

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 13, 2008

Passage: Luke 6:27-38

Memory Passage: John 13:34-35

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:27.** What 2 things does Jesus tell us to do? Break down each phrase looking at what kind of people we are to love. Which phrases surprise you?
- (b) What did Jesus say about loving others in Matthew 22:33-40? How is the *second* like the *first* commandment?
- (c) What does it mean to do good to those who hate you? How does this go just beyond the idea of “love your enemies?” What does it tell you about the true nature of love?
- (d) Read Romans 12:17-21. What are some reasons that Paul gives us for actively loving our enemies? What happens if we don’t do this (also 1 Thessalonians 5:15)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 6:27 and Romans 12:17-21. Talk about the importance of loving those who don’t love us. How does this affect our testimony? Why is it so difficult? Pray that you might have a heart of love for the unloving this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:28.** What two additional things does Jesus tell us to do toward people who don’t love us? How are these two types of situations actually worse than the first two?
- (b) What does it mean to “bless” those who curse you? Is this really practical (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60)?
- (c) What promise are we given in 1 Peter 3:9 if we do this? How are we able to do this (1 Peter 3:10-16, especially vs. 15)?
- (d) What are some practical ways that we can do this (Proverbs 15:1; 15:8; 29:22)? What impact will this have on them? What impact will it have on us?
- (e) What does it mean for someone to “*spitefully* use you?” How can we pray for these people? What kinds of things can we pray for God’s “blessing” on them?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:28 and 1 Peter 3:15. How does it feel when someone curses you or spitefully uses you? How is our normal reaction? What should be our reaction? Do you know someone who speaks evil about you or who uses you spitefully? Pray for that person that God might bless him.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:29-31.** What are two ways that the responses of the enemies have increased in these verses? What two things are they doing to us?
- (b) Does this rule out any possible self-defense or is it in the context of something else? What does it mean to be struck on the right cheek (Matthew 5:29)?
- (c) What advice does Paul give regarding taking someone to court (1 Corinthians 6:7)? This is primarily directed toward believers taking other believers to court, but what principles might apply also to our testimony toward non-believers?
- (d) What should be our heart toward people in need (Luke 6:30)? What do these passages in Proverbs tell us about caring for those in need (Proverbs 11:24-25; 19:17; 21:26; 22:9)? Does this mean everyone all the time (1 Thessalonians 3:10)?
- (e) What general principle should we always follow (Luke 6:31; Galatians 5:14; Galatians 6:10)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:29-31 and Galatians 6:10. What should be our actions toward the unloving? Pray that God will change your heart to love the needy and the unloving.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6: 32-36.** What is the main reason that we are to love in this way? Is it so that others will like us? What is the danger of thinking this (Luke 6:26; John 15:19)?
- (b) How is a believer’s love different from a non-believer’s love? *Why* should it be?
- (c) What are we promised in Luke 6:35 if we respond this way (also Hebrews 6:10)? Notice the terms Jesus uses, “what *credit* is it to you...” How does this also speak about rewards?
- (d) How does our love reflect the Father’s love? How did God respond to *us* as *His enemies* (Romans 5:8-10)?
- (e) What kind of love has the Father given you? How should this affect the way we respond to those who sin against us (Ephesians 4:32)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:32-36 and Romans 5:8-10. Talk about God’s forgiveness for us. Is it deserved? How should we respond to our enemies? Pray for someone that needs to know about God’s love and forgiveness.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 6:37-38.** How does judging others affect our loving them? What does James 4:11-12 remind us about judging?
- (b) How is forgiveness tied to our willingness to forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15)?
- (c) Read Matthew 18:21-35. What question did Peter raise? What does this reveal about his heart toward forgiveness?
- (d) In the parable, why is the king so angry with his servant? Why is he handed over to the tormentors *until* he has paid all? Is this about salvation or about God's hand against us when we refuse to forgive?
- (e) Does this mean that we should never make any judgments about people (John 7:24; Matthew 7:15-18; 1 Corinthians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:37-38 and Matthew 18:21-35. Talk about judging. How would you distinguish between judging and judgmentalism? How do our judgments about people affect our ability to really love them? Pray that you can have a heart of love toward all and not slip into judging others unrighteously?

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 6: Discuss the nature of a Christian's love. How is it different from the love of non-believers? What happens when we treat even our enemies with a heart of love? Pray that some who do not know the love of Jesus might see that love in you too.

DATE: April 13, 2008

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The Disciple's Love

"But I say to you, 'Love your enemies...'"