

OUR BATTLE STRATEGY: PROACTIVE KINDNESS - Luke 6:27-28

072620A

INTRODUCTION

1. A leader of a "movement" - Lk 6:27-38. Battle strategy is not of this world.
2. Eternity is at stake. The outcomes is already decided - battles continue.
3. v27 *love your enemies*. Recall being conquered by His love.

1st: Do Good To Those Who Hate You - v27c

1. Enemies - v23; [v27-28].
 - i. 6:7 *accuse Him* - legal - seeking to build a case against Jesus
 - ii. 6:11 *filled w/ rage* -> plot Jesus' death [Mk 3:6]
2. How should we respond? *Do good*.
 - i. *do*: behave in a certain manner.
 - ii. *good*: moral (right) & practical (helpful) - v33, v35
3. *Do moral good* - conscience; *do practical good* - affections.

2nd: Bless Those who Curse You - v28a

1. *curse* = invoke supernaturally inflicted harm: incantation. Religious; superstitious; societal.
2. In response - we *bless*: "eulogize". In v27 *do good*, in v28 "speak good". Contrast w/ *curse*, *to bless* = ask God to be gracious
 - i. Enemy summons a "higher power" to curse & you express blessing in name of Christ.

- ii. Envision enemy hear you pray for their blessing!
Lk 23:34; A 7:58-60; Rm 12:14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.*

3rd: Pray For Those Who Mistreat You - v28b

1. *mistreat*: catch-all term: abuse - intent to hurt . Rm 1:28-32.
2. How to respond? *Pray for them*. Ab intercedes for Sodom; Moses for Israel; Jesus for us. Pray for them & with them.
3. Darrel Boch: "Intercession to God for the opponent is one of the highest forms of love... This is a supernatural love, b/c doing it requires that one reverse all natural instincts"
 - i. Jesus wants us to be like Him. A Christlike heart is key to victory.
4. Love your enemies: do good, bless & pray for them. Christ's love is stronger than enemy's hatred - stronger than death itself.
5. 1 Pt 2:21-23. Summary: 1 Pt 3:8-9. In union with the risen Christ, we can rise above the fray of earthly conflict in the transcendent love of Christ.
6. We have ample opportunity for proactive kindness.