

Reflection Questions: Luke 6:27-36

For the message, "A Revolutionary Kind of Love" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on June 2, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

LUKE 16:1-15

27 "But I say to you who hear, **Love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

32 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But **love your enemies**, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 **Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.**

A summary of the message: In a dog-eat-dog world, we're tempted to bite back. But Jesus calls us to respond with a revolutionary kind of love, one full of kindness and mercy. We're called to love like this because our heavenly Father loves like this. He's full of mercy.

QUESTIONS

1. How does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life? How would my life look differently if I were to really live out the message of this text?
2. How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus, not only in the example he set, but also in the power that he gives to us? Compare the following verses:
 - In John 15:15 Jesus says, "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
 - In Philippians 4:13, Paul says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
3. Why might God be bringing these words of Jesus to my attention at this time in my life? In what ways do I need to change and grow in order to live in light of this passage? In other words, what kind of me is God calling me to be?
4. How does this teaching of Jesus help us to understand the kind of church he wants MHC to be? What does God want to do not merely for us or in us, but through us?
5. What is the cost if we are not transformed by this teaching of Jesus? In other words, what is lost if we ignore his message?
6. How does this text serve as an invitation to the world to follow Jesus in a new way of being human? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?