

Luke 6:20-23, 27-36 New Living Translation (NLT)

20 Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,
“God blesses you who are poor,
for the Kingdom of God is yours.

21
God blesses you who are hungry now,
for you will be satisfied.
God blesses you who weep now,
for in due time you will laugh.

22 What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. **23** When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

Love for Enemies

27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. **28** Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. **29** If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. **30** Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. **31** Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! **33** And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! **34** And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. **36** You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

Questions:

1. How are you to response when people hate, exclude and mock you because you follow Jesus (see verse 23)?
2. What does Jesus tell us to do in response to our enemies and those who hate us?
3. Jesus lived a life of sacrificial love. He died and rose from the grave as a sacrifice for our sin.

Explain why you (a Christ follower) can love others like Jesus.

4. What motivates you to love your enemies and do good to those who may not treat you well? Explain.
5. Pray about a specific way you can live a life of sacrifice and love to those around you.