

Study of Luke Ch. 6

Slapped in the Face

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

What is the worst pain you can imagine? What would be the worst way to die? What's the worst insult or disrespect you could experience? Why are all of those the worst to you?

Share a time where someone has shown you mercy, especially when you did not deserve it. What happened? Why did they show mercy? How did their mercy affect you?

Study

As we follow Jesus further into His Sermon on the Mount series, we are going to hear some statements that challenge culture and the way of people. Some of the things He says will be easy for us to agree with and live out. Other things He will say will be easy to agree with but hard to live out. Then there are the things that Jesus says that we have a hard time agreeing with and living out. Today, we will look at Jesus' call to love our enemies. Some of us might be saying, "But I don't have any enemies!" In the sense of the world, this may be accurate. If we are honest about it and view things differently, from God's perspective, there are people we live at odds with. We may not consider them our enemies, but we act in ways that are opposing them. I don't just mean disagreeing with them. We act contrary or against them.

Let's make an honest assessment. This is personal so you don't have to share it. Who is someone whom you do not respect? Not just in feelings, but also in how you talk about them or act towards them? Who is someone you harbor a dislike for? Have you sassed back at your parents, disrespected them, rejected their authority, or insulted them? I'm afraid that you made yourself an enemy at that moment. Maybe not for life, but definitely for the duration of those harbored feelings.

Now that we realize that sometimes we are the enemy and sometimes others act like the enemy, let's see what Jesus wants us to do with that.

Read [Luke 6:27-36](#). I would encourage you to also look up the 5th Commandment in a Catechism. If you want to go one step further, look at the 4th Commandment and apply this perspective to this text too!

Jesus speaks to us in two ways. First, He lays out the picture of Kingdom Living. Second, He contrasts Kingdom Living with worldly living.

What is Jesus asking us to do in verses 27-31?

In essence, Jesus asks us not to demand vengeance, take revenge, or even wish ill of our enemies. What is the most challenging statement for you? Why?

What does it mean to turn the other cheek? What does Jesus mean by this phrase?

Why does Jesus say this is how we must act (vs. 35-36)?

What sticks out to you from the second section? What is Jesus stating in this section (vs. 32-34)?

Where is one place in your life that you can begin to love your enemies? What will you do to make this change in your life? What will you do when it becomes difficult to live out this change? Who can you be accountable to?

Mark of a Disciple: Values the Kingdom of God

Jesus's goal is to help us understand the way of His kingdom. His way is not always the most popular or widely accepted. In fact, we can use human logic to argue against many of His points and justify how we act. Jesus is not asking us to accept the ways of His kingdom on our logic though. We are accepting it on the fact that He is our God and the true king and that it will change us and the world we touch. The true question is, who will you submit your life to, the logic of people which is broken or God's which produces love and peace?

How do you view love? Is it a feel-good emotion? Is it a choice? Is it an action? Is it a way of life? How do you talk about it to others?

How we view love, determines how we live our lives. What is the difference in the beliefs of love listed above?

If it is a feel-good emotion, we can justify divorce or an affair easily. If it is a choice, we might only love the person if the person deserves it. If it is a way of life, we then follow an example of love set before us.

How do you want to spend your life loving? How we love, teaches us about God's love for us in a personal and intimate way. Now, go and love!

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic or recent events? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.