

## Love, Labor, Lend; Luke 6:31-36

### I. The Golden Rule

- A. Luke 6:27–31; 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.
- B. We teach this to our children from a very young age
- C. But this statement is in the context of some very specific behavior
  - 1. Love your enemies
  - 2. Do good to those who hate you
  - 3. Bless those who curse you
  - 4. Pray for those who abuse you
  - 5. Give to those who beg from you
  - 6. Don’t demand stolen goods back

### II. Love

- A. Luke 6:32; “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- B. We often reserve our love for those who love us
- C. Marriage
  - 1. Divorce often starts out, “I no longer love him/her” and often ends in, “I hate him/her”
  - 2. There are very hard legal battles for custody
  - 3. Defamation of character just to get some kind of concession
- D. Friendships
  - 1. Often hinge on their behavior towards one another
  - 2. We may tend to hold off until we are sure the feelings are mutual
  - 3. One-sided relationships often end bitterly
- E. But God says the kind of love that is Kingdom love is one-sided
- F. We must focus our efforts on loving those we deem unlovable
  - 1. Lepers were often in separate communities consisting of only lepers
  - 2. Family members would drop off food and other items outside the community and the lepers would come get it
  - 3. They were considered unclean and when outside their communities would have to yell “unclean” as they walked
  - 4. Leviticus 13:45–46; 45 “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ 46 He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.
  - 5. Anyone who touched them would also be unclean
  - 6. Matthew 8:1–4; 1 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”
- G. Who are the “unclean” today?
  - 1. The homeless?

2. The drug addicts?
3. The alcoholics?
4. The crotchety men and women?
5. The lost sinner?
6. Matthew 9:10–13; 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

H. Have we set out to love them?

I. Or have we reserved our love for those who love us?

### III. Labor

A. Luke 6:33; And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

B. Most of the time we are in a “bartering” mindset

C. If I help them with their yard, they can help me with my bathroom

D. Or we have a “repay” attitude, meaning we must do something to repay the help we were given

1. If money is given to us we feel obligated to pay it back

2. If we received help we feel obligated to say yes if that person asks us for help

3. Not that we shouldn’t help, of course we should help, but not because of any “repayment”

4. We should help because it is what God desires us to do

E. Mark 2:23–28; 23 One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” 25 And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: 26 how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” 27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

F. The context of this text is healing on the Sabbath, but the point is that a person in need is more important than even the Law of Moses

1. We are to be a people zealous for good works (doing good) - Titus 2:14

2. We are to be a people devoted to good works (doing good) - Titus 3:8

3. The good that we do is the light that shines from us - Matthew 5:16

G. But the best example of doing good to those who hate you is the parable of the Samaritan

H. Luke 10:29–37; 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to

an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

- I. Have we set out to do good for anyone?
- J. Or have we reserved our good only for those who will do good back?

#### IV. Lend

- A. Luke 6:34; 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.
- B. "Borrow" (lend) is not an unfamiliar idea in the Scriptures
  - 1. Jesus infers that the money that is in a bank makes interest (from the bank loaning it out with interest)
  - 2. Matthew 25:27; Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.
  - 3. Jesus even tells a parable about a loan - a King settles with his servants and forgives a 10,000 talent debt - Matthew 18:23-35
- C. But the idea of forgiving debts spans the Old and New Testaments
  - 1. In the OT, in the year of Jubilee, men were supposed to forgive what others borrowed (and even bought) from them
  - 2. They returned property that was sold (it was redeemed back, but if it could not be bought back, it was given back)
  - 3. Leviticus 25:28; But if he does not have sufficient means to recover it, then what he sold shall remain in the hand of the buyer until the year of jubilee. In the jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his property.
- D. God expects us to use the resources He has given us in service to Him
  - 1. Ephesians 4:28; Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
  - 2. 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
- E. We don't work to provide for ourselves, God does that.
- F. We work so we can serve in God's Kingdom, so we can present God's love and Gospel to those we meet, just as the Samaritan did to the Jew

#### V. Love, Labor, Lend

- A. Luke 6:35-36; 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. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.
- B. We become so focused on our own lives here on this earth and forget about the lives of those we are here to help
- C. As Paul poured himself out as a drink offering, so should we
- D. Until our dying breath
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:58; Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.