

Jesus' Teaching on Love, Pt. 2 - Feb. 17, 2021

1 - Love all people, everyone, even those who dislike you.

Matt. 5:43-48 - "You have heard people say, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemies.' 44 But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you. 45 Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong. 46 If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that? Even tax collectors love their friends. 47 If you greet only your friends, what's so great about that? Don't even unbelievers do that? 48 But you must always act like your Father in heaven."

- Jesus taught that we should love like God the Father does.
 - He is good to all; He gives b/c that's who He is, not who we are.
 - We should be ourselves, do what's in our heart, without worrying about what others think, or how they will respond.
 - There is nothing great about being able to love people who already love you.

2 - Love goes the extra mile & refuses to retaliate.

Matt. 5:38 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

- Love does more than is asked; more than the minimum.
 - We usually do just enough to get by. And we complain.

3 - Love better than others. Respond & React better.

Luke 6:32-36 - "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 **But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.** Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

- Our love should be the standard for the world to see.
 - Loving when it's hard is what we're called to do.
 - Love others without expectations.
 - God loved us first; we should too. Love first, Love last.
 - Christian love is not for cowards or the weak.

4 - Love God more than this life.

Matt. 10:37-39 - "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. 38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. 39 If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

- Love God more than people in our lives. Spouses are second.
 - Be willing to please God more than other people.
 - Taking up your cross means following the Spirit of God rather than doing what others want.

Say yes to God, which may mean saying no to others.

5 - Love is generous.

Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

- If you are focused on making money, God will take 2d place.
 - Do you choose work over worship?
 - Go out of your way to make \$, but bothered to help someone?
- Think of this as desiring wealth more than accepting God’s will.
 - Doesn’t mean can’t be interested in good job, retirement, etc. It means it doesn’t come before service, help, etc.
 - Doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be prudent & live reckless/waste. Remember the Parable of the Talents? **Matt. 25.**

- Don’t withhold, valuing money over people. Don’t be stingy!
Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

What did Jesus not say:

He didn’t tell us to value some people over others.

He didn’t tell us to pick which people should be loved.

He didn’t tell us make judgment calls about who God loves.

He never said, Love the sinner but Hate the sin.

Jesus said: “Do not judge, & you will not be judged. Do not condemn, & you will not be condemned. Forgive, & you will be forgiven.” - **Luke 6:37**

It’s simple - Love your neighbor. (Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Song - “Love Like Jesus” by Pawnshop Kings