



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

An Unnatural Story

Luke 6:27-36

Message #20 of 50 – S796

Sermon given on June 17, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

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An Unnatural Story

Luke 6:27-36

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 6**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- In my life I have been in positions where I was responsible for hiring people
- In addition to trying to determine if they were going to be a good fit for the company, I would attempt to convince them that they should really want to work for us
- That way, if we did offer them a position, they were more likely to accept it
- In the last message Jesus chose the twelve men who be His apostles, His closest companions while He was doing His public ministry
- They would also be tasked with carrying on His ministry after He was gone
- Only Jesus could use the technique that He used to explain to them what it was going to be like to be on His team
- They would be poor and hungry, they would weep and be hated and rejected because they were His disciples
- There were thousands of people standing around Jesus listening to this sermon
- But it was directed at a much smaller group – His disciples
- These were men who had already said they would follow Jesus
- Once you become a true disciple of Christ, following Him becomes what life is about
- All the other things are just things – big things, but not bigger than following Christ
- Last week, we saw what it meant to follow Christ
- Today we are going to look at the traits of a disciple
- 7 traits that set a man or woman apart as a true disciple of Christ
- These seven traits are not natural

- If it weren't for Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit in a disciple's life, they wouldn't live like this
- If we will embrace these traits and allow the Holy Spirit to develop them within us, we will live the life of a true disciple, a life like Jesus
- Let's pray and then look at these traits
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **An Unnatural Story**
- The first four unnatural traits of a disciple are found in verses 27 & 28
- **Luke 6:27-28**
- The first unnatural trait of a true disciple – **Love your enemies**
- The very first one seems impossible – love those who hate you
- The word love there is the Greek word 'agape' – this is volitional love – it is choosing to love without regard to the worthiness of the object of that love
- It is how God loves **Romans 5:8**
God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Every one of us, before we came to Christ, was an enemy of God
- God loved us while we were His enemies
- True disciples of Christ show that love, even to those who are hostile toward them
- It is something they choose to do – not about feelings
- They ask God to change their hearts and show them how to love them
- The second unnatural trait of a disciple – **Do good to those who hate you**
- The natural thing to do is to stay away from those who hate you, to avoid them
- Jesus says you need to think of good things to do for them **Proverbs 25:21-22**
If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.
- If you have a neighbor who doesn't like you and you see their trash can is knocked over – pick it up and clean up the trash
- It's not your responsibility, unless you are a true disciple of Christ

- Who knows If God can't make it so that that enemy can't become a friend, or better yet a true disciple of Christ simply because you did good in the name of Christ
- The third unnatural trait of a true disciple – **Bless those who curse you**
- To bless is to invoke divine favor – to curse is to invoke divine harm
- The natural response to someone cursing you is to react with cursing of your own
- A true disciple wants God to bless his or her enemies in the hopes that they will have a real encounter with the living God and be changed
- A true disciple would never pray that anyone created in the image of God would be harmed
- Especially if you understand their destiny apart from Christ
- The fourth unnatural trait of a true disciple is **Pray for those who spitefully use you**
- The phrase 'spitefully use' = to mistreat, speak maliciously against, threatening, to abuse verbally, to use foul or abusive language towards or about – mean and hurtful words
- Words hurt – and some people are masters at hurting other people with their words
- A true disciple puts the hurt aside and prays for that mean person
- For God's love, grace, and mercy to wash over them
- For healing from whatever causes them to be like that
- The fifth unnatural trait of a true disciple – **Do not retaliate**
- **Luke 6:29**
- The natural response to being harmed is to retaliate – to strike back, and typically with more intensity than was done to you
- The idea here is not to ask them to hit you again – it is to forgive them
- To forgive them so completely that you expose yourself to being hurt by them again
- Forgiveness nullifies every reason for retaliation or revenge
- Jesus was hit several times as He approached the cross
- He was fully capable of responding in heavenly power **Matthew 26:52-53**

But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”

- And then from the cross, He uttered the ultimate expression of this trait **Luke 23:34**

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

- Later, Stephen, while he was being stoned to death said the same thing
- The life of a true disciple is not natural
- The sixth unnatural trait of a true disciple is **Gives freely**
- **Luke 6:30**
- Generosity is one of the traits of a true disciple
- In verse 35, it says that if you live the life of a true disciple that your reward from God will be great
- The more we believe that the rewards of heaven are great, the less value we place on things of the earth
- We have to use wisdom in this – there are people who will take advantage of the generosity of God’s true disciples
- God calls you to be a good steward of what he has entrusted into your care
- But your inclination should be to give to those who need **Proverbs 3:27-28**

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give *it*,” when *you have it with you*.

- You might get taken advantage of occasionally, but then your reward from God is infinitely greater
- The seventh unnatural trait of a true disciple of Christ is **Treat others the way you want to be treated**
- **Luke 6:31**
- This is known as the Golden Rule
- This is not natural – it is not easy
- God created us to be in community with other people
- And much of our lives are spent reacting to what other people are doing around us or trying to protect ourselves from what they might do
- Jesus calls us to a higher life – not focused on what they are doing, but on what we should be doing

- It is a proactive life of doing good to others
- Turn to **Matthew 22**
- Jesus says this is very pleasing to God **Matthew 7:12**
Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- The Law and prophets show us the things that please and displease God
- Jesus summarizes the whole Old Testament with the Golden Rule
- Jesus summarizes the Old Testament in another place
- **Matthew 22:35-40**
- The whole of the Old Testament hangs on two things; love God and love others
- In that we find the motivation of a true disciple of Jesus Christ – love
- Love is God’s motivation for everything He does, and it is to be the motivation of everything we do also
- Turn back to **Luke 6**
- A true disciple Jesus Christ lives a life that is unnatural – it is different than that of the rest of the world
- That what Jesus says as we prepare to close this message
- **Luke 6:32-34**
- If you relate to others in the same manner as sinners, or unbelievers, how does that make you better
- A better way to live is by the unnatural life of a disciple of Christ
- It may not be an easy life – but it is worth it?
- **Luke 6:35-36**
- Embrace those seven traits of a true disciple and you will glorify God, bless others, and grow in your faith
- ‘your reward will be great’ – In heaven there will be rewards for faithful service to God –
- Not sure what those rewards are – but they are ‘great’
- Then, ‘you will be sons of the Most High’ = will be like God
- You will never be God, but we are capable of reflecting His nature into this world
- That is what God is doing through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives **Romans 8:29**

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

- Jesus lived these seven traits perfectly
- You will not live them perfectly, but if you do embrace them, and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you how to walk in them, I believe you will know an intimacy with God that will transform your life and impact the world around you
- It is not easy, but it is so worth it, and it is what the world needs us to be
- The world is lost and needs true disciples of Jesus showing them the way to God through their unnatural lives
- Love your enemies
- Do good to those who hate you
- Bless those who curse you
- Pray for those who mistreat you
- Do not retaliate
- Give freely
- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Embrace those seven traits and you will be a true disciple of Christ
- Don't worry about doing them perfectly, just start living them
- God will teach you how to do them better
- Jesus was addressing His disciples about how to live the Christ-like life
- Those disciples changed the world by embracing those traits
- We can change the world too, starting in our own homes
- It begins with a simple confession that you might not be embracing one or more of those seven traits
- And then ask God to give you His love for Him and for others
- Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to live like Jesus
- Don't try to be perfect – just love God, love others, and grow in your faith
- A true disciple is not perfect, just embracing the Christ-life
- Let's all be true disciples of Christ
- **Pray!**