

## Seeking Holy Ground in 2023: Regaining Love

Luke 6:27-38

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Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

Luke 6:27-38 "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. <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (NIV)

### Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to love others

\_\_\_\_\_ to be filled: This hope will never leave us empty and ashamed, because the love of God has been abundantly poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to every believer.

Romans 5:5 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ with legalism: Jesus asked the Pharisees and Scribes: What is the best way to observe the Sabbath? Is it better to do good or evil? To save a life or to destroy it?

Luke 6:9 (JOT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the power of God's love

\_\_\_\_\_ practice: Love your enemies, do good...bless...pray those who mistreat you. Do for others as you desire them to do for you. If you love only those who love you, then what sort of grace is do you have? Even run of the mill sinners do this!

Luke 6:27, 31-34 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ status: Love your enemies...then you will receive the great benefit being adopted as God's own child because our Father is kind to the ungrateful and even to evil people! Make it your goal to become compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate!

Luke 6:35-37 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ : <sup>38</sup> For if you give forgiveness, you will get more than you could imagine! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over.

Luke 6:38 (JOT and TLB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ to the source

\_\_\_\_\_ of obedience: "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love..." John 15:9-10 (NLT)

### Spiritual Action Step:

How are you struggling to love your enemies? Or even those who are much closer? Jesus said: "***There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.***" (John 15:13 (NLT)) Jesus befriended all of us by laying down his life for us. **Admitting that you need God's help is the first step to accepting his friendship.** Surrender your life to Christ and he will help you walk in obedience to find a full and abundant life! This week read, Luke 6 and Romans 5 to allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen you!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible; NLT: New Living Translation.