

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany – 2022  
Saturday, 2/19 at 4:00 | Sunday, 2/20 at 9:00



Text: Luke 6:27-38 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: A disciple of Jesus is someone who **believes** in Jesus and **learns** from Jesus.

- Disciples are **aware** of their sins, **sorry** for their sins, and **believe** in Jesus for eternal life.
- Disciples are students of Jesus, so they **keep learning** what He taught and **keep trying** to apply His teachings to their lives!

In comparison to the world, *DISCIPLES ARE VERY DIFFERENT* – **forgiven**, **saved**, and **heaven-bound**! Also, disciples are Christians, and Christians are disciples; are you a disciple? In this sermon, Jesus will teach us how to live as His disciples...

1. **The Responses of Disciples:** <sup>27</sup> **“But I say to you who hear,”** // Those who **hear** want to **understand** and **do**

whatever Jesus says! When we put His words into practice, **our actions are revealing the truth of our hearts** – that we are disciples of Jesus!

In this section, Jesus will tell us to respond in very unusual ways. **We can** – *by the power of the Holy Spirit*. **We try** – *because we want others to repent, believe, and be saved!*

- a. People who oppose you: **“love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”** // People of the world **give** what they **get** – *hate for hate, curse for curse*, but we are *disciples of Jesus, God’s holy children*, so we are called to do the opposite: to **point** our opponents to Jesus and **glorify** our Father in heaven.
- b. People who hit you and steal from you: <sup>29</sup> **“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.”**
  - i. Who does what? **God** works through governments to punish, but **disciples** overcome evil with good.
  - ii. Guard our hearts: If we are hit, there are two choices: **let** anger fill our hearts and hit back **OR** **control** our hearts and permit ourselves to be hit again. Jesus is saying, *it’s better to be hit again!*
- c. People in need: <sup>30</sup> **“Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.”** // We must be wise:
  - i. Disciples are ready to help: We have received God’s love, so we extend God’s love by helping the needy, but not by encouraging laziness. If a person can work, *he should work to gain what he needs* (“...not willing to work, ...not to eat, either” (2 Thess. 3:10 NAU).

- ii. Disciples are discerning: Lenski has this quote from Loy: “If a ruffian strikes me in willful wickedness, or in conscious violation of all law takes away my property..., shall I... [yield] to his satanic assaults and demands...? **I think not**” (365).
- d. Excellent general advice: <sup>31</sup> “**Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.**” // Ask: How do I want to be treated? For example: With love, respect, kindness, concern. *Then treat others the same!*
2. **Intent Is the Key**: Outwardly people may act the same, but God knows the intent – *the WHY* – of every heart!
- a. Concerned for self: <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> 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*.” // Most people in the world ♦love, ♦do good, and ♦lend – **because others are loving, doing good and lending to them**. Their concern is basically for themselves.
- b. Concerned for others: <sup>35</sup> “**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.**” // Lenski noted: “...unless we love our enemies, we shall be nothing but common... sinners and not true disciples...” (367). However, when we live the words of Jesus, we show our believing hearts – *that we are* ♦sons of God and ♦disciples of Jesus.

### 3. **Live as Compassionate Children of God:**

- a. Withhold punishment: <sup>36</sup> **“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”** // We have all sinned against God and deserved His punishment, but He held it back from us. *So, let us do the same when people sin against us!*
- b. Extend forgiveness: <sup>37</sup> **“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.”** // There are proper ways to judge (John 7:24; 1Co. 5:12), so Jesus is speaking against hypocritical judging (Mt. 7:3-5). God’s job is to judge; our job is to forgive (1Pe. 2:23).
- c. Be generous: <sup>38</sup> **“Give, and it will be given to you [by God]. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”** // As disciples of Jesus, we care about others, so we give! As we measure what we give, God will use the same measure to give to us (2 measures)!

### **Conclusion:**

- **Truth** – Christians are disciples – *learning and applying!*
- **Relevance** – Disciples live different, *and it shows!*
- **Inspiration** – Since many people need Jesus, *let us gladly point them to Jesus by being different!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear HS, give us joy in Jesus, desire to learn from Jesus, and power to live what Jesus taught in our daily lives!

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