

An Impossible Love (Part 2)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:27-36



Big Idea

Jesus loved us even when we were His enemies. And He is now calling and equipping us to do the same with ours.

When Jesus fleshes out for us what love for enemies looks like in vv. 27b-28 in particular, we must note that these basic expressions are positively charged. We are not just *not* doing evil, we *are* doing good. We have welling up from within us a love, a compassion, a desire to bless them, intercede for them, pray for them.

(1) *Why Does He Call Us to Love Our Enemies?* (vv. 32-35a)

The reason may surprise you, but the text is unmistakably clear: Jesus calls us to love our enemies because there is great benefit and reward for us in it.

When we live in light of eternity, the blessedness that awaits us in His presence, the security we have in Him—we are free. We don't have to fight to preserve our reputation, our stuff, or whatever else. He's doing that. Because our hope is in heaven we can love our enemies on this earth. We don't have to hold that grudge. Instead, we get a wonderful chance to show them what God and His love is like.

(2) *How Does He Enable Us to Love Our Enemies?* (vv. 35b-36)

We all naturally relate to one another as if on a scale. You scratch my back, I scratch yours. You give to me, I give to you. You text me, I text you. You stop texting me, I stop texting you. You start giving me attitude, I start giving you attitude. You hate me, now I hate you. And on it goes. And Jesus is asking us to break the scales. But how do we do that?!

Well it's quite simple really: God breaks them for us! God calls us to break the scales in our relationships with one another because He has broken the scales in His relationship with us. He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. He is merciful to the undeserving sinner. God doesn't pick favorites. He doesn't give sunshine to those who said their prayers the night before and hailstorms to those who didn't. He blesses them all. That's the heart of our God. He loves His enemies.

Look back and see your Savior's cross, where His blood was shed for you.

Look forward and see the place in heaven that He is bringing you to.

Look up and see your Father's mercies, raining down each morning new.

Now go look for ways to love your enemies that they might see these things too.

Reflection Questions



- Is there someone in your life right now that you struggle to truly pray for? Why do you think that is?
- Do you spend the most time in relationships that promise benefit and reward here and now, or in those that promise such things then and there, in heaven? Explain. Why do we have such a hard time living according to Jesus' word here? What would help?
- Think of one person who has really hurt you, who you might even consider your enemy. How does the cross break the scales in that relationship? What one thing can you do this week to love them?