



Love LOUD!

In the middle of tough times & in the middle of America's mess, we need to be reminded how good our great God is, goodness that He expects us to extend to others as we **LOVE LOUD**.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) & NLT (New Living Translation)

1. First, let's remember God's greatness & goodness as demonstrated by Jesus.
2. Next, we will be reminded to demonstrate God's goodness to others during these difficult days.

A Desperate Dad During Tough Times

Luke 9:38-43a (CSB) Just then a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, because he's my only child. A spirit seizes him; suddenly he shrieks, and it throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; severely bruising him, it scarcely ever leaves him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn't."

Jesus replied, "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you?"

Bring your son here. As the boy was still approaching, the demon knocked him down and threw him into severe convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, **healed the boy**, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the greatness of God.

This man's son was an adult, as this had been happening since childhood (Mk 9:21). The demon would even throw this man's son into fire & water (Mt 17:15; Mk 9:22). NO ONE could do anything to help...not even the disciples of Jesus who had cast out other demons before (Lk 9:1). But as Jesus often demonstrates, **God is Great and God is Good**. And the onlooking crowd was "**astonished at the greatness of God.**"

We all have our own significant concerns, but let's pause a moment and Remember WHO we serve! God is Great and God is Good!

It wasn't just the things that Jesus *DID*, it was the things that Jesus SAID about the Greatness and Goodness of God, that challenged His ancient audience and should challenge & encourage us today. Speaking to His Jewish audience Jesus says these words.

Matthew 5:43 (CSB) "You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor** and hate your enemy.

Where did they get THAT? Leviticus 19:18 is where we get part of what Jesus said.

Leviticus 19:18 (CSB) Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but **love your neighbor as yourself**; I am the LORD.

So where did that part about **hating your enemy** come from? Rabbinical teachers developed this tradition over the years, so the idea went like this:

Love those who love you back. Love those who think and act like you. Love followers of the one true God. BUT...it's okay to HATE those who act hateful towards you. It's okay to HATE people who don't think/act like you. And, it's okay to hate those who don't follow the One True God.

Consequently, their first response was retaliation instead forgiveness, hatred instead of love.

❓ *Have WE ever acted that way?*

Matthew 5:43-44 (CSB) You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor** and hate your enemy. But I tell you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you,

Loving our enemies isn't stirring up our emotions; that's not what Jesus means. Love is not something we must FEEL. Love is something we must DO! Jesus is not telling His followers "to feel" in a certain way but to act in a certain way - to **LoveLOUD** - to love in such a way that others NOTICE.

LOVE LOUD: We Serve 'em before they deserve it!

How Should We Love Our Enemies?

Luke 6:27-28 (CSB) ...**Love your enemies, do** what is **good** to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you.

Do Good. Bless. Pray. Our **ACTIONS**, attitudes, & words - loudly proclaim our love for others.

They treat us bad → we **CHOOSE** to **do good**. They curse us → but we **CHOOSE** to **bless** them and **pray** for God bring them to life! We **EXTEND** God's love **BEFORE** they're **EASY** to love.

We **LOVE LOUD!** We serve 'em before they deserve it.

② What is YOUR 1st response when you see your enemy?

- Turn head & look the other way? Derogatory thoughts/words?
- OR, are you **KIND**. Are you **PRAYING**? Are you considering how you can **BLESS** them?

"No, I don't love my enemies...but I sure love my friends and family!"

Luke 6:31-33 (CSB) **Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.** If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

WHY Should We Love Our Enemies?

Luke 6:35-36 (CSB) But **love your enemies, do** what is **good**, and **lend**, expecting nothing in return. Then **your reward will be great**, and you will be children of the Most High. For He is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. **Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**

Why Love Enemies?

1. To follow the command of your Creator.
2. To follow the example of your Creator.

God is Great but **God is also Good!** He shows kindness, even to His enemies, providing for their daily needs (Mt 5:44-45). God showed us the ultimate mercy when Jesus died on the cross.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT) When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But **God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.**

Jesus served us before we deserved it. Jesus expects His followers to do the same. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. Bless those who curse you. Do to others as you want them to do for you.

LOVE LOUD: We Serve 'em before they deserve it!

- Those who **LOVE LOUD** will be rewarded OR will be held to account for disobeying God's commands.
- God can use **YOU** to influence others to seek **HIM**. OR You'll have very little impact on our lost world.

FEET → 2 → FAITH

1. **Pause to thank our God for His love** - how He cared for you before you deserved it.
2. **Care for someone who doesn't deserve it.** Do you need to ask forgiveness of anyone you treated harshly?
3. **Pray before you respond to others you disagree with & speak the truth in LOVE.**
4. **Seek Jesus daily by opening & obeying God's Scripture.**

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952),

Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717),

Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).