

LOVE LIKE JESUS - PART 1

Part ? of LUKE, Luke 6:27-49.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. September 12, 2021.

INTRODUCTION: THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

In today's teaching, we're going to hit the wall. Jesus will ask us to do something absolutely impossible and we'll have to figure out how to get it done.

In Luke 6, great crowds have been drawn to Jesus because he is healing the sick and casting out demons. In response, Jesus teaches an orientation to discipleship. He calls his followers to radically re-orient their lives. By so doing, I believe Jesus was trying to thin the crowds. Last week, we studied what a disciple should expect - verses 17-26. Basically, we should be prepared to lose everything as we follow Jesus.

Then, in verses 27-49, Jesus calls his followers to love like he does. But what Jesus asks is impossible. Let's read the passage, then I want us to talk about LOVING LIKE JESUS.

Please open your Bible to Luke 6:27-49.

OUTLINE: WE LOVE LIKE JESUS WHEN ...

This is a long passage, but is made up of four interconnected sections. They are joined by a common theme: this is how to love like Jesus.

- Verses 27-36: New standard of love - love enemies.
- Verses 37-42: New attitude.
- Verses 43-45: New heart.
- Verses 46-49: New ability.

Let's be honest and realistic: We're not wired to love like Jesus. He has given us an impossible challenge. How in the world are we going to follow this teaching? The answer is found in the sections two, three, and four. Let's look there now.

HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

1. WE NEED A NEW HEART - verses 43-45.

What the Heart Does

Jesus taught about the power of the heart:

(Luke 6:45) A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.

The heart is a picture of the controlling center of our lives. It's where our values live, our emotions are formed, and decisions are made. The heart directs our lives:

(Proverbs 4:23) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

In Luke 6, Jesus says a bad heart yields bad fruit. In Matthew 15, he's more explicit:

(Matthew 15:19) Out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Can we love our enemies out of a heart like that? No way. We need new hearts.

How to Get a New Heart

Only God can do that for us. In the physical realm, I can't give myself a heart transplant. In the spiritual realm, I can't make my heart good. It takes an act of CREATION and there is only one creator.

The Lord told faithless, loveless Israel:

(Ezekiel 36:26-27) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

In John 3, we read how Jesus explained and applied this passage to Nicodemus. Jesus taught him that we cannot participate in his Kingdom unless the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart and, thereby, a new spiritual life. We don't control the Spirit of God, he comes to us on his own terms and awakens us to Jesus.

If you want to love like Jesus did, you cannot do it by trying harder, by turning over a new leaf, or by creating a step-by-step guide. No, you first of all need a new heart and the ongoing power of the Holy Spirit. Do not try to follow Jesus in your natural strength. Humble yourself and ask, "Lord, I cannot follow you from a bad heart. Please, create in me a new heart and put a new Spirit within me" (compare this with Psalm 51:10, which refers to the heart made clean after a head dive into sin).

Do you feel how impossible it is to follow Jesus until the Holy Spirit creates a new heart in us? That new heart beats for God and it values loving others, even enemies.

We don't control the Spirit, but we can certainly pray for his renewing work in us. In fact, if you feel the need to call out to him, it's a good indication that he is already at work in your heart.

Well, that's all we have time for today. We'll pick this back up next week, Lord willing.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Sunday, September 12, 2021

1:30 Welcome & Invocation - Peter

0:00 Prayer -Dakota

4:07 *God So Loved-Gabby*

5:46 *In Christ Alone-Dakota*

3:00 Bible Reading - Romans 15:23-33

0:00 ACT (not S) Prayer leading into Communion

0:00 Holy Communion - Tami

0:45 Pray & Dismiss Kids

6:44 *Do It Again- Dakota*

3:00 S. Prayer - Janie

25:00 Teaching - Peter - Luke 6:27-49 - Love Like Jesus

5:31 *Reckless Love-Gabby*

1:30 Updates

0:30 Blessing - Joey