



Luke 6:27-38

27 Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. 29 To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. 31 Treat others as you would like them to treat you. 32 If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. 35 Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

36 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. 37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. 38 Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Other readings: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 Psalm 102 (103) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

We continue reading from Luke's collection of the teachings of Jesus known as the 'Sermon on the Plain'. The essence of this reading is found in verses 27 and 28. There is a radical new commandment here, given to all the disciples of Jesus, that we should love our enemies. This commandment is found in Matthew and Luke, in their respective collections of Jesus' teaching, and in both gospels this new precept challenges the opinions of the contemporaries of Jesus: 'I say this to you.' The commandment is elaborated in the following verses, and repeated in verse 35. We are called to be like God, because we are children of God.

Throughout Luke's gospel Jesus reveals the compassion of God, and the call is for us to 'be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. The vocation of the Christian is not to 'treat others as you would like them to treat you', but, in a far more demanding manner, to 'do as God does'.

To what extent do I live the gospel command to 'love your enemies'?

Is compassion a guiding factor in my dealings with others?

Let us pray that we may truly imitate the love of Christ.

Let us pray for generosity of heart in all we do.