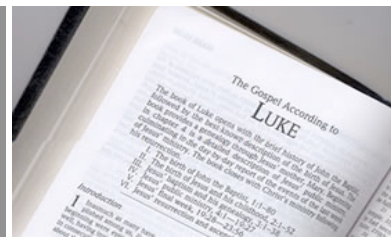


Gospel of Luke

House Group Notes for Luke 6:27-42 based upon sermon series



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“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU” LUKE 1: 35

What does this Kingdom of God look like?

Jesus continues on from the “blessings” and the “woes” to show us what the new covenant with God involves: a Kingdom of glorious, uproarious, absurd generosity. Jesus’ covenant is not just a list of new rules; it is about a new attitude of heart even in the face of all the world can throw at you. ‘Think of what you’d really like someone to do for you, and do it for them. Think of people to whom you are tempted to be nasty, and lavish generosity on them instead.’ Why? Because

that is what God is like! Is that how God is always portrayed by the Church?

Love your enemies!

Everyone knew who the enemy was: they were living at a time when their land was ruled by an overlord nation: the Romans!

Notice that Jesus doesn’t just say, “don’t fight your enemies,” he says for us to be pro-active in heaping happiness! on them, praying for them, giving them our money and doing even more than they ask of us! Why? Because that is what God is like! Is that how the Church always behaves?

What’s that about judging, blindness and planks!

The Pharisees, some of who were listening, judged everyone against a vast number of rules that they had developed over many years designed to separate *their* nation from other nations. But despite their zeal to judge, they could not see how they had missed the much bigger point: that Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations (Is.42:6; 49:6; cf. Gen.12:2,3) and show everyone else how to live in relationship with the true God. If you follow the ways of the Pharisees you’ll just end up being a Pharisee!

Jesus says to them, stop judging others and look at yourselves. Understand where you’ve gone wrong. Get a right perspective on the Kingdom of God; then you’ll be useful!

DISCUSS FURTHER

Notice the simplicity of Jesus commands and how little it actually happens! In 6:46 Jesus says, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Does this worry you and, if so, why? How judgemental have we become do you think? How do we know if we have a plank in our own eye?

LUKE 6:27-42

**Filled with the Holy Spirit
Jesus is teaching and healing
the sick...****Love for Enemies**

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ "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.

*1 Corinthians 13:3-5
(paraphrase)*

³ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gained nothing. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut and doesn't get big headed

Love doesn't force itself on others and isn't always "me first."

Love doesn't fly off the handle.

Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others or revel when others grovel.

Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, and keeps going to the end.

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them." (Mother Theresa)

"To love another person is to see the face of God." (Les Miserables)

"Love is hard work; and hard work sometimes hurts!" (Unknown)

All you need is love (The Beatles)

"To love would be an awfully big adventure." (J.M. Barrie (Peter Pan))

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." (Jimi Hendrix)

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..." (1 John 4:18)

"Love is a song that never ends." (Bambi, Walt Disney)

