



Brown Community Group

Discussion Guide

BEHOLD: To Know Him Is to Love Him – Kindness – Feb. 06, 2022
Luke 6:27-36

Starter Question:

1. Most people respond to our dog-eat-dog world by either fleeing (avoiding conflict) or fighting (engaging in conflict). What is your natural tendency?

In HHBC's to Know Him is to Love Him series this lesson has been titled - kindness. Another title might be "Love and Do Good" or even "A call to exceptional Love and Mercy".

As in many parts of the Bible, we do well to look at the entire passage to get the essence of the scripture. Luke tells of parts of the Sermon on The Mount. For its entirety read chapters 5-7 of Matthew, which is Jesus's longest sermon recorded. Its setting was on a hillside above the Sea of Galilee. Matthew lists eight Beatitudes, with the eighth - Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

In Luke 6:22-23, Luke mentions four of the Beatitudes with the fourth stating, Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! In today's passage, Luke 6:27, Luke resumes the theme of his disciples being hated and Jesus gives several examples of what it means to love your enemies.

This theme is repeated in other parts of the Bible. In I Corinthians 4:12 Paul tells of blessing those who curse you. In Luke 23: 34 Jesus prayed for his abusers and in Acts 7:59-60 Stephen prayed for those stoning him.

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. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic^[a] either. ³⁰Give 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.**

Context: Love your enemies. The Greek language has four words for love: Eros - romantic love, storge - family love, philia - brotherly love, and agape - God's divine love, perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure. Agape is the type of love Jesus is talking about in these

verses. Why? This is a tough love, not in the traditional sense of tough love as in standing firm until an individual sees his wayward ways. This is a love that is tough on the believer who loves. It calls for denying oneself and being continually exposed to abuse. This is a love of service and meekness. Jesus's love is a radical love. As children of God, believers have been transformed to live in contrast to the way of sinners, modeling the sacrifice of radical love. For Christians love is the truest test of genuine faith.

Questions

1. In verses 27-28, what are three ways Jesus taught to love your enemies?
2. What did it mean when one strikes you on the cheek?
3. What is important about taking one's cloak?
4. How would you put verse 30 into actions?
5. How is verse 31 golden rule different than, "you should not do to your neighbor what you do not want them to do to you"?

Luke 6:31-36

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.³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Context: Note that verses 32, 33, and 34 correspond to verses 27, 28, 29, and 30. They question that if one only does what the world does how is his love at the higher level of God? Reciprocity is insufficient. Even sinners practice reciprocity. Children of God are to imitate their heavenly father. We are to be an audiovisual of Him – like Father like child. Disciples should be marked by a genuine readiness to meet needs. For example, Jesus gave to those who took His life. He did not seek retribution but prayed for their forgiveness. Without a theological view to build on, Jesus's ethics wilt into foolishness and futility.

The ability to bless those who wrong you depends on a confident trust in God's care and sovereign direction of the events of life. The Christian life is counterintuitive to the world. It is a paradox. In the view of the world and its standards, these verses make no sense. The world tells us to stick up for our own and strike back at those who wrong us. Jesus tells us to love all people, do good to all people, and be generous to all people.

Questions

1. In verses 32-35 what are three examples Jesus gave of the golden rule in verse 31?
2. When a Christian retaliates to a wrong done to them, what is the state of mind of the one who did the wrong?
3. Share an example of where you loved an “enemy” in your life. What happened and what did you learn from that?
4. How do we as Christians accomplish these challenging verses?

Responding in Prayer

1. Pray for one another for the strength to love the “enemies” in your life.
2. Pray for a spirit of love and unity to permeate our church, community, and nation.