

## **Luke 6:27-36 – Loving your enemies**

Does anyone hate you because of Jesus? Jesus said that if we are faithful, it will happen (v22-23). Only the false prophets have everyone praising them (v26). How should we then respond when we are hated? Do you know someone who hates you for no reason? How do you treat them? What does Jesus say? In this passage we have his teaching for his disciples. This is the teaching that we do not hear much in churches in Kenya, but is real and practical and we need it.

### **1. Love, not hate**

Jesus shows us the way. He had enemies. They were trying to kill him. He was spoken against. He was mocked, beaten and hung up to die. Yet, he blessed his enemies. He taught them in love. He prayed for them when he was crucified, “Father, forgive them”. When he rose from the dead, he sent his Spirit to them to change them. He died for sinners who had broken his laws. He died for God's enemies. He told us to live this way too. These are his commands – not his ideas, suggestions or advice. If someone curses us, we must bless them. If they do evil to us, we must find good to do to them and pray for their good. The only other way is to be a pagan. Even the worst of people love their own people. We must be more than that in Christ. To do this needs a new heart. If we are not yet saved we must repent and come to Christ and receive that new heart from him.

### **2. People, not possessions**

Jesus did not look for his own comfort and prosperity. He had nowhere to rest his head (Luke 9:58). He gave himself up, for the good of his people. He spared nothing and he never leaves or forsakes them (Hebrews 13:5). He never asked “will this cost too much?” He did all that love demanded of him. We to must be generous; this is his command. We should give, expecting nothing back. When people cheat us, we should not hit back. We should be content to suffer when doing good. We can know that God will more than repay, at the resurrection. Jesus' command is not “do to others as they do to you”, but “do to others as you wish others would do to you” (v31). Remember, it was poor, hungry people that Jesus told to be generous (v20-21). We must always ask – if I was the other person, what would I want? This is our standard. Ask God to give you this new heart to follow Jesus!

### **3. God, not self**

Jesus humbled himself and became a servant (Philippians 2:7-8). He forgot himself, and gave himself – even to the death of the cross. He was not looking for his reward in this life. That cannot happen in a world that is under God's curse. Glory can only come in the life to come. Jesus has already entered that life because God raised him from the dead and put him in the highest place. We will also rise and be made glorious if we put God's will first in following him. We are to seek to please God, and to be like him. He is good to all people, including the undeserving and wicked (v35-36). We must show that we are truly his sons, and that we belong in his family. It is not for us to punish the wicked now – that belongs to God to do in his own time. It is for us to show them love, so that they might be won to repentance. This all requires faith. Do we believe that Jesus died for us when we were sinners? Will we now repent and trust in him so that we can live in this new way?