

#### Day 4: Children of the Father

Read: Luke 6:35-36; Ephesians 4:31-32

God was merciful to us while we were still sinners and enemies. Jesus says Kingdom children reflect the mercy of their Heavenly Father.

How has God shown mercy to you?

Why is remembering God's grace essential for showing grace?

How can you reflect your Father this week?

#### Day 5: Looking to the Cross

Read: Romans 5:6-11; Luke 23:32-34

Before this passage becomes instruction for us, it is first a portrait of Christ. At the cross, Jesus loved His enemies and showed mercy to sinners like us.

What does it mean that "we were those enemies"?

How does the cross reshape your view of others?

Where is God calling you to extend mercy?

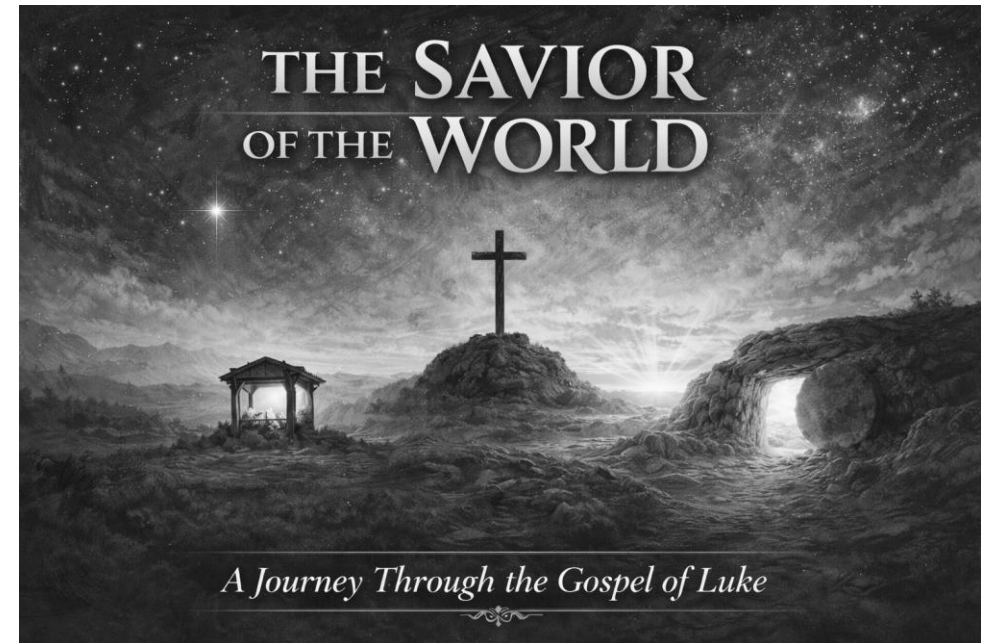
The world loves where love is earned,  
But Christ loved foes who'd not yet turned.

The mercy Christ to sinners gave  
Now shines through saints once bound as slaves.

Let daily crosses now be borne,  
And follow Christ through hate and scorn.

Soon Christ shall come in radiant dawn,  
And sin and sorrow shall be gone.

Then Christ shall right each wounded wrong,  
And fill His saints with endless song.



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:

Loving Like Our Lord

Luke 6:27-36

## SERMON NOTES

### **The Central Command (vv. 27-28)**

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you.  
Pray for those who abuse you.

Christian mercy is revealed most clearly in how we respond to those who wound us.

Before these verses are about Christians, they are first about Christ.

### **The Concrete Examples (vv. 29-30)**

Christ's Kingdom refuses personal vengeance as a way of life.

Mercy breaks the cycle of retaliation.

Mercy is not weakness. Mercy reflects the Father.

### **The Contrast of Ethics (vv. 31-34)**

The world runs on reciprocity: "You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours."

Even sinners love those who love them.

The Kingdom runs on mercy because mercy was first shown to us in Christ.

### **The Criteria of Discipleship (vv. 35-36)**

Kingdom children reflect the character of their Heavenly Father.

"He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil."

The true test of discipleship: "What comes out of us when we are wronged?"

Christians show mercy because, through Christ, they already are children of God.

Christians do not show mercy in order to become children of God.

Christians show mercy because, through Christ, they already are children of God.

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### **Day 1: A Kingdom Unlike the World**

Read: Luke 6:27-28

The world teaches us to love people who love us back. But Jesus calls His disciples to something radically different: love your enemies. Kingdom mercy moves toward those who wound us because God first showed mercy to us in Christ.

Who is difficult for you to love right now?

Why is enemy-love so unnatural?

How has God loved you despite your sin?

### **Day 2: Mercy Breaks the Cycle**

Read: Luke 6:29-30; Romans 12:17-21

Jesus confronts the instinct for retaliation. The world says, "Strike back." But Christ calls His people to entrust justice to God. Mercy breaks the cycle of revenge.

How do you respond when hurt or insulted?

Where do you struggle with bitterness?

What would trusting God with justice look like?

### **Day 3: More Than Ordinary Morality**

Read: Luke 6:31-34

Even unbelievers love people who love them back. But Kingdom mercy goes further. Christians love because God first loved them in Christ.

Is your kindness dependent on how others treat you?

How does the gospel change your motivation for loving others?

Where can you show costly grace this week?