

# Apprenticing Jesus || A Series Through the Gospel of Luke

## What is Love, Baby?

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**Sermon Synopsis:** The good life is measured by how much love you can give and receive  
**Themes:** love    **Metaphors:** measurements, bricks/walls

We all have ways we measure success

Business: ROI

Parenting: happy kids

Dinner: happy guests

Personal...

*My happiness is **measured** in significant interactions*

*A good sabbath is measured by my ability to engage the next week*

*I feel alive when I feel a sense of purpose in what I'm doing – IOW, my sense of purpose is measured by meaningful work*

Froyo vs. mochi

### **How do I know if I have a good life?**

Married with kids

Single & successful

Beautiful area with things to do (move to SB)

House and yard (move away from SB)

Jesus came to bring the good life to people in spite of and in the midst of deplorable situations. *But if the good life goes beyond money, food, and affirmation...*

### **What is the good life then?**

Good life = eternal life

[Luke 10:25-27 \(ESV\)](#)

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

**AP!**

### **Your life is measured by your love**

The quality of your life is **measured** by the quantity of your love—what you give and receive  
Yet such an evasive word these days as to not mean anything

## What love is not...

### 1. The Haddaway version

I don't know why you're not fair  
I give you my love, but you don't care  
So what is right and what is wrong?  
Gimme a sign  
What is love?  
Baby don't hurt me  
Don't hurt me  
No more

Love = only being open with others if you can protect yourself from them

#### Luke 6:27-36 (ESV)

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and 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. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

### 2. The Dale Carnegie version

Love = being open with others to get what you want

#### Luke 6:32-34

If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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.

Jesus turns our self-serving and self-protecting definitions of love on their head...

#### Luke 6:27

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you<sup>1</sup>

To people who won't return the favor and may throw it back in your face.

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<sup>1</sup> This does not mean we put ourselves in positions to be abused further. See "differentiation" below.

**Enemy:** Someone you don't want anything to do with (though you may force a public smile)

Examples: immigrants, other race, ex-boss, co-worker, someone you "love" by obligation (family), but hate by practicalities (in-law) | someone you avoid and want nothing to do with.

Love is to see others as they are, on their own terms, and embrace them.

Jesus tells us to *love* our enemies. **Imagine someone you want to avoid.**

**Now imagine setting *them* up for success.**

Love is not standard business practice, guarded natures, or moralism...

### **Love is divine**

It's very hard to just turn off hostility and contempt

"Why would I *want* to love someone that I don't want anything to do with?"

### **How is this a good life?**

and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, (35a)

Freedom from entitlement (they should \_\_\_\_\_ )

Psychologists call this "empathy"

Sympathy: I feel this towards you **API!**

Empathy: I feel with you (what you're going through)<sup>2</sup>

Hard to do! It's like battling a brick wall

**[one of my stories]**

**Hate:** one brick being put up at a time

**Empathy:** one brick being taken down at a time

Anthony De Mello

Love springs from awareness. It is only inasmuch as you see someone as he or she really is here and now and not as they are in your memory or your desire or in your imagination or projection that you can truly love them otherwise it is not the person that you love but the idea that you have formed of this person, or this person as the object of your desire not as he or she is in themselves. Therefore, the first act of love is to see this person, or this object, this reality as it truly is. And this involves the enormous discipline of dropping your desires, your prejudices, your memories, your projections, your selective way of looking, a discipline so great that most people would rather plunge headlong into good actions and service than submit to the burning fire of this asceticism...so the first ingredient of love is to really see each other.

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<sup>2</sup> I have Becca Cox to thank for this definition

The second ingredient is equally important to see yourself, to ruthlessly flat the light of awareness on your motives, your emotions, your needs, your dishonesty, your self-seeking, your tendency to control and manipulate.<sup>3</sup>

Love involves understanding others.

***It's impossible to hate someone that you understand.***

Which means that love is also freedom...from entitlement, control, and manipulation.

Psychologists call this empathy. The Bible calls it love.

And its the *good* life **because it's the free life**. Jesus isn't giving a list of impossible, undesirable demands. He's showing us how free we can live. #blessed = free  
This is only available in Him...

for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.  
(35b-36)

Gospel: God gave us everything without any guarantee of our reciprocity  
When we were not loving, Christ died for us  
Not that we loved God, but that he loved us

**Where walls of hostility are replaced with avenues of love.**

This is the life he lives and he invites us into it with him – love God and neighbor

**The good life is measured by how much love you can give and receive**

So if you are running dry, or find yourself easily irritated, or struggling with bitterness, I suggest you begin receive from Him who has loved you without measure.

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<sup>3</sup> Anthony De Mello. *Quoted in Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day.* 147-148