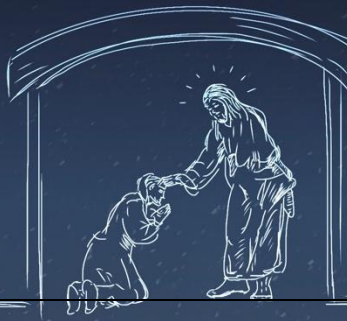


THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: APRIL 30, 2023

God's Radical Love Sets the Standard for How His Children Treat Others Luke 6:27-38

God commands his children to radically love all people. (vv. 27-31)

1. We love those who oppose us.
Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
2. We love those who harm us.
Luke 6:29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.
3. We love those who inconvenience us.
Luke 6:30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.
4. We love all!
Luke 6:31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

This radical love... (vv. 32-36)

1. ...surpasses the world's standard.
Luke 6:32 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.
2. ...results in heavenly rewards.
Luke 6:35a But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great,
3. ...authenticates our sonship.
Luke 6:35b and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Notice how this love plays out in the Early Church:

Heb. 10:34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

This love reflects the character of God. (vv. 36-38)

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. **37** "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Matt. 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

God generously empowers us to love in this manner:

Rom. 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Reflection/Discussion

1. Reflect on the undeserved kindness/love that God has shown you. In what ways have you seen your relationships with others transform in light of what God has done for you?
2. Our actions toward others can negatively or positively affect how the world understands God. Think about a time when your loving response to a difficult person adorned the gospel and reflected the heart of your Heavenly Father.
3. Identify someone in your life that that falls into the category of "enemy" (Luke 6:27-30). Develop and put into action a plan to love that person as God has loved you.

SONGS

"10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)"

"GOD SO LOVED"

"FOREVER"

"O PRAISE THE NAME (ANASTASIS)"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 23,391.60

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 568,131.80

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 628,745.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:

(Last Entry – 4/27) \$ 68,122.30

Note: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!