



Following the Leader - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 9 – Sunday 15th November 2020 - Luke 6.17-26

Please read **Luke 6.27-36**

Agape is the creative and redemptive love of God for all people. Agape is a love that seeks nothing in return. It is an overflowing love. It is the love of God in creating people and in recreating people – working in our lives for our good – not because we are likeable but because we are valuable.

1. Why is Agape Love central to the Kingdom of Jesus?

Read again Luke 6.32-34, then also Luke 6.27-28; 35-36; Matthew 5.43-45; Psalm 145.8-9; 1 John 4.16

Reason 1 - Because only this kind of love reflects the character of God's love

2. How does this make you feel about God? How does it make you feel that this is your God – that Jesus (who truly lived like this) is your Lord and Leader?
3. What kind of response does this draw from your heart?

Reason 2 – Jesus commands us to love like He loves

God isn't asking us to generate a warm fuzzy feeling towards our enemies. He is asking us to choose sacrificially to see them as God sees them. And to love them as God loves them

4. Why is our response critical to the Kingdom of God? Why is it hard?

Reason 3 - Because hate destroys the hater as well as the hated.

Martin Luther King Jr wrote, "Returning evil for evil multiplies evil, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. Only the love of Christ can overcome."

5. What's your own experience of this truth? Despite this, why are we still tempted to hate?

Reason 4 - Agape love has within it a Transformative Power

Please read Luke 6.29-30, then read the words from MLK Jr, "Keep loving people – and keep loving them – even though they mistreat you. Keep being friendly and genuine and caring. Don't do anything to embarrass them. By the power of Agape love they will break down under the load. Love is redemptive and creative – it creates the possibility for something new. Something godly."

6. How does the response of MLK Jr to the Agape love of Jesus cause you to reflect on your own difficult relationships?
7. What might you do to choose to better reflect Jesus' Agape love in these relationships?