

Sunday August 2nd 2020

Foolish Love?

Luke 6:27-36

Jesus commands us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and give to those who would steal from us. Let's be honest: if there is no God, at best that doesn't make sense, and at worst, it's down-right dangerous.

But there is a God. More than that, God is not removed from his world. In the end, he will bring justice to those who oppress, hate and use violence and he will vindicate and restore the peaceful who suffered through no fault of their own.

If this is true – and it is – it makes sense to love our enemies. We don't need to rely on violence and power 'get even' because we know God will make everything even in the end. We can simply focus on loving our enemies. That doesn't mean we be friends with them, entrust them, put ourselves in a position where they can continue to hurt us or avoid reporting them to the authorities if appropriate. However, it does mean that we pray for them, we don't fixate on getting back what is ours or getting even and we do good things for them.

When we do this – when we do good to those who hate us – we become more like God and we grow closer to him. After all, he is the one who loves those who hate him perfectly.

Loving your enemies can be a profound spiritual encounter.

Questions for group discussion

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. How can you respond?
3. How do you love someone who can't – and shouldn't – trust?