

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (March 27, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

As we move farther into the teachings of Jesus, if we are truly listening to what He is saying, our level of discomfort grows. From blessings for the poor to blessings for those who are hated and reviled to an actual command to love those who want to harm and destroy us. There are several "woes" thrown in along the way too, like, "Woe to you, when people speak well of you ..."

I thought we wanted others to speak well of us. I thought the goal was to work hard so we weren't poor. I thought we could keep those who hated us at a safe distance, returning hate for hate. Apparently, that was not, and is not, Jesus' way. Jesus did not come to direct us to the comfortable path. The Christian way is not easy or trouble-free. What Jesus commands is not simple. Jesus took the challenges of everyday life seriously. He took us seriously too. Jesus came to bring us life, truth, Himself. As He teaches He patiently helps us understand God, understand life, understand ourselves and each and every one of our relationships. Jesus invites us to a life that is beautiful, truthful, and real. And now the easy stuff ... "Love your enemies."

### **Enemies and Judgment** (Luke 6:27-42)

<sup>6:27</sup> "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup> 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> 'Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together,

running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

<sup>39</sup> He also told them a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. <sup>41</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye," when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.'"

### **What Does it Say?**

1. Read Luke 6:1-26. What has Jesus been saying (teaching) in this chapter up through verse 26?
2. In these verses (27-42) how we should respond to enemies?
3. What do verses 37-42 tell us about judging others?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. How would you define an enemy? What makes a person an enemy?
5. What would society look like if everyone gave away what they had when others asked without demanding anything in return?
6. Why should we love our enemies (see verses 35-36)?
7. What does Jesus mean when He talks about taking the log out of our own eye first?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

8. Do you have enemies? Take a few minutes and ask God to reveal your enemies (family member, former friend, co-worker, neighbor, politician, world leader).
9. Are there any who hate you because of your faith in God?
10. How do you typically treat those who are your enemies?
11. What steps can you take to "love your enemies"?

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As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to help you love, bless, and pray for, those who do not like you. Ask God to help you respond to hate with love. Ask God to give you a growing compassion for those who are filled with hate. God will help you love others more because He loves you.