

Life Group Notes
Sunday 25 October 2020

Speaker: Laura Lee Lovering

Passage: Luke 6:27-36

Series: Luke: Tell the Story

Title: Love Your Enemies

This week we had the privilege of having Laura Lovering speaking to us all the way from South America. When we look at this passage we see that this is seriously challenging teaching when it talks about loving your enemies. Laura looks at three areas in which this teaching challenges us - *honour & shame*; *Generosity*; and *a call to be different*.

Read Luke 6:27-36

Honour & Shame (v29a)

In this portion of scripture we see how shameful it was to slap someone in Middle Eastern culture. If you were to slap someone, you would be doing so to deliberately humiliate them. Our natural tendency might be to want some sort of justice or even to strike them back, but Jesus' teaching around how we respond is highly culturally controversial. He says even though it will humiliate you, don't retaliate, but instead even offer them your other cheek.

Generosity (v29b-31)

When looking at this cultural context, we see that if someone needed a loan they would give their cloak as a sort of deposit, but the money lender would be considered righteous to give back the cloak at the end of the day because they would know this cloak was a source of warmth and protection from the elements. In essence you have a right to get your cloak back, but Jesus again pushes against putting ourselves at the centre. He tells us that even though it may be our right to get something, we need to give it away. We need to remember to give if we have more than we need. Laura shared a challenging story of when she gave away without judging, she looked at her budgets and made adjustments accordingly.

Called to be Different (32-36)

In this last section of the passage we see that Jesus is calling us to live a life that is completely different to the culture around us. This passage pushes against our egos. It challenges the idea of putting ourselves at the centre. Our role as salt and light in the world is to overcome evil in the world by doing good. We know that we can trust Jesus' teaching on this because Jesus has led by example. He has loved (and died for) those who hated him.

Suggested Questions:

1. Can you think of a time you were humiliated by someone. How did you react? How difficult was it to practice Jesus' teaching of turning the other cheek?
2. Have you had a chance to assess what you have and how you might be able to support those who are in a position of need?
3. What does it look like to be salt & light in the world?