

Sermon Reflection

Sermon Series: Keeping It Real: Real Faith for Real Life

Sermon Title: How to Love Difficult People – June 28, 2026

Monday Mindset

You cannot control how people treat you, but you can control how you respond to them.

Scripture

Luke 6:27–36 (NKJV)

Main Scripture

Luke 6:27–28 (NKJV)

"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."

Key Thought

Loving difficult people is one of the greatest challenges of the Christian life. Yet Jesus calls us to respond differently. Real faith is revealed not by how we treat people who are easy to love, but by how we respond to those who are difficult.

Overview

Jesus' words in Luke 6 are both challenging and transformational. He calls His followers to rise above retaliation, bitterness, and revenge. Instead of responding like the world, we are called to respond like Christ.

This kind of love is not natural. It is supernatural. It requires God's grace, God's strength, and God's perspective.

Point 1

Choose Love Instead of Retaliation

Scripture

Luke 6:27a (NKJV)

"Love your enemies..."

Reflection

Jesus does not tell us to love only those who treat us well. He challenges us to love even those who oppose us. Love is not approving of wrong behavior. It is choosing not to allow another person's actions to determine your character.

Retaliation may feel justified, but love reflects the heart of Christ.

Reflection Questions

How do I normally respond when someone hurts me?

Am I allowing someone else's behavior to determine my response?

This Week's Application

Choose love over revenge.

Refuse to let hurt control your actions.

Ask God to help you see people through His eyes.

Point 2

Do Good Instead of Returning Evil

Scripture

Luke 6:27b–28a (NKJV)

"Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you..."

Reflection

Jesus calls us beyond avoiding retaliation. He calls us to actively do good. Anyone can return kindness for kindness. Followers of Christ are called to respond differently.

Doing good does not mean allowing people to mistreat you. It means choosing actions that reflect God's character rather than mirroring someone else's negativity.

Reflection Questions

How do I respond when someone treats me unfairly?
Am I returning evil for evil or allowing God to guide my response?

This Week's Application

Look for opportunities to show kindness.
Speak words that build up rather than tear down.
Allow your actions to reflect Christ.

Point 3

Pray Instead of Harboring Bitterness

Scripture

Luke 6:28b (NKJV)

"And pray for those who spitefully use you."

Reflection

Prayer changes our perspective. It is difficult to remain bitter toward people we consistently bring before God. Jesus teaches us that prayer is the pathway from resentment to healing.

Bitterness keeps us stuck in the pain of what happened. Prayer places that pain in God's hands and allows Him to work in our hearts.

Reflection Questions

Is there someone I need to pray for instead of resent?
Am I holding on to hurt that I need to surrender to God?

This Week's Application

Pray for those who have hurt you.
Ask God to heal your heart.
Release bitterness and trust God with the outcome.

Living It Out This Week

Choose love over retaliation.
Do good instead of returning evil.
Pray instead of harboring bitterness.

Encouragement

When you choose love, do good, and pray, you demonstrate the transforming power of Christ in your life.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help us love as You have loved us. Give us the strength to choose love instead of retaliation, to do good instead of returning evil, and to pray instead of holding on to bitterness. Shape our hearts so that our responses reflect Your grace and Your character. In Jesus' name, Amen.