



Passage: JOHN 13: 27-38

Title

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Love Your Enemy- A HIGHER LOVE

NCCC

John 13:27-38

Jesus brings them to the heart of all his teaching and discipleship:

v.34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Why does Jesus call this **A NEW COMMAND**? Love? What’s “new” about that?

The OT (Lev 19) called us to love one another as we love ourselves. BUT NOW Jesus is calling us to **A HIGHER LOVE**.

Jesus is calling us to love others to the extent he has loved us.

“Love for enemies is the key to the solution of the problems of our world... this command is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization.”
(MLK Jr.)

Everyone can follow Jesus into this HIGHER LOVE by learning to love their enemies in specific 3 ways.

MATTHEW 5:43- 48

❖ **FORGIVE:** “We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive.”
(MLK. JR)

Forgiveness BREAKS this chain reaction.

- ◆ Removes the barriers to reconcile
- ◆ Catalyst for creating the ATM for a fresh start.

❖ **SEE THE GOOD:** “We must recognize that the evil deed of the enemy-neighbor, never quite expresses all that they are.” (MLK Jr.)

Reminds us that every human being is made in God's image and this side of heaven- no one is beyond the reach of God's redeeming love.

❖ **WIN THEIR FRIENDSHIP:** "We must not seek to defeat and humiliate our enemy, but to win their friendship and understanding. " (MLK Jr.)

WHY? "Because love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. (MLK Jr.)

Abraham Lincoln to Edwin Stanton: "Madam, do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

THINKING IT THROUGH

There is a COST to following Jesus into this teaching.

If we are not committed to loving our enemies there is no way to love anyone.

Jesus in John 13— Jesus' deepest wounds came from those closest to him...

JUDAS... for 30 silver coins!

PETER— after all his promises to be there for him!

This is revealing something absolutely CORE TO THE GOSPEL and WHAT JESUS WAS DOING ON THE CROSS.

The CROSS represents God's own fierce commitment to love His enemies-- for if He didn't choose to love HIS ENEMIES— He never would have gone to the CROSS.

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

MLK Jr once said. "I would rather die than hate my oppressor"

Those aren't the words of a civil rights activist, those are the words of a Disciple of Jesus.