

**The words of Jesus I am about to read comprise one of the hardest, if not the hardest, teaching in the Bible. It's not difficult to interpret; Jesus words are plain and simple. It's hard to believe he would say such things and even harder to put into practice. Let's pray.**

**Luke 6:27-36**—"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.

### **THE LIST OF COMMANDS**

- **Love your enemies**
- **Do good to those who hate you**
- **Bless those who curse you**
- **Pray for those who abuse you**
- **Turn the other cheek**
- **Do not withhold**
- **Give to everyone who begs from you**
- **From the one who takes goods from you do not demand them back**
- **Do unto others what you would have them do unto you**

***What Jesus is really teaching is the exceptional nature and character of the Christian life. Do you want to be seen as a child of the Most High God? Then this is the kind of love you must exhibit.***

### **THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE IS TO BE BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE GOOD PERSON**

Sandwiched between the imperatives I've just listed, is the thought that anything less than this type of loving conduct is unworthy of a follower of Jesus: <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? The unbeliever seeking to fit into normal civil society does these things, but you, Christian, are to be better than that—The Beatitudes and Woes have ended. The listeners are now told what kind of life they must live in order to prove that they have taken to heart the warnings implied in the Woes, and have a right, by grace, to claim the Blessings for themselves. Baker New Testament Commentary - Baker New Testament Commentary – Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke.

## **YOU MUST BE GIVEN EARS TO HEAR**

—“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, Now, Jesus could be saying now you who are listening to me. Or, he is saying, I say to you who hear with new ears, the ears given you by the Father, love your enemies. The prophets spoke many times of people who hear, but really don’t hear.

**Deuteronomy 29:2-4**—*And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>3</sup> the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. <sup>4</sup> But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.*

**Matthew 13:16, Jesus says** <sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

**Revelation 2:7**—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## **TO LOVE AS JESUS COMMANDS, WE MUST KNOW HIS LOVE FOR US**

**Romans 5:6-11**—For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **1. Bless Them**

Proverbs 18:21 tells us that our tongues have the power of life and death, or blessing and cursing. Jesus tells us to bless those who curse you. Instead of uttering

curses at or slandering your enemies, choose to speak blessing and life for them. Consider the words of Life Jesus speaks to you.

## 2. Do Good to Them

**Instead of seeking revenge, do your offenders good. Paul reiterates the teachings of Jesus and the OT in Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)** 9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **Proverbs 25:21-22** 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Of course, don't do that with the intention of putting them to shame, because that's revenge already. Give your desire for revenge to God, and trust the Lord to change their heart as God changed yours.**

## 3. Pray for Them

**Lastly, pray for them.** Pray for those who abuse you, Jesus says.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4***First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**James 3:7-10***—For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*