

Week 4 - October 7, 2020

Jesus is God “incarnate” which means that he is really truly God, but also that he is human. He’s not God pretending to be human, either. He experienced humanity just like we do. He’s made of flesh and blood, had a family, had friends, needed shelter and food, wanted to be loved and to laugh, just like the rest of us. And because Jesus is a human being and he is a perfect God, he shows us how human beings should act and live to please God. Jesus never disobeyed God the Father. Jesus was never hateful to anyone. If we live like Jesus and follow his teachings we can live the way God wants us to live.

The Gospel of Luke Chapter 6, Verses 37 - 40

[Jesus said] “But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic [shirt].

Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.

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Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.”

Reflection

Jesus tells his followers to love even people who hate them, and to share what they have with anyone who has less than them. What do you think of this approach? Is it radical, reasonable, crazy?

Which of these things Jesus has told his followers to do is the easiest for you? Which is the hardest? Why?

How did Jesus love his enemies? How should you love your enemies?
How did Jesus share with others? How should you give to others?

Jesus says **“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”** He’s talking about a measure of flour to make bread. Basically, if you share what you have with others you will receive more than enough to sustain you in return. What do you think Jesus means by this? Do you think you receive something when you share what you have with others? Do you think good deeds are rewarded?

Jesus says that **“when fully trained”** students or disciples will be like their teacher. Is Jesus your teacher? How do you train to be like Jesus if you are his disciple?

Everyone should pick one part of Jesus’ teaching in the reading today and take turns reading the part they picked out loud for the whole group. Reflect on the meaning of each part that someone picked. When you are finished pray the following prayer by St. Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life