

## Directions for Evangelistic Discipleship (pt2) Lk. 6:36-38

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Developing the platform of speaking truth to enemies.

Intro:

- You've just moved due to job relocation.
- next door is young family (3 little kids)
- Dad has tattoos/piercings/smokes a lot/ drinks a lot
- Found a solid church that preaches the Word verse by verse
- After months you invite the family (rejects and kinda laughs at you)
- Months go on, dog potties frequently in your yard, parties, loud music.
- Frustrated you call the police 2 different times due to loud music and parties at night.
- Dog is gone, Noise stops and things are quiet for a long while (victory!!!)
- Months go by and you invite again to church...rejected
- You notice a missing ash tray in your car that was full of money. (You don't smoke, neighbor does though)
- Things start disappearing in garage (wood worker hobby/expensive fine tools)
- Set up a trail cam.
- Find your neighbor stealing tools...dead to rights!
- Show up at his door with police & trail cam as evidence.
- Hospital bed in living room
  - Wife is on hospice about to die with dad & 3 young kids surrounding her
    - There you stand at the door with the Law and holding a trail cam!
      - Platform for the Gospel???
- Same scenario except you are by yourself holding a box of food.

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- you noticed a nurse frequently visiting the house.
- Neighbor sees you holding a box of food and instantly hugs you.
  - He's crying saying there's nothing else that can be done and the 2 kids are too young to even know what's going on.
    - He says that the state health care denied coverage due to preexisting condition.
      - no money
      - Soon no wife
      - Cries out to you for help.
        - Platform for the Gospel???

Now what comes to mind is Jesus words that the Pastor has been explaining:

35 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 is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:35-38)

Who were the people who were their enemies and who hated, cursed, and mistreated them?

The listeners would probably first think of the Romans who suppressed them and then of the Gentiles in general. But even among the Jews there were enemies because of religious, social, and economic conditions [Su]. In the context of 6:22, 'when people hate you and when they ostracize you and they reproach you and they throw out your name as evil because of the Son of Man', the reference is to people who hate the disciples because they are followers of Jesus [NAC, TH]. This refers to the enemies of Christians as a group [AB]. Persecutors are especially in mind, although it includes much more [NIGTC].

Who is an enemy of God?

The enemy of God is an unbeliever.

They are enemies in their:

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- Judgements “spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2)
- Desires “lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind” (Ephesians 2:3)
- Wills “the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot” (Romans 8:7)
- Actions and Affection “as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”” (Romans 3:10-18)

The enemy of God is also a believer that makes himself a friend of the world.

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4)

Even though unbelievers are God’s enemies, He still loved them and died for them.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 **For if while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” (Romans 5:6-10)

Remember what you were like before God intervened, please turn to Titus 3:1-8.

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 **For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.** 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the

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washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”

Go over recap slide:

#### HOW TO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

1. Avoid retaliation (v.29a)
2. Keep an eternal perspective (v. 29b)
3. Hold your possessions loosely (v.30)
4. Love others like yourself (v.31)

Go over handout

Disclaimer: The commands of Jesus to “judge not” and condemn not” does not apply to law courts or church discipline matters. This does not apply to biblical discernment or evaluating people’s lives. Those are necessary to take the proper course of strategic action in order to win people to Christ.

Jesus said, “first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye. 6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.” (Matthew 7:5-6)

It would be impossible to obey Jesus command if we avoided evaluation and discernment. Jesus is aiming at a sinful attitude known as a pride of place. You think you are superior and so you stand over other people like you are God and judge them!

Jesus’ disciples are forbidden to usurp the place of God in judging and condemning other people.

On the flip side...

Ever heard someone say, “God is my judge, not you!”

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That should scare some because Jesus said, “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!” (Luke 12:4-5)

Two negatives: Judge and Condemn

1. **“Judge”**- to pass judgement upon (and thereby seek to influence) the lives and actions of other people. Expressing an unfavorable opinion about someone due to what they had done. Even if justified, this is God’s department, not yours!
2. **“Condemn”**- to judge someone as definitely guilty and thus subject them to punishment— ‘to condemn, to render a verdict of guilty and condemnation.’

Note: the people surrounding this teaching of Jesus would be the ones to condemn Jesus as guilty and worthy of death (Mark 14:64)

Two positives: forgive and Give

1. **“Forgive”**- to remove the guilt resulting from wrongdoing— ‘to pardon, to forgive, forgiveness.

Remember Jesus words in His example prayer: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us.” (Matthew 6:12)

Also remember Jesus stern warning: “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)

And also in relation to other believers, “Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

“Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18:21-22; 32-35)

Note: It is extremely important to note that the focus in the meanings of the word ‘forgive’ is upon the guilt of the wrongdoer and not upon the wrongdoing itself. The event of wrongdoing is not undone, but the guilt resulting from such an event is pardoned. **To forgive, therefore, means essentially to remove the guilt resulting from wrongdoing.**

Some languages make a clear distinction between guilt and sin, and terms for forgiveness are therefore related to guilt and not to the wrongdoing. Therefore, ‘to

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forgive sins' is literally 'to forgive guilt.' Though terms for 'forgiveness' are often literally 'to wipe out,' 'to blot out,' or 'to do away with,' it is obviously not possible to blot out or to wipe out an event, but it is possible to remove or obliterate the guilt.

For instance: someone involved in a rape can release the criminal from the debt of guilt even though the criminal will face the consequences of their crime.

God has given local law enforcement a sword and their job is to enforce that sword on the evildoer. Your job is not to be a maverick and step outside of God's order structure.

Even if you see that God's provision of law is not being enforced, God has declared, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Romans 12:19).

Do you remember Jesus dying words? "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."

How about Stephen's dying words? "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60)

2. **"Give"**—to donate, bestow an object, grant, show generosity out of your abundance.

Slide on "the word "give" in the New Testament"

Jesus gave so much. Ultimately his life but he gave his time, energy, emotion, prayer, teaching, counsel, rebuke, warnings to people until His death.

This can be a variety of ways: Money, possessions, words of encouragement, meals, prayers, text, email, letter, physical help, manual labor, etc.

Question: How are you currently giving to your enemies?

Give to those who hate you, abuse you, slander you...

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, **"if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."** 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21).

You must be treating your enemies like God treats them.

"He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil" (v35b)

Jesus gave a law pertaining to giving towards our enemies.

“Our enemies will reciprocate our actions back to us” (v.38)

**A good measure.** The scene is the purchasing of a commodity of some sort where the amount measured out is not short, skimpy, or even fair but a “good” measurement.

**Pressed down.** The grain in the measuring container is pressed down, so that all the spaces are filled and the container holds as much as possible.

**Shaken together.** The measuring container is shaken, so that the grain can fill every empty space.

**Running over.** The container is filled and on top is a rounded heap so great that it overflows the container. God will bless believers not just in equal proportion to how they give to others but far, far more—superabundantly!

**Will be poured into your lap.** The picture is of this measure now being poured in the individual’s “container,” which is the fold of his outer garment. Between the shoulders and the belt, this outer cloak would be loose and could form a kind of pocket into which this measurement could be poured.                      people will put into your lap.

The plural ‘they’ (NASB, KJV on v.38) refers to the instruments of God’s generosity, whoever they may be.

This is the kind of generosity that people will return for the generosity shown to them. Give, and others will give to you. When we keep giving, people respond in kind.

**For with the measure you use.** This concluding proverb, which is also found in Matt 7:2 and Mark 4:24 points out that the believer’s behavior toward others will determine the enemies response in kind.

If you’re a jerk, they will be a jerk back, if you show kindness and mercy when treated poorly, they respond back or at least have heaping coals poured on their head and God will keep the record.

Treat enemies like God does (mercifully and kindly)

- He doesn't give them what they deserve (mercy)
- he gives them what they don't deserve (kindness)

Jesus command here is to love our enemies and try to win them over to Christ. Build you platform for evangelism this week by treating sinners like God does.

Trust God’s plan

Trust God’s protection

Trust God’s provision

He loves you!