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Unmatched Love

Luke 6:17-36

Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Luke 6:27-28

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

Luke 6:17 is the start of a section often referred to as the sermon on the plain. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 contains very similar teachings of Jesus. Some scholars believe that these are two different recaps of the same sermon. Others believe that these were given in different locations. Either way Jesus is making very clear his instruction. He starts with blessings and woes for groups of people and then gives clear instruction about praying for and loving those that persecute you; that is not an easy thing for us to do. Join us this week as we talk about the enormous blessing behind loving those that are the hardest to love.

Luke 6:17-36 NET

The Sermon on the Plain

17 Then he came down with them and stood on a level place. And a large number of his disciples had gathered along with a vast multitude from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, **18** and those who suffered from unclean spirits were cured. **19** The whole crowd was trying to touch him because power was coming out from him and healing them all.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God belongs to you.

21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject you as evil on account of the Son of Man! **23** Rejoice in that day, and jump for joy because your reward is great in heaven. For their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort already.

25 Woe to you who are well satisfied with food now, for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

27 “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** To the person who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other as well, and from the person who takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. **30** Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your possessions back from the person who takes them away. **31** Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full. **35** But love your enemies, and do

good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why is the crowd trying to touch Jesus?

9. What are the 4 categories of people that will be blessed?

10. Does the proclamation of blessing mean all poor and hungry people will be blessed?

11. What are the categories of people that Jesus warns with a “woe to you”?

12. Are all the people in the categories of question 11 lost?

13. Who does this passage say we should help?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. Should we help people over and over even when they are not grateful and are not trying to help themselves?

15. Should we give away our food and money so that we are not rich?

16. What is the principle or big idea behind “turn the other cheek”? What does this look like in our lives?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes