

The Hardest Commandment

Luke 6:27-36

Getting Started

- ❖ Why do people often call revenge “sweet”?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Context
 - A. The Greater Biblical Context
 - B. The Cultural Context
 - C. The Immediate Context
2. Takeaway Truth: Followers of Jesus actively pursue what is good for others, even those who mistreat them (v.27-36)

Exploring the Text

- ❖ How many positive responses to mistreatment did Jesus command? (vs 27-31)
- ❖ How did Jesus explain the difference between His followers and those He called Sinners? (v.32-34)
- ❖ What was Jesus’ basic argument in backing up His command to love others unconditionally? (vs 32-25)
- ❖ What title did Jesus give to those who love their enemies? Who are we imitating when we love our enemies?

Digging Deeper

- ❖ What makes someone your Enemy?
- ❖ What does it mean to bless those who curse you?
- ❖ Why is Jesus so critical of conditional love?
- ❖ Which of Jesus’ commands in this passage do you think goes the most against human nature?
- ❖ What does it mean to “turn the other cheek” or “offer the other cheek? What does it NOT mean? Why is it important to understand this aspect of loving our enemies properly?

Apply It

- ❖ How can you remember to do good to someone who is unkind to you this week?
- ❖ How does God’s mercy towards you empower you to respond with love and mercy to others?

Think About It

“Evil for good is devil-like, evil for evil is beast-like, good for good is man-like, good for evil is God-like” Charles Spurgeon sermon on Luke 6

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 4, 2024 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Words by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy
rays; stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

THE LAMB, THE LION, THE KING

Words and Music by Meredith Andrews, Ethan Hulse, and Jacob Sooter, 2023

You were the rescue plan from the beginning. Our sacrificial lamb
who bled for our healing. The scars on Your perfect hands, the seal of
new covenant. Through Your suffering death has lost its sting.

*You are and You always will be the Savior of the world
who gave everything for me, The One all of heaven calls worthy,
the Lamb, the Lion, the King.*

Your body inside the grave, the Spirit was waring. You stormed the
accuser's gates like a lion roaring. Heir to the highest throne, the king-
dom is Your alone. Through Your victory death has lost its sting.

One day we'll hear Your name from every nation. You'll walk through
the eastern gate for Your coronation. All hail the one true King who
reigns for eternity, and every living thing will join their voice and sing.

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

*Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson,
and Michael Farren, 2018*

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for
heaven not to give. He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deepest boundless peace. To this I hold: my
hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his. Oh how strange
and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior,
he will stay. I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, his
power is displayed. To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead. Oh the night has been won,
and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, the future sure, the price,
it has been paid. For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he
was raised to overthrow the grave. To this I hold: my sin has been
defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea. Oh the chains are released
I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

GOD IS LOVE

Words by Paxson Jeancake | Music by Paxson & Allison Jeancake, 2018

We love You God because You first loved us; this is the wonder
of the cross. The hardest heart is not too far for grace; this is the
wonder of the cross. This is the wonder of our God.

The Spirit dwells in us that we may love through the power of the
cross. And we confess the Son of God is Lord through the power
of the cross. O the power of our God.

*If we abide in love, we abide in God. He will be with us,
God is love. You sent Your only Son; on the cross He hung.
O the love, perfect love, God is love.*

May Your word abide in us to love; for the glory of the cross.
And may we bear the fruit of life in You;
for the glory of the cross. For the glory of our God.

Your perfect love can cast away our fear; behold the wondrous
cross. To know the God of love is to live the love of God;
behold the wondrous cross.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 25; Genesis 24:50-67; 2 Tim. 2:14-21; Mark 10:13-22
MONDAY | Ps. 5; Genesis 25:19-34; Hebrews 13:1-16; John 7:37-52
TUESDAY | Ps. 42; Genesis 26:1-33; Hebrews 13:17-25; John 7:53-8:11
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 1; Gen. 27:1-29; Romans 12:1-8; John 8:12-20
THURSDAY | Ps. 97; Gen. 27:30-45; Romans 12:9-21; John 8:21-32
FRIDAY | Ps. 65; Genesis 27:46-28:22; Romans 13:1-14; John 8:33-47
SATURDAY | Ps. 98; Genesis 29:1-20; Romans 14:1-23; John 8:47-59

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the
earth. You do not grow weary; your understanding is unsearchable.
While on earth, you healed the sick, cast out demons, and proclaimed
the good news of salvation to all with ears to hear. We confess that
we are often too busy and wrapped up in our own lives to show your
love to the world around us. In our weariness, give us strength; in our
weakness, make us strong. By your grace, help us to mount up with
wings like eagles, never tiring in our labor for the kingdom, never
shying away from sharing your grace and mercy to those around us.
This we ask in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.



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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism | Q. 125 & 126

What does the fourth request mean?

Give us today our daily bread means,
Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know
that you are the only source of everything good,
and that neither our work and worry
nor your gifts
can do us any good without your blessing.

And so help us to give up our trust in creatures
and to put our trust in you alone.

What does the fifth request mean?

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors
means,
Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.

Forgive us just as we are fully determined,
as evidence of your grace in us,
to forgive our neighbors.