

Are you listening?



GROWTH GUIDE FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people, gave a prominent place to women and showed Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

CONTEXT

Last week we studied Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) sometimes called The Sermon on the Plains, focusing on the section called, "The Blessings and the Woes." We continue this week with Jesus' next words.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 6:27-38. Jesus gives us some challenging teaching. He mentions 7 things we should do in verses 27-31. What are they?
2. Jesus' teaching of how to respond to those we might think of as enemies is probably not what first comes to mind when dealing with an enemy. How would you or how does the world usually react to each of these scenarios?
3. How do you think Jesus' teaching of loving your enemies was received by the Jewish people who were living as an oppressed people under the Romans, who they despised?
4. How might you love an "enemy"?

5. How does Proverbs 25:21 say to treat your enemies? Paul quoted this verse in Romans 12:20 also.
6. It's been said that it's hard to dislike or even hate someone you pray for. How might this approach work in loving your enemies? Try it out for a month and see if how you think about someone changes.
7. Could you give as generously as verse 30 says to do?
8. We know verse 31 as the golden rule. Does this rule ever stop you in your tracks before you react to someone?
9. As you reflect on these difficult teachings of Jesus, what is speaking to you? What is challenging you? How will you incorporate these into your life?
10. What do we learn about God's character from Jesus' teaching?
11. What does verse 35 say will happen if we are obedient to Jesus' teaching?
12. God is compassionate to his children. How have you experienced his compassion or shown it to others in His name?
13. What does Jesus warn us about judging and condemning others? What does he say about forgiveness? What are the results of being obedient to this teaching?
14. Imagine a world that lived by Jesus' teaching. What might that look like and how might we do our part in contributing to it?

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