
“Love Your Enemies”
#26 | Luke 6:27-36
TODD DUGARD | MARCH 1, 2015

WARMING UP

1. How would you define the word “enemy”? Who comes to mind when you hear this term?

DIGGING IN

If you love Jesus, you’ll love your enemies.

2. Pastor Todd outlined three categories of enemies: “no love” enemies, “tough love” enemies, and “lotsa love” enemies. Take some time to unpack what these mean and to whom they refer.
3. “This message is really about all the people in your life who simply make life more difficult to live.” Can you think of some specific individuals in your circle who fit this description?
4. “Love your enemies” (v. 27a) is explained in the following commands to “do good to them,” “bless them,” and “pray for them” (v. 27b-28). Give some practical examples of each of these commands. Which one do you find the hardest to put into practice? Why?
5. Jesus highlights four scenarios when you must love your enemies: even when you’ve been “spoken evil of,” “taken advantage of,” “begged from,” and “stolen from” (v. 29-30). Can you recall a time when any of these happened to you? What was your natural response?
6. Is it really possible to respond with love to these kinds of negative behaviours? How so? Christian author Philip Yancey describes this as “the radically dissimilar life.” What does he mean? To what degree is your life “radically dissimilar” in terms of loving your enemies?
7. “Jesus isn’t asking us to do anything that he hasn’t already done.” How did Jesus personally exemplify the sort of love that he sketches out here?
8. Jesus gives four reasons to love your enemies: because . . . that’s what you’d want for yourself (v. 31), that’s what impacts the world (v. 32-34), that’s what brings reward (v. 35a), and that’s what reflects the Father’s heart (v. 35b-36). Discuss each of these motives and be sure to see them in the text. Which is the most compelling to you? Why?

BREAKING OUT

9. How is God challenging you to love your enemies in a new way? Is there someone in particular that he is bringing to mind? How could your small group members help you in the pursuit of this change?