



The Most Difficult Teaching Jesus Ever Gave

MAIN THING

The greatest faith you'll ever demonstrate is treating your enemies like God treats His

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-36

ICEBREAKER

OPENING THOUGHT

The greatest demonstration of faith is not a person walking on water or handling a snake. The greatest demonstration of faith in God is treating your enemies the way that God treats HIS enemies. When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, He isn't telling us to do something that God doesn't do; rather, He is instructing us to imitate God in what God is already doing.

This takes great faith, because to love our enemies and do the other things Jesus tells us in this passage are absurd otherwise. To give your shirt to someone who demands your coat? To give to enemies without expectation of repayment? To turn the other cheek to someone who has struck you or offended you? Absurd. Unless you have faith that God is doing something greater.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon said that "love" is not 1) Permissive, 2) A Feeling, or 3) A Substitute for Truth. Which one of these falsehoods is the most prevalent in our world today?
3. Jesus gave us seven Agape Commands 1) Agape your enemies, 2) Bless those that curse you, 3) Turn the other cheek, 4) Give more than the thief demands, 5) Hold your possessions lightly, 6) Treat others as you want to be treated, and 7) Have enough faith to treat your enemies as God treats His. Which of these is the easiest? Which is the most unreasonable? Which one do you need to start practicing TODAY?

LIFE APPLICATION

Our culture doesn't know what "love" is. "Loving our enemies" doesn't mean doing everything they say, agreeing with everything they say, enabling them, etc. We are to AGAPE our enemies, which means that we want what is best for them. We wish them no evil, we do not wish hell upon them, we do not wish bankruptcy or death or anything like that for them. However, when we say, "We want what is best for them," the word "best" is what is defined by God, not us or by them.

God "agapes" us, which means He does what is best for us. Many times, what is best for us is to be told "no." God has no problem answering our prayers and desires with a "no." Because He doesn't love us? No- because He DOES. To "love our enemies" means to serve them as God would serve them, to wish what God wants for them. Anything else is not "agape." It is false love.

CHALLENGE

Which of the seven commands do you need to start doing IMMEDIATELY?