

LOVING HARD PEOPLE
LUKE 6:27–49
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Introduction:

Luke 6:27–31

- What is Jesus telling us to do?
- But how can we love and bless those who hate and abuse us? Impossible!
- Is there any wiggle room here?
- We can't domesticate Christ's commands to make them humanly possible.
- Notice that the Golden Rule is in the context of enemies!

Luke 6:32–36

- Verses 32–34 Jesus is calling out our justifications.
- Verse 35 The context is still about loving hard people: "Love your enemies"
- Jesus gives us some motivation for doing the impossible (but still doesn't tell us how we can do it!)
 - 1) Reward: Christianity is forward looking.
 - 2) The greatest reward: "You will be sons of the Most High."

This is God's goal for us. (Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2)

- Verse 36 "Be merciful."

Luke 6:37–38

- Jesus shows us how to be merciful like God (v.36) and gives us more motivation for loving hard people.

-“Judge not” is one of the most misunderstood commands in the Bible.

(1 Corinthians 5:12–13; Matthew 7:6)

-Do not have a judgmental spirit or be overly critical, and do not be hypocritical in your judgment (verses 41–42).

-Verse 38 If you are generous in your judgment and treatment of others, God will be generous with you.

Luke 6:39–40

-The context before and after: Judging and treating others mercifully instead of being critical and hypocritical of others.

-Who is the teacher in verse 40 that we should become like?

(A good definition of discipleship: Following Jesus to become like Jesus.)

-Who is the blind man in verse 39 that we should not follow?

“Pit” in a Jewish/biblical context = _____

For them the blind may be the religious leaders.

For us the blind may be the culture around us (Romans 12:2).

The issue of algorithms:

Luke 6:41–42

Jesus is no longer referring to our treatment of “enemies” but our treatment of “brothers.”

-Sometimes the hardest people to love are those closest to us. They may not hate or curse us, but they irritate us.

“We all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2).

-But if “we all stumble in many ways,” how can we be like Jesus and judge mercifully?

Luke 6:43–45

-This is the key.

-The answer to how to love hard people is to have the right kind of heart.

-But we can't make our hearts right without God's help!

-Here's what we can and must do:

1) We must humble ourselves before God in daily repentance and ask for help.

“God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble” (Three times in the Bible.)

2) We must get more serious about using the help God has already given us:

-His instruction in the Bible (Psalm 119:11; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

-His provision of the church (Hebrews 3:13)

Luke 6:46–49

Here's why this is so important: our future is on the line.