

*Are you
listening?*



SERMON NOTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

LUKE 6:27-38(NRSV)

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. 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? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Jesus' next words after the Blessings and Woes in Luke's Gospel to those who will hear, is "Love your enemies", and then gives examples of mistreatments saying, "bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you, offer the other cheek if someone strikes you, and if anyone takes from you, offer them more than they have taken." How challenging are Jesus' words?

Are you (we) trying to live what Jesus is teaching?

Think of some times when Jesus' words have brought tension or conflict in how you respond to an offense?

Did you notice the Golden Rule in v. 31?

Who should you love? How do you deal with enemies?

What do we learn about the nature and character of God from Jesus' teachings?

How might our lives and the world be different if we practiced Jesus' commands?

Jesus' teachings about generosity, forgiveness, and not judging are also explicit. What are the consequences of not following what he says?