

# **“Revolutionary Love”**

**(Luke 6:27-36)**

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**Chapel Pointe**  
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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. The arrest of the “Christian Militia”**

1. Their plan to kill a cop
  - a. As cops gathered at the funeral
  - b. Blow them up
2. Using the name “Christian”
  - a. Embarrassing

### **B. What does a Christian look like?**

1. To the Muslims in the Crusades
  - a. “For the cause of Christ”
2. To the native tribes in the Americas
  - a. The Spanish Conquistadors
  - b. “Convert or die!”
  - c. In the name of Christ
3. To the Jews in Spain in 1492
  - a. Three options
    1. Baptize to become a Christian
    2. Leave Spain

3. Die

- b. Is that the love of Christ?

**C. The bumper sticker LOVE WINS**

1. Jesus said it in the Sermon on the Mount
2. It's more than a bumper sticker
  - a. It's one of the most profound truths
  - b. Love will win more converts than a Christian Militia

**II. Review**

**A. "The Jesus Manifesto" of Luke 6**

1. Last week, "Blessed or Cursed?"

**B. Now...Revolutionary Love**

**III. Text...Luke 6:27-36**

**A. Overview**

*(27) But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (28) bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (29) If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. (30) Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.*

**1. This was revolutionary teaching**

a. *"But I tell you"*

1. As opposed to what everybody else was telling them
2. They had been taught to hate their enemies

- b. The power of this type of love

**2. This is not a call to be a doormat**

- a. Has given many Christians problems
  - 1. Give away all of your money and clothes
  - 2. Refuse to take a stand against evil
- b. Not categorical non-resistance of all evil
  - 1. Jesus resisted crooked money changers in the Temple
  - 2. We are to resist the Devil (I Peter 5:8-9)
  - 3. Resist false teachers (Acts 20)
  - 4. Resist sinners in the church
- c. Not required to give money to whomever wants it
- d. So what does it mean?

**3. *There are three types of love (three Greek words)***

***a. Sexual love***

- 1. “eros” passionate love between the sexes
- 2. “erotic” love

***b. Brotherly love***

- 1. “Phileo” (Philadelphia)
- 2. Describes our love for our nearest and dearest, the warm affection of the heart

***c. Agape love***

- 1 The word used here is agapan...or “agape”
- 2. Let me try to describe agape love

Agape love is an act of the will

It means that no matter what others do to us we will never allow ourselves to desire anything but their highest good; and we will deliberately go out of our way to be good and kind to them.

We cannot love our enemies as we love our nearest and dearest. To do so would be unnatural, impossible and even wrong. But we can see to it that, no matter what others do to us, even if they insult, ill-treat and injure us, we will seek nothing but their highest good.

The love we bear to our dear ones is something we cannot help. We speak of “falling” in love; it is something which happens to us. But this love towards our enemies is not only something of the heart; it is something of the will.

## **B. “But I tell you...**

### **1. “Love your enemies” (v. 27)**

- a. Easy to love your girlfriend
  - 1. Or anyone who loves you back
- b. Who’s your worst enemy and why?

### **2. “Do good to those who hate you” (v. 27)**

- a. Who hates you and why?
- b. Are you willing to mow their lawn for them?
- c. Will shock them!

### **3. “Bless those who curse you” (v. 28)**

- a. Has somebody ever told lies about you?
  - 1. Or cursed you to your face
- b. Can you bless them in return?

### **4. “Pray for those who mistreat you” (v. 28)**

- a. Always mocking you at school
- b. Hard to hate somebody you’re praying for

### **5. Don’t strike back in anger (v.29)**

***(29) If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.***

- a. Playground cheek slapping—“are you a Christian? Then turn the other cheek!”
- b. The ultimate put-down
  1. “In Jewish society, the most contemptuous and demeaning act was to slap somebody in the face”
  2. Empatetus, the Roman slave wrote—
 

“a slave would rather be thrashed with a whip than slapped with the back of his master’s hand.”
  3. His pride was hurt more than his body
- c. Jesus is saying—
  1. Forget your pride
  2. Jesus certainly did
- d. Our right to dignity
  1. You’ll get plenty in Heaven
- e. Don’t let “road rage” damage your testimony
  1. Road rage
    - a. “How dare they!”
    - b. How we respond
    - c. “I had the right of way”
    - d. Everybody wants their rights
  2. When you’ve been offended:
    - a. By something a friend said
    - b. By a broken promise
    - c. Mocking laughter

d. Your rights have been offended

3. Don't be overly concerned about your "rights"

**6. Give more than required (v. 29-30)**

*...If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. (30) Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.*

a. The tunic

1. Had 3 or 4

2. Full length shirt of cotton or linen

b. The cloak

1. Usually only had one

2. Great outer garment

a. Robe by day

b. Blanket by night

3. Most important possession

c. Don't let your pride stand in the way of giving or sacrificing

**7. "Do for others as you would have them do for you" (v. 31)**

a. Different than other "golden rules"

b. Don't do to others what you wouldn't want them to do to you

c. How would you want to be treated if you were in their shoes

**C. This love wins**

1. The modern creed (Luke 6:32-34)

*(32) 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.*

- a. Love those that love you
- b. Do good to those who are good to you
- c. Lend to those who will repay you

2. But revolutionary love is dramatically different (Luke 6:35-36)

***(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 sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (36) Be merciful, just as the Father is merciful.***

3. The consequences.....with God

- a. Your reward will be great
- b. You will be sons of the most high

4. The consequences.....with people

- a. Will get their attention
- b. Will want to know what makes you different

5. “Son of Hamas” by Mosab Hassan Yousef

Mosab Hassan Yousef is the son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding leader of Hamas, internationally recognized as a terrorist organization and responsible for countless suicide bombings and other deadly attacks against Israel. An integral part of the movement, Mosab was imprisoned several times by the Israeli internal intelligence service. After a chance encounter with a British tourist, he started a six-year quest that jeopardized Hamas, endangered his family, and threatened his life. He has since embraced the teachings of Jesus and sought political asylum in America.

6. He was given a New Testament and began to read it

I began at the beginning, and when I got to the Sermon on the Mount, I thought, “Wow, this guy Jesus is really impressive! Everything he says is beautiful.” I couldn’t put the book down. Every verse seemed to touch a deep wound in my life. It was a very simple message, but somehow it had the power to heal my soul and give me hope

Then I read this: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.”

That's it! I was thunderstruck by these words. Never before had I heard anything like this, but I knew that his was the message I had been searching for all my life.

For years I had struggled to know who my enemy was, and I had looked for enemies outside of Islam and Palestine. But I suddenly realized that the Israelis were not my enemies. Neither was Hamas nor my uncle Ibrahim nor the kid who beat me with the butt of his M16 nor the apeliike guard in the detention center. I saw that enemies were not defined by nationality, religion, or color. I understood that we all share the same common enemies: greed, pride, and all the bad ideas and the darkness of the devil that live inside us.

Jesus said, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." What a difference between him and Allah! Islam's god was very judgmental, and Arab society followed Allah's lead.

Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, and I thought of my uncle. I remembered a time when he received an invitation to attend a special event and how angry he had been that he was not given the best seat. It was as though Jesus was talking to Ibrahim and every sheikh and imam in Islam.

Everything Jesus said on the pages of this book made perfect sense to me. Overwhelmed, I started to cry.

I was a prisoner of the Israelis when my eyes were opened to the fact that the Palestinian people were as oppressed by their own leaders as they were by Israel.

I was a devout follower of a religion that required strict adherence to rigid regulations in order to please the god of the Qur'an and get into heaven.

I had money, power, and position in my former life, but what I really wanted was freedom. And that meant, among other things, leaving behind hate, prejudice, and a desire for revenge.

The message of Jesus—love your enemies—is what finally set me free. It no longer mattered who my friends were or who my enemies were; I was supposed to love them all. And I could have a loving relationship with a God who would help me love others.

## 7. What we must do at Chapel Pointe

### a. Romans 12:17-21

***(17) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. (18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (19) do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (20) On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

- b. What does that look like in your life?

## **D. God showed us this kind of love**

1. The example of “straight sticks”

- a. D.L. Moody

*“The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue it or spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it”*

2. Jesus the ultimate example

- a. Mosab Hassan Yousef

Manipulated by lies and driven by racism, hatred, and revenge, I was on my way to being one of those people. Then in 1999, I encountered the only true God. He is the Father whose love is beyond expression, yet shown in the sacrifice of his only Son on a cross to atone for the world’s sins. He is the God who, three days later, demonstrated his power and righteousness by raising Jesus from the dead. He is the God who not only commands me to love and forgive my enemies as he has loved and forgiven me...but empowers me to do so.

3. God’s demonstration of mercy....Luke 6:35-36

(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 sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (36) Be merciful, just as the Father is merciful.