

Friday

Sons of the Most High

Today's Scripture Luke 6:20-36

Luke 6 contains Jesus Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49), which bears many similarities to Jesus Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. The beatitudes section which opens the sermon (6:20-23) is shorter in Luke and contains four beatitudes, as opposed to Matthew's nine. Four woes follow in Luke 6:24-26, each reflecting the opposite of the four beatitudes. There is a decidedly spiritual emphasis in these beatitudes and woes. Those who find their satisfaction from any source other than the Lord will be rejected by the Lord. The contrast between the beatitudes and woes reveals a clear role reversal in the kingdom. Those whom the world blesses are not the same as those God blesses.

Luke 6:27-36 contains a significant application of this reversal. Jesus tells His disciples, *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."*

Jesus then explains why this is so significant. Even sinners love those who will return their love. God's people will love their enemies because they choose to live like God. We love our enemies because God loves his enemies.

It is worth remembering that God's kindness, mercy, and love toward us as His enemies is active in our best interests. Consider God's kindness and love toward us in Titus 3:1-5, which says, *"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us."* Additionally, Romans 5:8 says, *"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* In order to love our enemies, we act in their best interests, not merely share positive feelings about them.

This charge is difficult: the greatest test of loving like God is to love those who hurt us and choose not to return our love.

Today, I will...by name, pray for my enemies and those whom it's hardest to love; I will ask God for patience, wisdom, and compassion to show them His love.