

OUR GREAT TEACHER

5/16/2021

Luke 6:27-49

"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. "But if you love those who love you, what credit 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 credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye. "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

There's a whole lot that can be said about that large passage of Scripture. It was the very Words of Jesus, who is not only our Savior and Lord, but He is also our Teacher. To reiterate what Jesus said about how to be saved He said one must be born again (John 3:3), that is we are born of the Spirit, that is, when we believe on Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins, that Jesus paid the price for our sins against God, so that we can have forgiveness of sins, and be reconciled into a relationship with God to where we then become children of God and He puts His Spirit in us to guide us into His Truth, that we find in His Holy Word, the Holy Bible, and the Holy Spirit then testifies (or bears witness) with our spirit (Romans 8:16) that we are His children and that we truly are saved and are guaranteed eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (2 Corinthians 1:22). So, once we are saved, we have the Spirit of Christ to lead us into all truth (John 16:13). Jesus said,

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher." Now I've heard many times the first part of that Scripture used before passing around an offering plate. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." While God may certainly choose to bless someone financially for their much giving when they pass around the offering plate, what Jesus was getting at was so much more than giving a recipe for financial blessings. Jesus was talking about loving your enemies, giving to those in need, not judging other people, forgiving others, showing mercy to receive mercy, and ultimately then to remember that we are all sinners saved by grace. Yet nevertheless, Jesus spoke these words, of which we should all aspire to follow His words, since He is telling us that it is the will of God to obey those words. While we do preach to one another and teach one another the Word of God, as the Word says that there are those who are called by God to be preachers and teachers, we all must look to THE GREAT TEACHER, our Lord and Savior, who is the Word of God, the Bread of Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the Light of the World. He is our source of light and truth and we can learn of Him and His Word and will for our lives in the Bible.

The apostle John, the one who is self-described as the one whom Jesus loved, in the book of John, went so far as to say this in 1 John 3:27, "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." His

Spirit that He gives us when we are born again will teach us His Way, His Truth, and leads us into eternal life, guaranteed. You just need to believe it and live it. If something is nagging at your conscience perhaps it could be the Holy Spirit speaking to you about forgiveness, maybe even in forgiving yourself. Maybe God is speaking to you about that enemy that always seems to be in your path that you should be praying for. After all, many of us were that enemy when someone else was praying for us. Or the Holy Spirit may be speaking to you about something you're holding onto that is hindering you in your relationship with the Lord.

Yes, God does use others to teach us in His Way and in His Word, but He gives us His Holy Spirit and His Word so that we can go right to the source as well as the Source speaking right to us. While hopefully we all look forward to Sunday morning to hear the Word of God as He ministers to us, as He changes our hearts, and renews our minds, if we wait all week to hear that Word without studying the Word for ourselves, then we will surely be lacking spiritually and undoubtedly be loaded down with the cares of this world. We do have Bibles here that anyone can have to take home with you. For those of you with phones, there are free audio Bibles that you can get online. Also, you can always get a couple of friends together and have a Bible reading together and prayer time. But what is the problem with just allowing others to teach you what the Word says? Jesus kind of points out the problem in that. A disciple is not above his teacher. There is no greater and more perfect teacher than Jesus Himself and with His Word. And yes, we are all sinners saved by the grace of God. While a good teacher will strive to teach the Word of God with sincerity and truth, well, we are all human, and we can eventually let others down. There is one person though that we can always depend on to always know the absolute truth. Jesus! And when you are being chastised, or disciplined by God, you don't have to consider the source on whether they're just judging you or not. If God speaks it, it is!

Nevertheless, whether someone else speaks it, or whether you read it directly from the Bible, Jesus said to "love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High." Jesus also said to not be judging other people, forgiving others, showing mercy to receive mercy, and to remember that we are all sinners saved by grace. Does that mean that we shouldn't warn our brothers or sisters if they are not following Christ? No, but what we are truly doing is following Christ, as He was obeying His Father, which means that we are then leading people to also follow Christ, to read His Word, and to obey Him. And there's no better way to teach that than to live it. It is up to each one of us as to whether we will follow Him or not. We can't expect to say as a parent may say to their child, "do as I say, not as I do." The church has enough hypocrites, we don't need to be

adding to that number. And while it may be tempting to side with caution by steering clear of judging others by not speaking about the dreaded three letter S-word (SIN), we must always consider the last part of that passage of Scripture where Jesus says, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great." What kind of brother or sister in Christ would we be if we just let one of our brothers or sisters just head toward eternal ruin. It is the same thing that can be said about sharing our faith, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with others who are lost, who are not yet saved by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. What kind of Christian, who has the love of God, to where His Father God says He desires for none to perish but for all to come to the knowledge of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, if we don't tell others the truth and just let them dwell around us and let them go to their eternal demise.

It isn't always easy loving one's enemies. But I will say it gets a lot easier when you start praying for them and treat them kindly. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." Is that always the case? No. Some people will choose to be evil no matter how nice you are to them. But, God still tells us to love our enemies. So while we begin praying for them we can trust that He will take care of the problem, that vengeance is His, if He so chooses, and that the battle belongs to the Lord. One last thing to mention is that as the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:12, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Really we don't really know who is our enemies would be who are in the flesh. Those same spiritual forces of evil are not only warring against each of us personally but also the persons around you even those "enemies" that Jesus said that we are to pray for.

Paul said in his second letter to Timothy (3:1-5), "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" We can't change anyone but we can pray for

them, and if they will allow it, we can be kind to them. If all else fails, there are times where we may have to stay away from them. But, still pray for them!

When Jesus fed the four thousand were they all believers? When Jesus fed the five thousand were they all believers? When Jesus healed the ten lepers, did not only one come back to Jesus after he was healed? Did not Jesus break bread with the twelve disciples even when one of them would betray Him?

Once I was an enemy of the cross of Christ but now I am saved by the blood of the Lamb. Once there was a time other people feared the evil that emanated from me! I was lost but now I am found! Someone was praying for me! Someone is praying for you! Let us continue to pray that others will also find that same hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let us continue to hope and pray for healings, deliverances, and salvations. For if Jesus sets you free, you are free indeed!