



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Living as Children of the Most High God

Bible Reading: Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ “But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don’t hold back your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don’t ask for them back. ³¹ Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (CSB)

Framing the scene – comparing Jesus with Moses

- A. Moses at Mount Sinai
- B. Jesus on the plain

How Children of the Most High Respond to adverse situations – the mark of children of the Most High – 6:27-30, 35

- A. The Most High – a term for God in verse 35 – *you will be children of the Most High*
 - The believers are called the children of the Most High – Luke 6:35

- In Luke's writings this name is attached to Jesus and people who have a special ministry to fulfill.
- B. This section (27-38) continues the thought from last week of v. 22 *Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.*
- C. **Responding to persecution – Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**
- D. **Responding to violence – If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also.**
- E. **Responding to apparent theft – And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either**
- F. Similar to Matt 5:10
- G. **Responding to the needy – ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don't ask for them back.**

The Golden Rule – 6:31

Common responses don't mean much – 6:32-34

- A. Reciprocity is what sinners do
 1. Who are sinners? – here common people in society

A repeat of the living of children of the Most High – 6:35-36

- A. Love enemies and don't expect anything in return
 1. There is a reward but what is that reward?
- B. This is the life of the children of the Most High
- C. What is God like?
 1. He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil
 2. He is merciful

Conclusion – What does love look like? – 6:37-38

- A. Not judging, not condemning
- B. Forgive and you will be forgiven
- C. Two types of forgiveness
 1. Judicial
 1. What God grants to those who believe in Jesus. The penalty of sin has been met by Jesus' death on the cross
 2. On the cross Jesus said "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they do"
 2. Parental
 1. The forgiveness which is ours when we confess our sins – 1 John 1:9
 2. This confession and forgiveness restores our relationship with God
 3. When we forgive others we are forgiven by God
- D. Give and it will be given to you

Matthew's addition about fasting – Matt. 6:16-18

- A. Fasting and prayer should go together – Luke 2:37; 5:33
- B. Fasting without prayer is dieting and deprivation
- C. The reason for fasting is to seek the Lord with greater urgency – not to twist his arm
- D. Fasting is to detach – praying is to re-attach
 1. Detach from this world and take our eyes off of ourselves

2. Re-attach to God, focus on God and his kingdom
 3. Fasting can also be detaching from internet, your phone, TV,
 4. Replace that with prayer
- E. 2026 a New year, – renewed consecration, restart, prayer on 16th
1. For those who would like to, some of us will be fasting from Jan. 5th to 16th
 2. Sign up to get a daily email
- F. Detach from world's view, pray and receive the call to love others with the love of God