

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

(Sermon on the Plain, Part 2)

Luke 6:27-42

Key Verse: 6:27, "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..."

1. Read verses 27-31. Who was Jesus' audience, and what commands did he give them (6:20; 7:1)? How are the acts of enemies described? How did Jesus tell his disciples to respond? How is the "golden rule" that Jesus taught (in verse 31) the perfect ideal?
2. What do the words "if you...even sinners" imply (32-34)? In contrast, what does Jesus command of his disciples (35)? What is their reward? What can we learn here about the nature of love Jesus wants us to have (36; Ro 5:8)?
3. In verses 37-38a, what does Jesus tell his listeners to do and not do? What are the consequences? Why is it important to forgive others and to give generously? What blessings does Jesus promise to those who give (38)?
4. What is the spiritual meaning of being blind and why should the blind not lead (39)? Who are the student and the teacher in this parable (40)? How can one be a good student of Jesus?
5. Read verses 41-42a. How are these verses similar to judging others? What do the words "plank" and "speck" refer to? How can we avoid hypocrisy (42b)? What have you learned about how to be a good disciple of Jesus?