

# EVANGELISM

## Simple Evangelism...



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUMMER 2020

### **...by Showing God's Love to Those You are Inclined to Reject**

"Those people..."

"Them..."

"Oh, let me tell you, ohhhh those people..."

You know...the people you find...umm, ahh.....er...well, let's say irregular. Yeah, let's call them irregular, but you know they are often more than irregular to you. Sometimes folks are just hateful. Our language is filled with phrases because of them. Like...

...that person just keeps gunning for me

...man, she cut me to the quick

...yikes, he did a number on me

...she just keeps shoving me around

...he did me wrong again...and again

...she just likes kicking me around

...he just grinds me down...over and over...it never changes...grinding, grinding, grinding

...and my favorite, she did me dirt!

Our world is full of hate. It's real on the personal level, the neighborhood level, the community level, the state level, the national level, and the international level. And now folks are beginning to seriously discuss colonizing Mars...so hate can go interplanetary?

With so much hate, how can we ever hope to simply tell people about the love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? The answer, so far as method is concerned, is SHOW THEM. That's right. It's not enough to say we want to share God's love, we must do the work of love...even in extreme circumstances. Jesus himself said, "Love your enemies: do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27,28). A breath or two later he said, "as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them" (Luke 6:31).

Here, let me show you what I mean. We find this Simple Evangelism method of the Savior recorded in Luke 6:27-31. We can unpack it by asking three questions...



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1. What does Jesus mean when he says, *Love your enemies?* vss. 27-30

First, he means love is action that assumes sacrifice.

Second, he tells all of us this kind of love should generally be seen in at least three dimensions. He tells us...

- *do good to those who hate you*
- *bless those who curse you*
- *pray for those who mistreat you*

Third, he drives this truth home by giving each and everyone one of us specific examples of loving our enemies. He tells us...

- *to the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also*
- *from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either*
- *give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.*

2. Are these general and specific examples the extent of loving our enemies? vs. 31

3. Why isn't it enough to love our family, our fellow Christians, our friends, and those with whom we share affinity and interest? vss. 32-36

