. We try to erase Him from our lives. See question(s) #4 below. And Tim also ends with Romans 5. Why? It's all about reconciliation. Read Romans 5:1-5, 10-11 and discuss question #5.

Discuss:

- 1.) Tim challenges us to consider our daydreams when we think of our enemies. Do we want God to lovingly change them or justly crush them? Can you think of any examples where you are hoping for a fall of an enemy?
- 2.) Are you harboring any grudges because someone has insulted you? What will it take to reconcile with that person, even if it means that relationship might never be the same? What is holding you back?
- 3.) Why does Jesus ask what benefit - doing the things we want to do - are to us? Why does Jesus compare what we'd like to do to what sinners do?
- 4.) Why does Tim end with the story of Joseph and his brothers? Did Joseph practice what Christ preached? How would you have reacted if you were Joseph and you were just reunited to your brothers?
- 5.) How does being reconciled to God help us love our enemies?

Conclusion/Application

Tim challenges us to live as sons and daughters of God so that maybe when we turn the other cheek, our enemies will notice and want to join us with the Most High.