

GIVE 'EM THE TREATMENT - Luke 6:31

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INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6 - v35 Sons of Most High: love enemies = battle strategy.
2. Question of interpretation & application.
 - i. Literal interp inadequate: Mt 16:6f; Jn 2:18f; 3:3; 4:10; 6:51; 11:13-14
 - a. Some non-literal interps would render Jesus' teaching irrelevant.
 - b. Jesus uses hyperbole. Compare Lk 6:29 & Jn 18:22-23
 - ii. Applic: ethic for individuals. Sphere sovereignty: family, church, state.
 - a. Need discernment when & when not to exercise civil rights. Motive: *for sake of Son of Man* [v22], not revenge - Rm 12:16-21.
 - b. Paul not give us a principle for when & when not to take a beating
3. Learn basic movements of spiritual battle: heart -> actions.

1st: The Treatment - Lk 6:31

1. *treat* [2x] - how to relate to another person: assume a perspective & posture & relate accordingly.
2. Treat others according to Kingdom protocol - learn movements & practice.
3. NAS: *Just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way.*

2nd: The Parties

1. *You* - disciples [v27-31] All disciples & each disciple.
2. *others* [*people*] - everybody - those outside the church in view [v27-35]
 - i. v31 = treat them better than they treat each other.
 - ii. v32-34 - they expect mutual reciprocity; we expect nothing.
3. How to treat other disciples? Gospel protocol: forbearance & forgiveness.

3rd: The Protocol

1. Popular ethic? Avoid doing bad, not required to do positive good. Selfish.

- i. [-]: Rabbi Hillel; Tobit 4:15; Naphtali 1:6; Philo; Isocrates; Confucius
 - ii. [+] : 2 Enoch 61:2; Seneca - do positive good is a higher ethic
2. Mat 7:12 = Lev 19:18. Perceive a qualitative difference
 - i. Authority: *I am the Lord* - Lk 6:27 *But I say to you who hear*
 - ii. Ability: reliance on Spirit, exercise faith.
 - iii. Motive: love for Jesus - 1st table of Law [Lk 10:27-28; 1 Jn 5:21].
 3. Be careful: *same way you want* - not project your wants to the other
 - i. Treat other as you would want to be treated were you them., not as tho they were you. Not self-projection, but self-denial.
 - ii. Phil 2:3-8 Jesus is our example of selfless love

Applic #1: Do You Love Selfishly?

1. I confess the sin of selfishness.
1. Put yourself in their place - vicarious ethic.

Applic #2: Test Yourself by Your Family

1. Eph 5:25 love as Christ loves: self-sac; selflessly; for other's benefit - v26
1. Ask family members to give you input - remove splinters & logs.

Applic #3: Test Yourself by Your Motivation for Christ

1. 2C 5:14-15 *no longer live for self - live for Him* who gives us a *new commandment: love on another* [Jn 13:34-35].