SERMON NOTES

Law Of Love

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Nexus Church
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Luke 6:22-36

opening prayer

- Hearts and lives that are transformed by Christ's love, ready to carry His love to a hurting world.

ice breaker

What is something you find difficult to do naturally but have developed through practice? What helped it become easier over time?

overview

- The blessing is in the doing, not just the knowing. Jesus calls us to put His teachings into practice, not simply understand them.
- It's easy to love those who love us. Yet, we most reflect our Father when we love our enemies.
- Remember the grace we've received. We were once enemies of God, and recognising the love we've received (undeservingly) should shape how we treat others.
- Love is not passive. Turning the other cheek (**Matt 5:39**) is about confronting injustice with courage and love, without retaliating.
- Train yourself in the way of love. Blessing, praying for and forgiving others can become our second nature when we are regularly filled by His love. Leave the need for vindication and the outcomes to God.

go deeper

Jesus' teachings challenge us to love beyond those who naturally love us in return, extending kindness even to our enemies, the ungrateful, or those who make our lives difficult. Drawing from **Luke 6**, Jesus calls us not simply to tolerate or avoid our enemies, but to actively bless them, pray for them and do good to them.

Ps Nathan encouraged us to develop a *second nature* of Christlike love, where loving others becomes instinctive rather than calculated or forced. Much like an athlete who trains through consistent practice, we develop this kind of love by continually putting Jesus' teachings into action, following being filled by spending time in His presence.

We are reminded that we were once enemies of God, yet He loved and pursued us. *This* is why we most reflect our heavenly Father when we extend undeserved love to our enemies. This does not mean overlooking injustice or avoiding difficult conversations, but choosing to maintain love even in the face of complexity.

Ultimately, the blessing is found not simply in knowing Jesus' teachings, but in putting them into practice. We are challenged to consider whether our spheres of influence are shrinking to those who are like us, or expanding to reflect the radical love of Jesus.

application 01

Love your neighbour, love your enemy.

Reflect on whether your love is limited to those who are easiest to love. Consider what it would take for you to love your enemies with that same love.

discussion

1. Jesus calls us to move beyond knowing His teachings to actually living them out. Where do you find the biggest gap between *knowing* and *doing* in your own faith?

2. In Scripture, we see Jesus spending a great deal of time with the social outcasts. What needs to shift in your heart in order to be loving more readily, rather than rejecting or judging?

3. The sermon distinguished between passive endurance, retaliation and loving confrontation. Which response do you naturally lean towards when someone wrongs you, and what would a Christlike response look like, much like in **Matt 5:39**?

4. Even til the end, Jesus extended friendship to Judas, knowing he would betray Him (**John 13:1-17**). What does this reveal about the love Jesus calls us to both receive and live out?

5. The sermon challenged us to relinquish our need for vindication and leave the outcome to the Lord. Without necessarily sharing all the details, is there a situation where you are still holding onto hurt, anger, or the need to be proven right? What would it look like to surrender that to God?

closing prayer

- To be filled afresh with the love of God, that loving our enemies becomes a nature to grow into, not just a command.
- Grace and compassion for others, particularly those we find difficult to love or accept.
- Ultimately, that we would resemble our Father in Heaven by truly loving others.