

LOVE LIKE JESUS - PART 3

Part ? of LUKE, Luke 6:27-49.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. September 26, 2021.

INTRODUCTION: DISCIPLES FACE THREE TEMPTATIONS

In Luke 6, we find Discipleship Training 101. Jesus taught his disciples how to follow him in the real world. Specifically, he taught them - and now us - how to love their persecutors, those who hate us because we follow Jesus (verse 27).

When people hate us because we're Christians, we face three temptations:

1. To hate those who hate us; to get even with our enemies.
2. To compromise our commitment to Jesus in order to avoid hardship.
3. To disrespect people who don't believe or behave like we do.

It's this third temptation that I want us to discuss this morning. Jesus deals with it in verses 37-41. Let's read the passage.

LUKE 6:37-42.

“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.”

39 He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

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.”

WHEN PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE OR BEHAVE LIKE US

In verses 37-42, Jesus teaches how to treat people who don't believe or behave like we do. These days, this is our every day reality. According to Jesus, when this happens, we need a new attitude. He explains it in three pieces:

1. Don't be judgmental - verses 37-38. "Do not condemn."
2. Don't be cultural - verses 39-40. "Everyone who is fully trained with like their teacher."
3. Don't be hypocritical - verses 41-42. "You yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye."

Let's take a closer look.

1. DON'T BE JUDGMENTAL - verses 37-38.

"Do not judge" may be the most misunderstood phrase in the Bible. Let's be clear, Jesus is NOT saying, "There's no right or wrong. There's no good or evil. There's no beautiful or ugly. Don't bother with discernment. Accept everything. Try anything. It's all good." The biblical word for living like that is "foolishness." My word for it is "stupid."

What Jesus means by "do not judge" is clear in the second half of verse 37: "Do not condemn." We mustn't put on a superior and self-righteous attitude that looks down on people and condemns them for not believing or behaving like us.

Understand, this is not the same as accepting every belief or lifestyle. Jesus was not saying that every idea is equally true and good. Not at all. Discernment or judgment = good. Condemnation or judgmental = bad.

DON'T CONDEMN, BE CHRISTLIKE. Jesus teaches us to respect other people even when we disagree with them. Don't call them names. Don't mock them. Don't abuse them. Don't shoot them.

I've had to change my attitude. I used to call people "morons" because their ideas were different from mine. That's not acceptable. Going forward, I'm committed to showing them respect. That's not cowardly or compromised; it's Christlike.

This means I have to be careful what I watch or read. There are news channels and YouTube videos that are focused on name calling. Too much of that stuff has a noticeable impact on my attitude. I become harsh and unforgiving. I don't need that in my life.

Practically speaking, when we show disrespect, when we're harsh, when we don't forgive, what's likely to happen? Yes, they'll disrespect us, hate us, and refuse to forgive us. Jesus points this out in verse 38: "Give and it will be given to you." You could say it this way: "What goes around comes around." If you dish it out, expect to have it dished right back at you.

As followers of the Prince of Peace, we're called to live in peace. Even with those who don't believe or behave like we do. We should make it impossible for anyone to honestly call us haters (see 1 Peter 2:11-25; 3:8-17). Interact in a Christlike way:

(1 Peter 3:15-16) ... do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Be gentle, respectful, Christlike.

2. DON'T BE CULTURAL - verses 39-40.

Most of what we believe and do, we learn from role models. In the past, these were called parents and teachers. Today, in our social media saturated lives, we call them influencers. We talk and dress and make choices according to the influencers we allow to influence us.

In verse 40, Jesus warns his disciples about influencers: "Everyone who is fully trained will be like their teachers." In his day, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were very influential teachers, so Jesus warns his disciples to be careful what they learn from them. The application I take away is: don't let the godless culture shape your life.

He's telling us to be very selective about who is speaking into our lives. Are they teaching us truth or lies? Are they godly? Where do their ideas come from? What is their worldview? Do their teachings influence me to love or hate?

Unfortunately, in today's worldly culture, there is hatred and division. The point Jesus is making is this: don't let that culture of hatred and division influence you.

DON'T BE CULTURAL, BE SHAPED BY THE GOSPEL. Ideally, our lives are being strongly influenced by a Gospel saturated church and by daily prayer and Bible reading that points us to Jesus. The Gospel teaches us to love and respect everyone because that is how God treats us in Christ. When we did not believe or behave like him, Christ died for us, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

Even when mocked and tortured, Jesus responded with gentle restraint:

(1 Peter 2:23; 3:9) When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats ... 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing ...

Rather than spending hours every day soaking in the divisive and hate-filled influences of godless culture, use your time to soak yourself in the counter-cultural Gospel of the crucified God, the friend of sinners. 1 Peter is a deep well of godly teaching on this.

Recently, I came across a podcast that has had a deep impact on my life. It's focused on people who are advancing the church's mission to the world. The podcast is full of

stories of courage, commitment, and self-sacrifice for people who do not believe or behave like us. My perspective has been influenced to see those who do not believe or behave like me as precious people made in the image of God, people for whom God sent his only begotten Son into the world to rescue. Instead of seeing them through a godless lens of division and hatred, I see them from the perspective of the cross.

(2 Corinthians 5:16, 18-20) So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. ... 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. We don't sow hatred into the world, we heal divisions by representing Jesus.

3. DON'T BE HYPOCRITICAL - verses 41-42.

Who says Jesus doesn't have a sense of humor. His vivid illustration in verses 41-42 is memorable and pointed right at all of us.

What do we tend to do with people who don't believe or behave like us. We demonize them, point out their faults, and think the very worst of them. We create the US vs. THEM barrier. And THEM is always the enemy.

What's the problem with that kind of attitude? It's hypocritical (verse 42). Any time I judge someone else, I'm pointing out their sins at the same time as I'm busy sinning myself. I'm no better than anyone else.

Thinking we're better than THEM is so messed up that Jesus says it's like having a 2x4 sticking out of my eye and pretending it isn't there. I'd have to be out of my mind to deny that it's there. Everyone can see it. That's Jesus' point. He's making fun of us.

DON'T BE HYPOCRITICAL, BE HONEST. We'll never love like Jesus until we are honest about our own failings and need for God's forgiveness. Only then will we stop judging people and start embracing them warts and all.

We admit that we're just like them - sinners in need of God's saving, forgiving grace. The late Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was persecuted by his government, wrote, "the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being" (The Gulag Archipelago). In other words, we've all got problems - not just THEM.

The apostle Paul was correct when he claimed to be the worst of sinners.

(1 Timothy 1:15) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

If we're going to love like Jesus, we need the attitude that says, "I'm no better than anyone. I am the worst of sinners. I am lost and in need of grace upon grace."

Look in the mirror. What do you see? A sinner in need of a Savior? Correct! Praise God. We can never out-sin the grace of God.

(Romans 5:20b, KJV) Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

(Romans 5:20b-21) Where sin increased, grace increased all the more 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I thank God that though I am the worst of sinners, the grace of God abounds in my life. Grace convinces me that I am lost, broken, fallen, and dead in my sins. Grace brings me to my knees, but not to condemn me and keep me down. No, the grace of God turns my eyes to Jesus and offers me new life and forgiveness in him.

CONCLUSION:

The implication of Jesus' teaching is clear. We treat people who do not believe or behave like us, like us, like we want to be treated, like God has actually treated us: with grace upon grace.

Author, Paul Tripp, writes:

"There is no one, no matter who they are, no matter where they are, who isn't in personal, constant, desperate, immediate, need for divine grace."

(<https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/what-in-the-world-is-grace>)

Without grace, we're all at the bottom of a pit with two broken arms, two broken legs, deaf in both ears, and blind in both eyes. There's no ladder, and even if there were, we cannot find it or climb it. We are absolutely lost. We need so much more than a pep talk to get out of the pit. We need to be rescued. We need someone to come down and pick us up and carry us out of the pit to safety.

That someone is Jesus (psalm 42:2). He lifts us out of the pit.

When we take the 2x4 out of our eyes and admit that we are sinners in need of a Savior, that's when Jesus lifts us out of the pit, restores us to God, forgives our sins, and makes us one with himself, full of his risen, everlasting life.

That's a pure, free, gift of grace. That's love we do not deserve.

All of which to say: We will never love like Jesus until we experience the love of Jesus.

PAUL TRIPP'S WEDNESDAY'S WORD

Last Wednesday, author, Paul Tripp, sent out a powerful email on grace that is so good, I want to take the time to read it all. As I read, consider it in light of the Communion Table at which we are about to feast. Here is the mercy seat of God, the throne of grace, the saving Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered on the cross for our sins, now offered to us freely because we need him desperately.

There is no one, no matter who they are, no matter where they are, no matter how young, no matter how old.

There is no one, no matter their successes, no matter their failures, no matter how very rich, no matter how tragically poor.

There is no one, no matter how great their strength, no matter how profound their weakness, no matter if they wield power, no matter if lost and forgotten.

There is no one, no matter how religious, no matter how profane, no matter if comfortable, no matter if living with pain, no matter if all alone, no matter if loved by many.

There is no one, no matter who they are, no matter where they are, who isn't in personal, constant, desperate, immediate, need for divine grace.

No one is excepted, no one is omitted; everyone is alike, all live the same drama, all have but one hope: grace!

Grace is a thunderous, expansive, powerful, and life-altering word. Other than God, there is no more important word that the human mind could consider, and the mouth could speak.

Grace is the ultimate spiritual game-changer. It is the one thing that has the power to change you and everything about you. There simply is nothing comparable to God's grace.

Grace explodes into your life in a moment but will occupy you for all of eternity. You could dig into grace every day of your life and not reach the bottom of its power and glory. Grace is the bottomless, treasure-laden mine of divine help.

In his famous hymn, John Newton really did choose the best word ever to describe God's grace: amazing.

Grace is why God sent his Son into this world, to do for us what we could not do for ourselves—to transform us from what we are (sinners separated from him) into what we are becoming (Christ-like and with him forever).

Because you are God's child, grace is something you'll never deserve but can always expect ... (<https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/what-in-the-world-is-grace>).

WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Sunday, September 26, 2021

Welcome & Invocation- Peter

Prayer people. on the sides

Prayer - Eve

Glorious

Eve

My Jesus

Ashley

band stay up on the chancel

Pray & Dismiss Kids-Tami

dismiss to Adeline and Aleisha Linert

Bible Reading Tami Exodus 1

Goodness Of God

Ashley

Special Prayer - Tim Carter

Teaching- Peter

ACTS prayer & communion-Tami

***Find communion volunteers!

The Blessing

Eve

Updates- Peter

Blessing- Peter