

Why would we do this? It sounds crazy!

we'll be thought fools, and taken advantage of by others

why should we help those who aren't even helping themselves?

Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful

We prove we are God's children when we naturally reflect his character
we keep on giving because God does

we keep on loving because God does

we help those who are mean to us because God does

we give to those who can't pay us back because God does

We keep giving away until giving feels better than possessing

We keep acting in love until loving feels better than plotting revenge

All of our excuses for disobedience could be used by God against us

Jesus summarizes, both negatively and positively

Do not judge, and you will not be judged

Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned

Forgive, and you will be forgiven

Give, and it will be given to you (in overflowing measure!)

For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you

we determine the amount of God's kingdom we get to experience

God will only pour into us what we are willing to let flow thru us

CONCLUSION

Students are not above their teacher, but all who are fully trained will be like their teacher (vs. 40)

WHAT JESUS BELIEVES ABOUT HOW TO LIVE LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Who taught you how to live your life the way you do?

manners, morals, values, priorities, relationships, etc

parents? grandparents? peers? media? a favorite teacher?

Jesus would like to orient us as to how to live life in his kingdom

His audience: Jews w a strong nationalistic fervor living in occupied land

LUKE 6:27-38

What Is Jesus Teaching Us About How to Live?

*To you who are listening I say: **Love your enemies***

not *storge* (natural affection), *eros* (romantic) or *phileo* (friendship)

agape = love based not on recipient, but the character of the giver

this is to be love in action directed to the very ones who hate us

This love is to be demonstrated with words

we are to speak positive words of blessing on those who curse us

we are to pray for God's gracious favor on those who mistreat us

This love is to be demonstrated with actions

If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other also

our natural tendency is to hit back, only harder, escalating conflict

Jesus asks us to commit to de-escalating the violence

This love is to be demonstrated through attitudes expressed in actions

keep on giving to those in need, even if they are takers

love those who are not going to love you in return

do deliberate good to those who continue to be mean to you

lend to those who will never be able to pay you back