

Empowered by Love

Luke 6:27-36



Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”



Luke 6:29-30

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;
and whoever takes away your coat,
do not withhold your shirt from him either.
Give to everyone who asks of you,
and whoever takes away what is yours,
do not demand it back.”



Luke 6:31-34

“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.
If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive,
what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners
in order to receive back the same amount.”



Luke 6:35-36

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great,
and you will be sons of the Most High;
for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

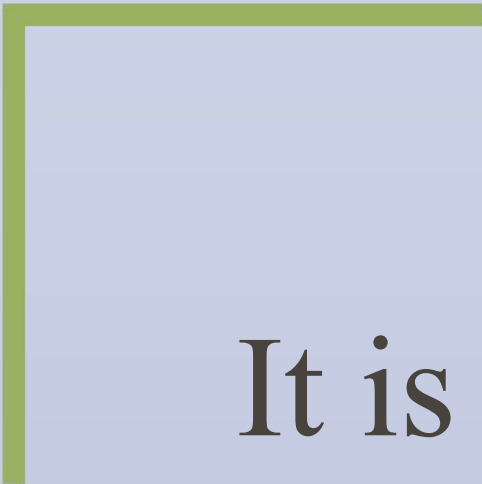




Main Point

It is love that will empower you to respond to your enemies with love, but you will need to think of _____ first.





Main Point

It is love that will empower you to respond to your enemies with love, but you will need to think of *yourself* first.



Love of your enemies is the theme.

Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, **love your enemies**,
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”



Empowered by Love

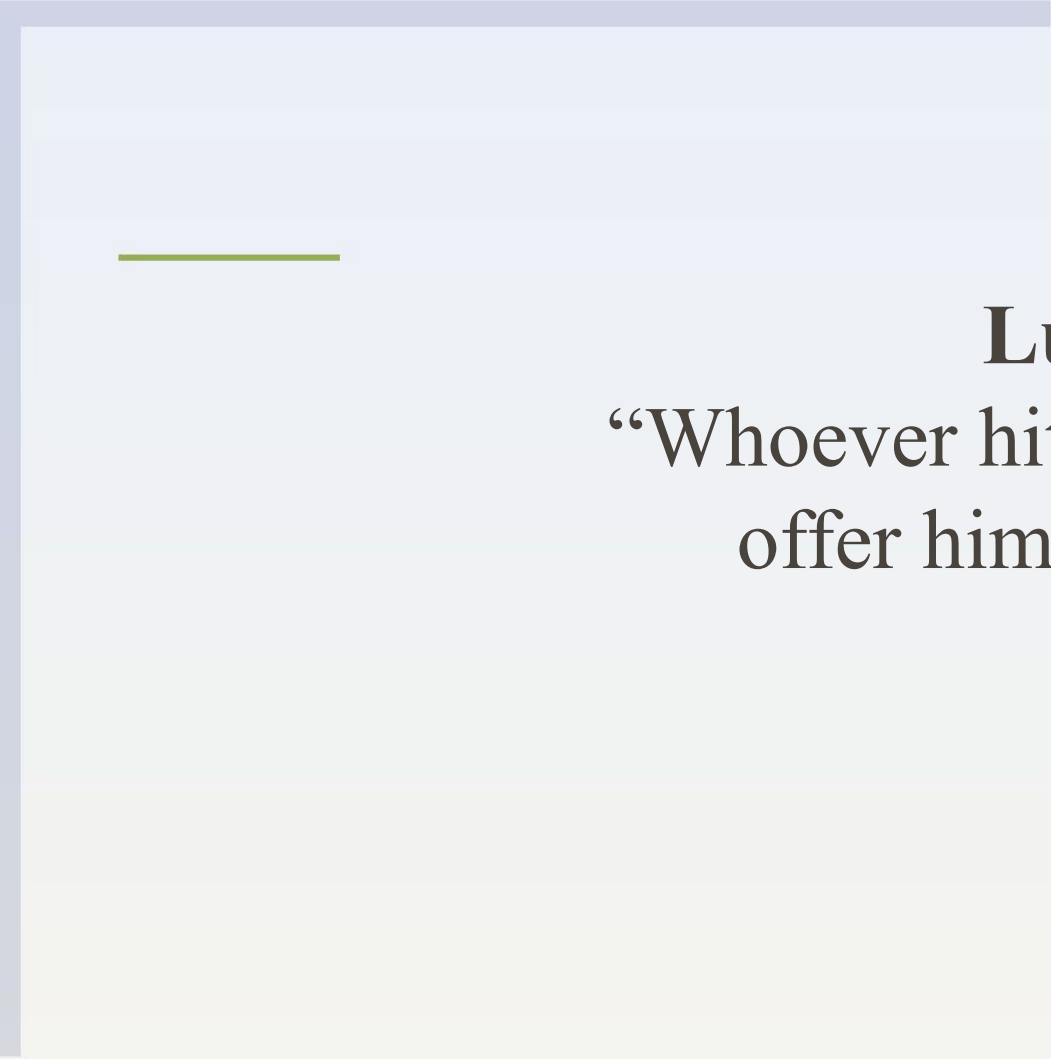
Four examples of love-empowered responses.



Examples of Love-Empowered Responses

Offer your other cheek.





Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek,
offer him the other also.”



Luke 6:29

“Whoever *hits* you on the cheek,
offer him the other also.”



What is the context?

Luke 6:22

“Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you,
and insult you, and scorn your name as evil,
for the sake of the Son of Man.”



What is the context?

Luke 6:22

“Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you,
and insult you, and scorn your name as evil,

for the sake of the Son of Man.”



Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek,
offer him the other also.”

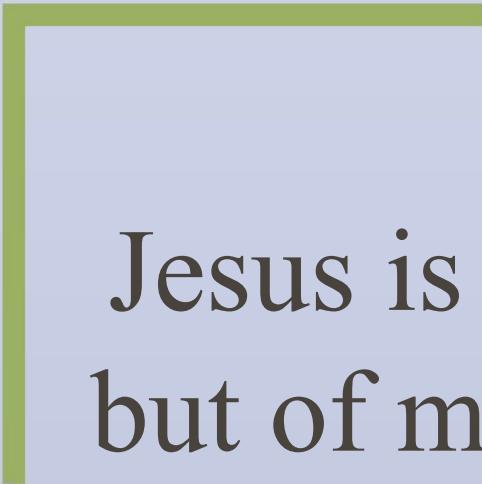


Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek,

offer him the other also.”





Jesus is not speaking of indiscriminate attacks but of mistreatment due to gospel engagement.

Love will not lead us to retaliate but to persist in offering our “cheeks” for Christ and for the good of those who hate us.



Examples of Love-Empowered Responses

Offer your other cheek.

Offer your shirt, too.



Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;
and whoever takes away your coat,
do not withhold your shirt from him either.”



Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;

and **whoever takes away your *coat*,**
do not withhold your shirt from him either.”



What is the background?

Exodus 22:26-27

If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge,
you are to return it to him before the sun sets,
for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body.

What else shall he sleep in?

And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me,
I will hear him, for I am gracious.



Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;

and **whoever takes away your *coat*,**
do not withhold your shirt from him either.”



Luke 6:29

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;
and whoever takes away your coat,

**do not withhold your *shirt*
from him either.”**





Love for your persecutor will
move you to care more for his soul
than for *your* cause or *your* comfort.



1 Corinthians 6:7

Why not rather be wronged?
Why not rather be defrauded?



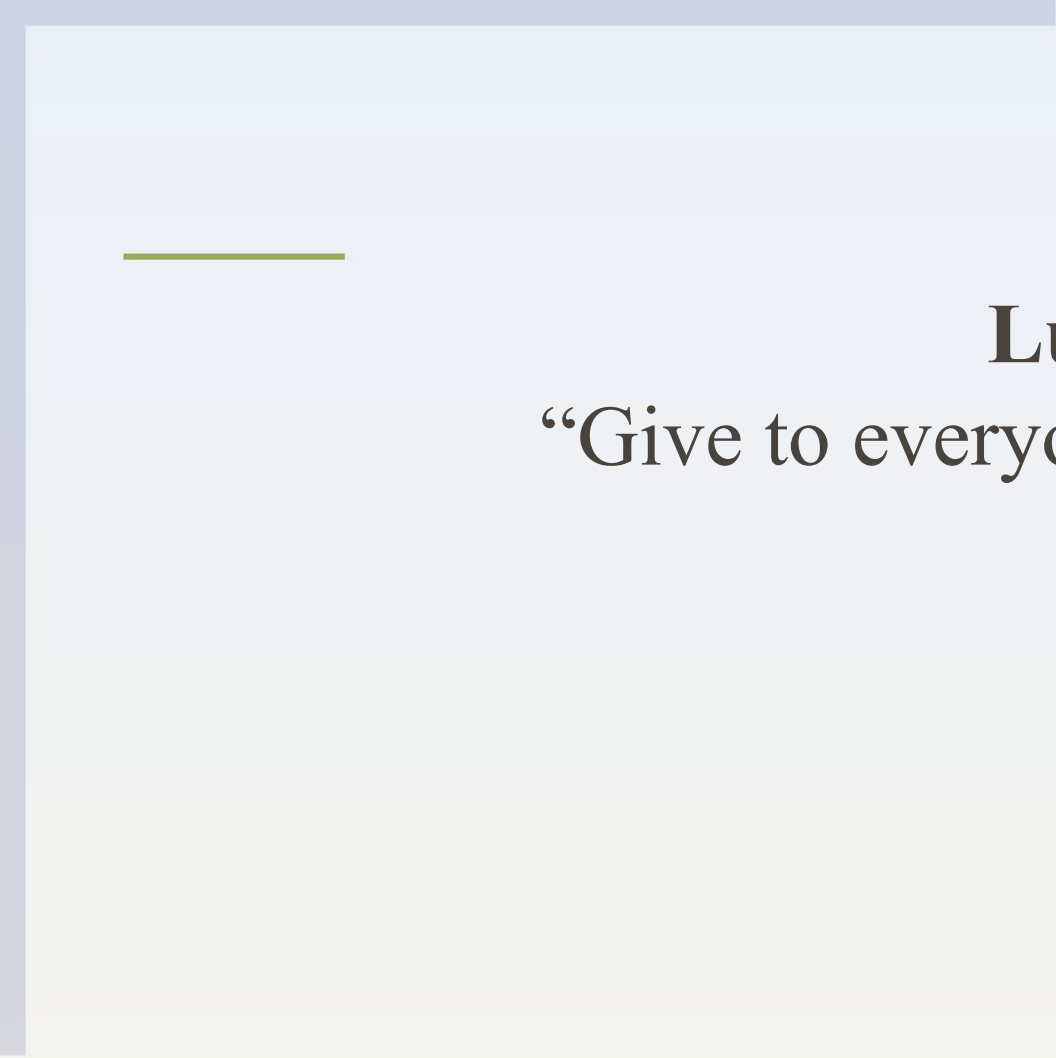
Examples of Love-Empowered Responses

Offer your other cheek.

Offer your shirt, too.

Give to those who ask.





Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you.”



Luke 6:30

“Give **to everyone who asks of you.**”

The subject is still love for your enemies, so Jesus is likely referring to those who have mistreated you, but who are now in need and asking for your help.



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you.”

Romans 12:20

*“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him,
and if he is thirsty, give him a drink.”*



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you.”

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return.”



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you.”

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend,**
expecting nothing in return.”



Matthew 5:42

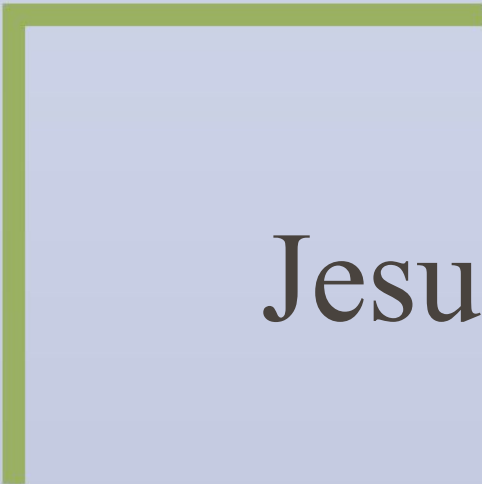
“Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”



Matthew 5:42

“Give to **him who asks** of you, and do not turn away
from **him who wants to borrow** from you.”





Jesus was not speaking of unqualified
giving or lending.

He taught us to give and lend
to *meet needs* not to satisfy desires
or conduct commerce.



Examples of Love-Empowered Responses

Offer your other cheek.

Offer your shirt, too.

Give to those who ask.

Relinquish your rights.



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you,
and whoever takes away what is yours,
do not demand it back.”



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you,

and **whoever *takes away* what is yours,**
do not demand it back.”

This refers to someone wrongly taking
your rightful possession.



Luke 6:30

“Give to everyone who asks of you,
and whoever takes away what is yours,

do not demand it back.”



Hebrews 10:32-34

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.



Hebrews 10:32-34

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

For **you** showed sympathy to the prisoners and **accepted**
joyfully the seizure of your property,
knowing that you have
for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.



Hebrews 10:32-34

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened,
you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being
made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations,
and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.
For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted

joyfully the seizure of your property, **knowing that you have
for yourselves a better possession
and a lasting one.**





This is not a denial of justice
but a joyful acceptance of what
it means to bear the cross of Christ,
especially as you weigh the value
of the temporal with the eternal.



Empowered by Love

Four examples of love-empowered responses.

The golden rule for relational conduct.



The Golden Rule

Think of *yourself* first.



Luke 6:31

“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.”



Luke 6:31

“Treat others **the same way you want
them to treat you.”**



What is the background?

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance,
nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people,
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;
I am the LORD.



What is the background?

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance,

nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people,
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;
I am the LORD.



What is the background?

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance,
nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people,

but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;

I am the LORD.





The context is mistreatment,
and the desire is for justice,
but the imperative is love.

Proverbs 24:29

Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me;
I will render to the man according to his work.”





Think of yourself first –
what do *you* deserve?



**Think of yourself first –
what do *you* deserve?**

If we *honestly* consider ourselves first,
we will be humbled and more inclined
to consider others with grace and love.



The Golden Rule

Think of yourself first.

Treat others as you would want to be treated.



Luke 6:31

“Treat others **the same way you want them to treat you.**”



Luke 6:31

“**Treat others** the same way you want them to treat you.”

How do *you* want to be treated?

Do you not long for love and grace?

Is it not love and grace that you've received?



1 John 4:9-11

By this the love of God was manifested in us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world
so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



1 John 4:9-11

By this the love of God was manifested in us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world
so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.





Awareness of your own need first will
produce a humility that moves your heart
to grace, mercy, and love for others.



Empowered by Love

Four examples of love-empowered responses.

The golden rule for relational conduct.

The power of love.



The Power of Love

Empowered by love for your Father.



Luke 6:35

“But *love your enemies*, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”

What is it that will empower you to love your enemies?



Luke 6:35

“But **love your enemies**, and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great,

and you will be sons of the Most High;
for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”



Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children...



Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, **as beloved children...**
and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you.





God has made us to be His children,
and our childlike love for our Father is
what will motivate and empower us to love
our enemies as He has loved us.

1 John 5:3

For **this is the love of God**, that we keep His commandments;
and His commandments are not burdensome.



The Power of Love

Empowered by love for your Father.

Empowered by love for your neighbor.

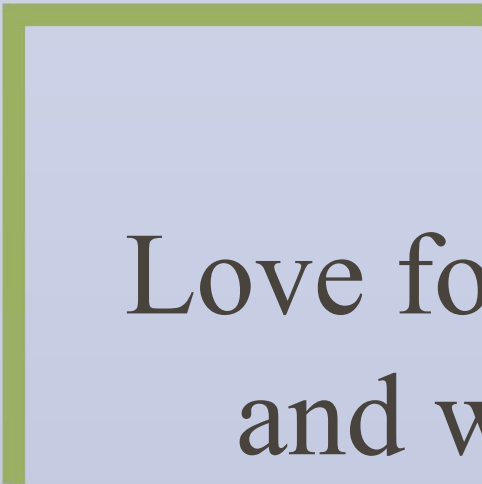


Luke 6:35-36

**“But love your enemies, and do good...
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”**

What will produce and empower
this kind of love and mercy?





Love for others originates in God's love for us;
and when we are transformed by His love,
it will be this *uniquely Christian love* that will
empower us to love our enemies, too.

1 John 4:19

We love, *because* He first loved us.



What kind of love will this be?

Luke 6:32-34

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive,
what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners
in order to receive back the same amount.”



What kind of mercy will we show?

Luke 6:36

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”



What kind of mercy will we show?

Luke 6:36

“Be merciful, **just as your Father is merciful.**”

Matthew 18:32-33

“You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt
because you pleaded with me.

Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave,
in the same way that I had mercy on you?”



What kind of mercy will we show?

Luke 6:36

“Be merciful, **just as your Father is merciful.**”

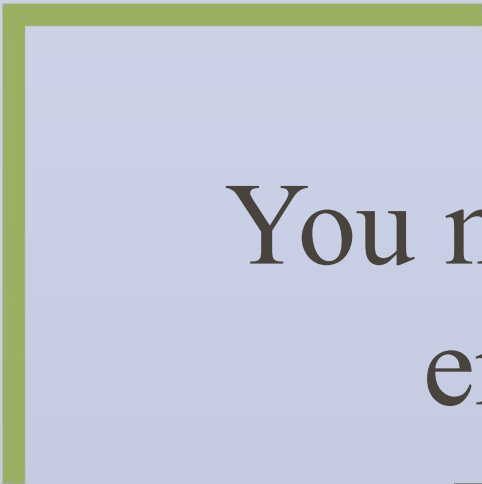
Matthew 18:32-33

“You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt
because you pleaded with me.

Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave,

in the same way that I had mercy on you?”





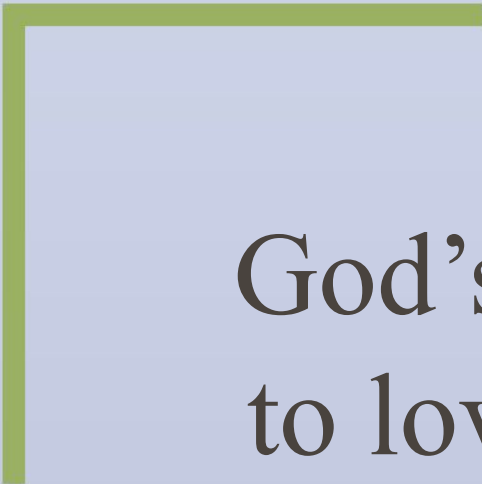
You might be tempted to say, “Yes, but my enemy is not pleading for mercy!”

But were you pleading for mercy when God sent His Son to die for you?

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.





God's love for us moves and empowers us
to love others, and this uniquely Christian
love for others will move and empower us
to love *even our enemies*.



For Reflection

How are you inclined to respond
to those who mistreat you?

How would this change if you thought
rightly of yourself first?

Have you received God's love and mercy
toward you as a sinner?

