

Oct 11, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

The Bible reminds us that love is patient and kind. It is not self-seeking or easily angered.

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**

Real love originated with our Father, who gave us the gift of His Son. As we seek to show His love to others, we can follow the example of Christ, who laid down His life for us

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away*

(1 Cor 13:8 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 26, 2013)

**Series: Love For One Another**

**UNIT: Inclusive Love**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Love for Neighbors**  
(Luke 10:25-37)

## Love for Enemies Luke 6:27-36

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Luke 6 contains an account of what has traditionally been called the Sermon on the Plain. Much attention has been given over the years to the relationship between the Sermon on the Plain and Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount. A cursory comparison of Luke 6:20-49 with Matthew 5-7 also shows how much these sermons have in common. Both sermons show great concern for the poor and socially outcast, teaching love for enemies, the centrality of mercy in the nature of the kingdom, opposition to hypocrisy, and so forth. The Sermon on the Plain opens with a series of blessings and woes (Luke 6:20-26). They undercut the conventional view of the world that justified the way in which most of Jesus' hearers lived out their daily lives. Today's text is not a difficult passage to understand. It is, however, an exceedingly difficult passage to put into practice. This is because the way of life that Jesus described here runs counter to the fundamentals of human nature: the deep-seated desire for revenge, for redress of injustice, for the respect of others. In light of this, it is common to view the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Plain as impractical or unrealistic, even among Christians, and to seek ways to get around the implications of Jesus' words. The truest and best application we may make of Jesus' words is simply to reject this way of thinking, thus clearing the way for his words about love of enemies to reshape our hearts and our lives.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**A Different Way** - Jesus' Sermon on the Mount set forth a new standard of living, especially in the area of relationships and our interaction with those we consider our adversaries or enemies. The religious leaders incorrectly taught to hate your enemies (Matt. 5:43). Jesus commanded the opposite: Love those who are against you. Why? Because that is how God responds to people—all day, every day, no matter what. He loves those who love Him and those who do not. His followers should do the same.

**Bless and Pray; Pray and Bless** - Jesus prayed on the Cross for His murderers to be forgiven. Stephen, while being stoned to death, uttered the same request. Praying for one's enemies is asking God's favor or blessing upon the person, not harm.

**Do Not Seek Revenge** - Jesus was hated by many, yet He insisted not to retaliate, but be gentle, humble, and generous. He told His audience to refuse to stoop down to their opponent's level. Instead, they were to treat them kindly, the way they themselves would want to be treated. Jesus didn't say to let someone physically harm you and not defend yourself, nor was He saying to not protect your family. Rather, He was speaking about acting spiritually mature rather than as a petty, vengeful person.

**Love Your Enemies** - It is easy to love friends and family who are kind and affectionate. However, the heart is truly tested when you are called to love those who gossip, insult, offend, and spew hatred. Jesus endured those who called him a glutton, a drunk, a blasphemer, a madman, a liar, and so many other negative names. He responded to His accusers with the truth but also with sacrificial love. This is the kind of behavior God wants from His children. We do not imitate the ways of the world, but instead allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and love through us. The Holy Spirit needs to be depended on for His strength, wisdom, and guidance to carry out Jesus' command.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **A Radical Love (Luke 6:27-31)**

#### *Love enemies (27)*

- Love enemies by praying for them (Matt 5:43-45)
- Love enemies by doing good to them (Luke 6:35-36)
- Love enemies by loving them as we love ourselves (Rom 13:8-10)
- Love enemies by serving them (Gal 5:13-14)
- Love enemies as we have been taught by God (1 Thess 4:9)
- Love enemies by defending them and sharing with them (1 John 3:16-19)

#### *Bless those who hate us (28)*

- Bless those who hate us by blessing them (Rom 12:14)
- Bless those who hate us by keeping no record of wrongs (1 Cor 13:4-8)
- Bless those who hate us by forgiving and living in unity (Col 3:13-14)
- Bless those who hate us by being kind to them (1 Cor 4:12-13)
- Bless those who hate us by meeting their needs (Prov 25:21-22)

#### *Pray for those who hurt us (28-29)*

- Pray that Christians be rescued from them (Rom 15:31)
- Pray for deliverance (2 Thess 3:2)
- Pray that God grant them repentance (2 Tim 2:24-26)
- Pray that God grant them grace (Lam 3:30)
- Pray for them knowing that we have a better and lasting future (Heb 10:34)

#### *Give to those who take from us (30)*

- Give to those who take from us because they may be in need (Rom 12:13)
- Give to those who take from us by working to be able to give to them (Eph 4:28)
- Give to those who take from us by doing good deeds and sharing with others (1 Tim 6:17-19)
- Give to those who take from us by sharing with them (Heb 13:16)
- Give to those who take from us by giving with cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7)
- Give to those who take from us by supporting the weak (Acts 20:35)

#### *Treat people the way we want to be treated (31)*

- Treat people right because this sums up obedience to God's word (Matt 7:12)
- God holds us accountable for how we treat everyone (Job 31:13-15)
- Treat people right because we are accountable for how we treat others (Matt 18:32-34)
- In the judgment of God, He does not forget the treatment of the poor (Heb 6:10)
- In my treatment of others we are to remember that God is the Creator and Master of us all (Eph 6:9)
- It is wise to ensure our treatment of others is consistent with biblical principles (Col 4:5)

### **A Higher Standard of Love (Luke 6:32-34)**

#### *Higher standard of goodness (32-33)*

- Higher standard of goodness by being good at every opportunity (Gal 6:10)
- Higher standard of goodness is a benefit (Rom 5:7)
- Higher standard of goodness by letting our light shine through good works (Matt 5:16)
- Higher standard of goodness by being persistent in doing good (Rom 2:7)
- Higher standard of goodness by pleasing our neighbors (Rom 15:2)
- Higher standard of goodness by seeking the good for others (1 Cor 10:24)
- Higher standard of goodness by praying for others (1 Tim 2:1-3)
- Higher standard of goodness by sharing with others (Heb 13:16)

#### *Higher standard of generosity (34)*

- Higher standard of generosity by being openhanded toward the poor (Deut 15:11)
- Higher standard of generosity by being used by God Himself to scatter His gifts to the poor (Ps 112:9)
- Higher standard of generosity by depending on God's promise of prospering (Prov 11:25)
- Higher standard of generosity by sharing with the poor (1 Tim 6:18)

### **Divine Origin of Love (Luke 6:35-36)**

#### *Divine love to wait for reward (35)*

- Rewards that come as the result of earnestly seeking God (Heb 11:6)
- Rewards that come as the result of the treatment of others (Matt 10:41-42)
- Rewards that come as the result of good works done (Matt 16:27)
- Rewards that come as the result of the Christian inheritance (Col 3:24)
- Rewards that are dispensed by Jesus (Rev 22:12)

#### *Divine love to be merciful (36)*

- Being merciful is having regard for the weak and troubled (Ps 41:1-3)
- For the merciful, there is hope in troubled times (Ps 112:4)
- Not being merciful is sin (Prov 14:21)
- The type of fasting God desires includes being merciful to others (Isa 58:6-8)
- Without being merciful to others, we will not receive mercy from God (Matt 6:14-15)
- Mercy is commanded for Christians (Eph 4:32)
- Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)