



## Life Group Notes: 'Radical Love'

Tuesday 5<sup>TH</sup> Dec 2017

### READ LUKE 6: 27-36

*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.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Here in Luke Chapter 6 we read the direct words of Jesus that challenge us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us and intentionally and extravagantly go out of our way to do good to those who hate us. Our initial reaction to such a text can be quite hard to understand, but Jesus's intention was that we would further experience a level of joy birthed out of expressing radical love to those who - in our view - don't deserve it.

### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

1. Jesus makes it very clear that we are to love our enemies and to go out of our way to do good to those who hate us with no exemptions. In light of His challenging words, who do you perceive your enemies to be today and do you feel it's possible to love people who don't show any love towards you?
2. In Luke 6 verse 28, Jesus went on further to suggest that we should not only love our enemies in deed, but to verbally bless them in response to their curses and further pray for them. Do you feel that there's power to be found through a positive reaction in response to a negative action and can our words in both blessing and prayer change both our hearts others? **Explore; Proverbs 18:21 and discuss the power of our words in both prayer and proclamation.**

3. In life people can take both your possessions and from your heart. In verses 29 – 31 Jesus shifts it up another gear when he suggests that we should attempt to give back more to a person when they take anything from us. Discuss the potential of responding in this way and the power available of showing mercy rather than waiting for an apology. **Explore; Matthew 5: 38-42.**
4. In verses 32 – 35 Jesus concludes this theme by describing what he perceives as radical love in contrast to what we often believe it to be. He goes on further to suggest that such expressions of love and mercy will reap great reward and greater identity. **Explore; Proverbs 25: 21-22 on the subject of reward for extravagant mercy.**
5. Finally in Luke 6 verse 36 Jesus summarises by suggesting that we show mercy like our Father shows mercy. Discuss what this means and how this can help us to live out all what Jesus is asking us to do. **Explore the words of Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:29-32**

## CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER

In reflection of what you have studied, take time to pray and ask God to help you forgive others that have hurt you and to give you a heart of mercy towards them. Take time to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you and ask him give you a heart of radical love that changes both you and others.

Useful reference scriptures to further explore:

*Romans 9:12-21, 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, Mark 12: 28-34, John 13: 34-35, Micah 6:8*