



## Week 9

**Sermon Series:** Lessons from the Sinless Savior

**Sermon Title:** Love Redefined

**Sermon Text:** Luke 6:27-36

**Group Week of:** September 17, 2023

**Sermon Date:** September 24, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	God's Love – Romans 5:1-11
Day 2	The Example of Christ – Hebrews 12:1-3
Day 3	The Example of Christ – Matt 26:47-56
Day 4	Treasure in Heaven – Matt 6:19-24
Day 5	Love – Matthew 5:38-48

### The Text: Luke 6:27-36

<sup>27</sup>“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

### Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) that you see Jesus teaching in this passage?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Do you have any enemies or groups of people that you feel an “adversarial” relationship with—perhaps people of a different political party or religious entity? What brings about this relationship, and do your thoughts and actions influence your relationships creating more or less of an enemy?
  
- 2) It is a very natural thing for us to fight against our earthly enemies because (for many of us) it almost feels immoral to just “lay down and die.” As you read through Jesus’ commands in verses 27-36, was there any part where you thought, “I just can’t do that!”? If so, what were they and why?
  
- 3) Jesus does not want for us to be disciples who simply get beaten up, taken advantage of, and robbed. There is more to what He is saying here than that. Consider the example of Christ—Why does He allow Himself to be mocked, ridiculed, beaten, and killed? What is His attitude towards His enemies in those moments?
  
- 4) When Christ is dying on the cross, He says that no one takes His life from Him; instead, He lays His life down. Christians are not to be people who simply get things taken from them, they are to be people who actually *give* themselves and their possessions away to the people who are trying to take them. How is this a picture of the gospel?
  
- 5) Only the gospel makes possible the kind of love described in this passage. If you do not have this kind of love as you interact with your enemies, what can you do to know more of Christ’s love so that the next time you interact with an enemy you can love them with the love of Christ?
  
- 6) Does this text mean that as Christians, we should tell those experiencing abuse to stay in their homes or tell people not to join the military or police where they may need to harm and kill others? Read Luke 22:36-38, and try to reconcile those verses with the ones we read in the Beatitudes.
  
- 7) Christians are called to an unbelievable level of generosity and sacrifice because we have been changed by the unbelievably generous and sacrificial love of Christ. Not only this, but we can give away possessions to our oppressors knowing that God Himself will richly reward us. Future hope is a necessary part of dealing with injustice today. Spend some time meditating on your future hope in Christ and practice loving generously this week by the power of the Holy Spirit.