

Therefore, be Merciful
Lk 6:27-36 (v.32-36)
(Mt 5:38-48)
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how God encourages us to be merciful.

Introduction

I. Christian Behavior (Lk 6:27-31)

A. Love, do good, bless, and pray (v.27-28)

1. Love your enemies; enemy defined “*hated, odious, hateful, hostile, hating, and opposing another*” (strong’s g2190)
2. Your enemy is defined in v.27-28; those who hate you, who curse you, and those who spitefully use you.
 - i. Hate – those who detest you
 - ii. Curse – wish evil for you
 - iii. Spitefully – to use you for evil (sinful) reasons

B. Behavior of others should not affect your behavior (v.29-31)

1. (v.29) – alludes back to the later part of v.28; Matt 5:39 – refers to this as resisting evil.
 - i. It’s difficult not to have hard feelings toward those who abuse you, we are instructed to pray for them instead of seeking retaliation.
2. (v.30) - One of the basic characteristics of Christians is helping the poor, hungry, and needy.
 - i. This is said to instill the spirit of benevolence (and not a selfish or revengeful one).
 - ii. This is not so much speaking of being passive while being robbed, as it is showing compassion when a fellow human being is in need.
3. (v.31) This is known by most as the golden rule. (cf. Matthew 7:12)

II. Behavior of others (Lk 6:32-34)

A. What credit is that to you...

1. It’s of no great effort to love those who love you, but to love those who do not care for you takes real effort. (v.32-33)
2. The same can be said to doing good, it’s simple to good to those who receive you, those who accept you, it’s much more difficult to do good to those who don’t (v.34).
 - i. Our goal is to do good even to those who refuse to do the same.

B. Even sinners...

1. Sinners behave in the negative way; the Christian is not.
2. Sinners retaliate, sinners hate their enemies, sinners wish ill for those who hate them.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Love, do good & lend (v.35a)

1. Love your enemies, those who want to do you harm.
2. Do good and lend wanting nothing in return.
3. **Romans 12:19-21**

B. Be sons and daughters of the Most High (v.35b-36)

1. God has been kind to the unthankful and evil and we should be as well. (v.35b)
2. God is merciful in this way, but showing mercy, kindness, love and care for those who do not give it in return (v.36).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Being the light for Christ in this world means not seeking retaliation for harsh acts of Others (**Mt 5:14**).
2. The lost are not won by harsh and vengeful people.
3. Full invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9