

## SERMON: DOING THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

TEXT: LUKE 6:27-36

INTRO: We are immersed in lessons on the life of Jesus that challenge us to 1) Read the Bible to find out the information and 2) Commit to doing nothing before we ask "What would Jesus do?"

Last week we introduced the epitaph and asked you to consider living like Jesus to the extent that your epitaph would if it read "She/He went about doing good."

### THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS ARE THOSE THAT CALL US TO THINK OF OTHERS

#### I. OF COURSE, LOVE IS THE ANSWER

##### A. *When Love Is In A List It Is Always At The Beginning Or The End*

1. When it is the foundation, it stands first- Galatians 5:22.23
2. When it is the capstone, we find it at the end- II Peter 1:5-7

##### B. *Agape(love)Thinks Of Others And Then Does For Them!*

1. Here, we are to love our enemies!
2. (Note, this is a list where love comes first)

##### C. *Jesus Said, "Love Your Enemies."*

1. This is the "yabba-dabba-do" of Jesus. His trademark!
2. No one naturally practices this. Now, we are supposed to- to be his followers.
3. We can't do it either without giving our lives to God.
  - a. Our repentance and baptism symbolized our death to self and sin.
  - b. But it also looks to a new selfless life! Not enough to say, "I was immersed!"

##### D. *When We Love Our Enemies, We Will:*

1. **Do good to those who hate us**
  - a. It is not common to spend time thinking of good things to do for an enemy
  - b. Then, we must go about doing it.
2. **Bless those who curse us**
  - a. "Bless" comes from eulogy, to speak well of
  - b. Scenario: someone knows about your enemy and tries to involve you in a conversation that will make him/her look bad! Natural but no. Not you.
3. **Pray for those who abuse us**
  - a. Picture yourself deep in prayer for the good of an abuser of YOU!
  - b. (It doesn't mean pray that he will be run over by a Mack Truck)  
**A True Story:** A man in India began a Christian mission in the midst of Muslims, Hindus and nonreligious people. One day a Hindu leader came to the man and asked for prayer. Eager to pray with him, hoping he would lead him to Christ, he took him into a private room, knelt down with him, closed his eyes and began to pray. While he was praying, the Hindu man reached into his robe, pulled out a knife and stabbed him repeatedly. Yesu, his son, hearing his father's screams, ran to help him. He held him in his arms as blood poured out onto the floor of the hut. Three days later, his father died. On his deathbed he said to his son, "Please tell that man that he is forgiven. Tell your mother this and have her carry on this ministry. Do whatever it takes to win people to Christ." Yesu is now the leader of this ministry
4. **Do More Than Is Expected**
  - a. A hit in the face, taking a coat, or going a distance
  - b. Whatever is required today, go more ungrudgingly.
5. **Give To The One Who Begg From You**
  - a. Lots of reasons why not to do this:
    - (1) Don't want to encourage deception

- (2) Don't want to feed chemical habit
- (3) Don't want to contribute to cycle of poverty
- (4) You know what the Bible says about working.
- b. But this is not the context. (Notes from Jon Bloom)
  - (1) He is telling me how to actively show kindness and radical generosity toward those who hate me or who are seeking to take advantage of me. Really.
  - (2) Isn't that rewarding sinful, or at least unhealthy, behaviour?
  - (3) The reason for our cynicism may be that we are misunderstanding Jesus' purpose for the command. We tend to assume that the motive for radical generosity ought to be to meet a real need and help facilitate transformation in someone's life. If that isn't likely to happen, we shouldn't give. It wastes money and reinforces evil behaviour. The problem is Jesus doesn't command us to give for those reasons.
  - (4) What is his reason? *"So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:45) The point? The Father shows radical generosity toward both good and evil people (v. 45). The text makes no promise that all the evil people are reformed as a result of his generosity. From my observation, most are not.
- c. Our task is to bear the family resemblance. Like father, like son or daughter.

## II. OF COURSE, THE GOLDEN RULE IS IN VIEW HERE

### A. ***And as You Wish That Others Would Do To You, Do So To Them.***

- 1. This is as easy as checking out what you would like
- 2. Even with differences in likes, this subjective approach will get the job done.

### B. ***Give It This Test:***

- 1. Would I want to be prayed for? Spoken well of to others? Loved by other people?
- 2. Would I prefer that people did a little more than a little less than I ask?
- 3. If I am in need and have to ask/beg, would I want someone to give to me?

**CONCLUSION:** Let's conclude this with reasons Jesus gives: *"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."*

