

**Love Your Enemies**

**Living the Liturgical Year**

**Luke 6:27-38**

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

*But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."* **Luke 6:35-38**

**REFLECTION**

**Frederick Buechner** said that "it is only when you hear the gospel as a wild and marvelous joke that you really hear it at all." It takes a sense of humor to recognize the grace found throughout scripture: the laughter of Sarah upon the news she would bear a child; the shepherd who leaves his entire flock to rescue one. Read today's **Old Testament passage** about Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers. **How do you think Joseph could have brought himself to forgive his brothers, if not through the comedy of grace?**

**In a recent interview**, Stephen Colbert explains how he sees laughter and comedy as necessary antidotes to fear. Fear is what leads us to respond with evil, and only comedy can keep us from that fear. We can accept and live out this teaching when we believe that life is ultimately not a tragedy. **How can this help us accept that even things done to us by our worst enemies don't fully express who they really are?**

In the passage above, Jesus knows it's not a matter of IF but WHEN we have enemies. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that "loving our enemies does not mean we have to like them." Like is too sentimental of a word, but love goes much deeper. To live out this passage, we must realize that the power of love can enable us to move away from wanting to defeat them and toward friendship. Thomas Aquinas said "love is to will the good of the other person." **Pray about who you are you supposed to love this week. Start with prayers of gratitude for the things that they do well, or how they contribute to human flourishing. If you can't think of anything, is it because they need to change, or you need to change?**

Heavenly Father, help us to destroy our enemies by loving them, knowing that it can only be done through your power and love. Amen.