

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES // Luke 6:27-36

from the "Kingdom Life" mini-series within the Gospel of Luke

As we continue the Kingdom Life series, let us remind ourselves that the Sermon on the Plain (or on the Mount, as depicted in Matthew) is not a list of what to do in order to become a Christian. Rather, it is more like a litmus test to assess whether a Christian is truly living a Kingdom Life.

This week, our key word is "Attractive." Specifically, the life of a Christian ought to be attractive to others because of the way that we love. The main point from this sermon is that the Christian loves based on the motivation of the gospel and the model of Christ. In short, the Christian is not to love as the world defines "love," but rather to love with Kingdom Love. But what kind of love is Kingdom Love?

1. It is Radical Love (vv. 27-28)

Jesus gives four commands in these verses: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who abuse you. This means that we do not get to pick and choose who we love.

2. It is a Generous Love (vv. 29-31)

As we learn to obey Jesus, we grow in our ability and willingness to be generous - not just generous with what we have, but also with who we are and ourselves.

The world usually frames the Golden Rule in a negative light: Do not do to others what you do not want done to you. Notice that Luke 6:31 frames it in a much more positive light, illustrating Kingdom Love.

3. It is an Unconditional Love (vv. 32-34)

We must love with no strings attached. We must love those who we know do not love us and give to those who we know will not give back.

4. It is a Redemptive Love (vv. 35-36)

We are called to love with Kingdom Love not simply as a way to secure our spot in heaven, but to redeem a watching world. Love because God genuinely wants to redeem others.

Love on mission and with a goal - not just to give others a warm fuzzy feeling, but to communicate the gospel to them.

When Jesus commands us to love others with Kingdom Love, He is asking us to do what He has done for us. Let our lives be attractive because of the way that we love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We can all probably identify a person or group of people that are difficult to love. What are some ways that we can actively begin loving those people with Kingdom Love?
2. What does "generous love" mean to you? How has someone shown you "generous love" in the past?
3. Unconditional love can seem risky - there is a chance for hurt and no promise of love in return. Perhaps you even have a few scars from loving someone unconditionally. How might you love unconditionally, even when it feels uncomfortable or uncertain?