

Sermon Outline

Bearing Witness to Love in a World of Power

Luke 6:20, 27-38

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

I. *Opposite Loves*

- A. The love of sinners – Lk. 6:32-34
- B. The love of God – Lk. 6:35-36

II. *Opulent Love* – Luke 6:27-31

- A. Loving Enemies – Luke 6:27, 35
 - A personal persecution ethic, not a national defense policy; Scripture affirms the God-ordained role of the sword-bearing civil magistrate in a fallen world. But the Church does not possess that sword; indeed, we have put it away. In response to the opponents of faith, we seek to serve and bless, winning other souls by losing our lives.
 - “No Hate Here!”
 1. Kindness to the hateful
 2. Blessing those who curse
 3. Praying for the wicked and harmful
 4. Turning the cheek
 5. Yielding what is necessary
 6. Gifts without strings
 7. Actively seeking the good of others before self
- B. Loving Mercy – Luke 6:36-38
 1. The unique responsibility of ministers – 2 Corinthians 4:11-12
 2. Overflowing mercy – what “measure” will you employ?

III. *Omnipotent Love*

We beat Love and Love turned his cheek
We judged Love and Love forgave us
We stripped Love and Love clothed us with his righteousness
We rejected Love and Love accepted us
We pierced Love’s hands and Love healed us with his wounds
We killed Love and Love gave us life

- Jesus Barabbas (Jesus, son of the father), or Jesus of Nazareth
- This choice is always the choice: between two sons, one true and one false; two loves, one self-preserving and the other self-sacrificing; two kingdoms, one seeking power and one that seeks to serve. Who will you “free?”

“Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not love, for God is love... we love because he first loved us.” – 1 John 4:7-8, 19