

People with Healthy Hearts Care for those in Need

April 6, 2008

Luke 6:26-38

I. What Jesus Expects:

²⁷"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.

1. When people wrong you, love and pray for them.

^{29b}If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

2. When people are less fortunate than you, give and sacrifice for them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?

3. When people are different than you, reach out and care for them.

II. How is this Possible?

³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

1. We must remember who we are: Children who were adopted.

^{35b}he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked

2. We must remember who we were: Enemies who were lost.

III. What this Insight Frees Us to Do:

²⁹If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.

1. We can oppose injustice without resentment.

³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

2. We can practice mercy because we have received it.