

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in February, 2022

Introduction

Leader Jesus' teaching on loving our enemies is radical. Society in general disregards it. Pondering the words of Jesus could test our conviction about love and mercy.

Opening Prayer

All Merciful God, fill us with the love of others that Jesus teaches—love of enemies not hatred, forgiveness not condemnation, mercy not judgment. We ask this great grace through your son, Jesus, who died for that kind of love. Amen.

Word of God Luke 6:27-32; 36-38

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (Pause for silent reflection after the reading.)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*
1. What effect could the practice of Jesus' teachings have on international relations?
2. What examples in recent news exemplify Jesus' teaching on love of enemies?

Response (taken from Luke 6:27-32; 36-38)

Side 1 "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

Side 2 We ask for this grace to act counter to society's trend of revenge.

Side 1 "Stop judging and you will not be judged."

Side 2 In our everyday lives, may we leave judgment of other's actions to God alone.

Side 1 "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."

Side 2 We are grateful for Jesus' promise that if we are compassionate, God will be compassionate with us.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Merciful and just God, your teachings through Jesus' words in the Gospel are challenging. Help us to ponder his words often, checking to see that we are not sliding into society's tendency toward revenge and hatred. Check us when we judge others harshly, lest we be judged the same. Give us the joy of serving you in one another. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

“To you who hear I say,
love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek,
offer the other one as well.
and from the person who takes your cloak,
do not withhold even your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks of you,]
and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand
it back.

Do unto to others as you would have them do to you.
For if you love those who love you,]
what credit is that to you?
Even sinners love those who love them.

Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.

Stop judging and you will not be judged.
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.
Forgive and you will be forgiven.
Give and gifts will be given to you;
a good measure, packed together, shaken down
and overflowing,
will be pressed into your lap.
For the measure with which you measure
will in return be measured out to you.”