

INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6:31 Golden Rule - Mt 7:12 sum of Law & Prophets as 2nd great command wh/ necessitates the 1st great command: love God & neighbor.
 - i. Tactic of spiritual warfare: love enemies.
 - ii. Need forgiveness & HS to enable Christlikeness [Phil 2:5ff]
2. Selfish love: we expect smthg in return - ethic of "reciprocity." Bondage: when is the debt paid off?
3. Father's love reveals who He is - we are to be like our Father: like Jesus.

1st: Relinquish an Ethic of Reciprocity

1. v35 1] motivation: love for Christ & 2] expectation: kingdom rewards
2. v27-35 - 3 typical behaviors: 1] love [heart]; 2] do good [speech & acts]; 3] lend [monetary & material possessions].
 - i. v27-30 1] love, 2] do good & 3] lend
 - ii. v31 = treat enemies [v27] & all men - same 3 behaviors [v32-34]
3. Relinquish ethic of reciprocity - kingdom ethic is superior to *sinner's* ethic.
 - i. *sinners* [v32, 33, 34] whose ethic is reciprocity:
 - ii. Mutual reciprocity is "ethical" - but kingdom ethic is superior.
4. *sinners* - those not in covenant union w/ God in Christ [Mt 5:44-45]
 - i. v35 - *ungrateful & evil* - no reciprocity returned to God
 - ii. Father gets no thanks, we, like Him, not expect "thanks."

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2nd: Strive for a Superior Ethic

1. Mt 5:44-48 Ethic of Sons of Most High - name of Father: v47 - *more than*
 - i. Higher standards than men who are not Sons of Most High
 - ii. exceed what is expected: extraordinary; beyond what is required
2. We are to conduct ourselves in a remarkable manner that goes beyond what is normally expected as appropriate & fitting: do that, yes - and more!
3. Lk 6:32 - sinner is capable self-sacrificial love - Jn 15:13; 1C 13:3-8a Kingdom love extends into forbearance & forgiveness: gospel love.

EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN

4. Lk 6:33 - *do good* = common grace goodness - Rm 12:17-18.
 - i. *sinner*s [seen in Rm 1] in Lk 6:33 are capable *doing good*: defined in Lk 6:9 *do good* is parallel w/ *save a life* - promote life, common grace
 - ii. Xn is to do good as defined by the Kingdom: redemptive good - *for the sake of the Son of Man* [6:22]: promote life of the age to come.

5. Lk 6:34 parallels v30. giving or loaning? Focus on heart: what is expected
 - i. v30 *do not demand it back*; v35 *expecting nothing in return*.
 - ii. OCov: not to charge interest on loans to fellow Israelites - Ex 22:25; Lev 25:35-36; but cld charge interest to foreigners - Dt 23:19-20.
 - iii. NCov: not prohibited from legitimate business/economics - but focus is on heart - what is loved: people or possessions? Ps 112:5

6. Lk 6:35 - v27-34 is summed up; focus on heart; motivated to be like Father.

Applic #1: We Are Confronted with the Radical Nature of Discipleship

1. Lk 9:22-24 Follow Jesus to Jerusalem to *suffer, be rejected, be killed*.
 - i. v23 *wish*: an expectation, a hope - choose according to desire. Do you *wish* to follow Jesus, to be like Jesus, to be with Jesus?
 - ii. *come after Me* = *deny self, take up cross - follow*: imitate & obey.
 - iii. v24 - what is at stake is your *life* lived in this age [v23] - v25

2. Kingdom service severs the "normal" expectation tw/ cause & effect. Invest in people & get no return on your investment: *expect nothing*.

3. Expect to be treated as Jesus was treated; as prophets/apostles were treated.

Applic #2: We Are Called to Live and Labor with Kingdom Hope

1. Lk 9:24b - save life - in age to come; revealed at 2nd coming [v26] & glimpsed in Jesus' Transfiguration [v28ff]. Faith, Hope, Love - these 3 abide. So good, expecting nothing - and your reward will be great.