



Leak Love

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor – May 12, 2013

Luke 6: 27 - 36

SERMON ON THE PLAIN – BEATITUDES (REVIEW)

- 1 The Kingdom of God was breaking in on earth history.
- 2 The Kingdom of God welcomes & wants whoever will respond to Christ in faith.
- 3 The Kingdom of God will one day fill the earth, but for now it resides in the hearts of people.
- 4 There will be conflict between the Kingdom of God & the kingdoms of men.

PREVAILING ATTITUDE OF THE DAY

- Law of Moses / Leviticus 19:18 - *Love your neighbor as yourself.*
- Sinful redefinition of “neighbor”
 - ▶ Only fellow Jews (not foreigners or “outsiders”)
 - ▶ Only orthodox Jews
 - ▶ Only people living in close proximity
- Jesus’ definition of “neighbor”
 - ▶ Anyone who comes across your path with a need

PRINCIPLE #1: When our “loving gestures” are calculated to be reciprocated they do not rise to God’s definition of love.

LOOK WHO’S TALKING!

- Luke 6:27 – *To you who are listening I say...*

- Matthew 5:20 – *I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*
- Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44 – *You have heard... but I say...*

SIDENOTE ON LEAKY LOVE

PRINCIPLE #2: People leak most what they love most.

WHAT’S OUT OF BOUNDS FOR AGAPE?

- 1 Retaliation
- 2 Revenge
- 3 Cursing (Luke 6:45)
- 4 Hatred
- 5 Physical violence
- 6 Doing evil (Romans 12:21)
- 7 Harboring bitterness / unforgiveness
- 8 Expecting reciprocation (Luke 6:35)

SO WHAT’S IN BOUNDS FOR AGAPE?

- 1 Doing good
- 2 Blessing
- 3 Praying
- 4 Turning the other cheek
- 5 Generosity with material possessions
- 6 Not requiring reciprocal responses
- 7 Leaving the results in God’s hands

PRINCIPLE #3: Only agape has the power to change people.

THE GOLDEN RULE

- Luke 6:31 – *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

PRINCIPLE #4: Agape always takes the initiative & then keeps on giving.



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Back to Basics

Leak Love (Luke 6:27-36)

Lesson Aim: To enter into the deepest characteristic of the Kingdom of God among men... the law of love (agape).

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: Name a fictional “bad guy” (from movies, TV, novels, etc.) that you love to hate.

1. **READ Leviticus 19:18.** In the teaching Sunday, Pastor Scott talked about how the Jews of Jesus’ day had taken the command in this verse and used it to create a very narrow definition of “neighbor.” What specifics do you remember about how they had come to define “neighbor”?
2. What are some ways Christ-followers today might be tempted to narrowly define “neighbor” when it comes to the command to love?
3. **READ Luke 6:27-36.** Looking over the sections “What’s in Bounds for Agape?” and “What’s Out of Bounds for Agape?” How does this description of love challenge you?

4. Since applying verses 29-30 could literally reinforce someone’s bad behavior, what seems to be Jesus’ point (especially cf. vv. 31, 36)?
5. How can the description of love here be a model for relating to someone you find difficult?
6. Have you ever shown love to an “enemy”? How?
7. **Reread Luke 6:31.** Think of a time in your life when you’ve done something to harm or offend others in some way that was not honoring to God. In what ways did you need grace from God and/or others in that situation?
8. How does your remembrance of that situation help as you think about how to apply Luke 6:31 to your own life and responses toward others?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday’s message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the “Messages” link.