

## **JESUS' SERMON: BE MERCIFUL**

Luke 6:27–38

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

### **MAIN POINT**

Just as we have been shown uncommon love and mercy by God, so should we show uncommon love and mercy to others.

### **I. Christians Exhibit Uncommon Charity (6:27–36)**

#### **A. Fourfold Imperative**

1. Love your enemies
2. Do good to those who hate you
3. Bless those who curse you
4. Pray for those who mistreat you

#### **B. Specific Examples**

1. Striking the cheek
2. Taking a cloak
3. Lending financially

- 4. Suffering theft
- C. Golden Rule—*Treat others the way you wish to be treated*
- D. Basis for the Imperative
  - 1. Demonstration of your identity—*Sons of the Most High*
  - 2. Character of God—*He is kind to ungrateful and evil men*
- E. Express mercy to others because you yourself have been shown great mercy (cf. Lev. 19:2)

## **II. Christians Exhibit Uncommon Mercy (6:37–38)**

- A. Negative Imperatives
  - 1. Do not judge
  - 2. Do not condemn
- B. Positive Imperatives
  - 1. Pardon
  - 2. Give—“True followers of Christ will never be enamored of possessions and luxurious living. The more they have, the more they will give away.” (Grant Osborne)
- C. Abundance of Reward