

Message Title: “Enemy Love”
Series: ACTS 180 – When the World
Was Turned Upside Down!
180 Church | Acts 9:10-31; Luke 6:27-36
Pastor Harlyn | Aug 1, 2021

In order to discover the joy, life, and meaning found in the person of Jesus, we must allow Him to address the incongruence between His way, and our way.

Acts 9:10 “Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

Acts 9:11-12 “And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

Acts 9:13-14 “But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”

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Luke 6:27-28, 32 ““But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Anything that makes you feel better about loving your neighbor less, is probably

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Luke 6:36 “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Seeing as God sees, will result in loving as God loves.

Acts 9:15-16 “But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Acts 9:17-19 “So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened

Can we see as God sees?

“The truth we know of a person or people must move to the background, and what we know of God’s desire for them must move to the foreground. The danger we imagine inscribed on their bodies must be read against the delight we know God takes in their life. That same delight covers us.” Dr. Willie Jennings

LOOK IN:

- 1.** Has God ever asked you to do something that you didn’t want to do? How did it turn out? Is God currently asking you to do something you don’t want to do? What is it and what is your hesitation?
- 2.** Are there people or groups that you view as beyond God’s reach? How does this story challenge or encourage you? Have you ever been considered beyond God’s reach? How did God reach you?
- 3.** Has God ever used you/your life in an amazing way to help others? What did that look like?
- 4.** Have you ever done a 180 in your life? What happened? Are there any areas of your life today where you need to do a 180? What’s holding you back?
- 5.** Pastor Harlyn describes our enemies as people or groups that make us angry, defensive, uncomfortable, or that make conversations spin out of control. Are there people or groups that make you feel and act this way? What about this passage/sermon encourages or challenges you in the way you treat and view these groups?