

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
October 11, 2020

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Sunday Morning 10-11-2020 "Great Is Your Reward"

[Jesus] replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43 NLT)  
<http://bible.com/events/44283281>

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[Image]  
<https://imageproxy.youversionapi.com/320x320/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1594517508392.jpg>

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<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1331999>

Philippians 2:1-8 MSG  
<small><font color="#999999">1&#x2014;4</font></small> If you&#x2019;ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care &#x201c;then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don&#x2019;t push your way to the front; don&#x2019;t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don&#x2019;t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. <small><font color="#999999">5&#x2014;8</font></small> Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn&#x2019;t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human ! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn&#x2019;t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death&#x201c;and the worst kind of death at that&#x201c;a crucifixion.  
<https://bible.com/bible/97/php.2.1-8.MSG>

Isaiah 54:8-9 MSG  
<small><font color="#999999">7&#x2014;8</font></small> Your Redeemer God says: &#x201c;I left you, but only for a moment. Now, with enormous compassion, I&#x2019;m bringing you back. In an outburst of anger I turned my back on you&#x201c; but only for a moment. It&#x2019;s with lasting love that I&#x2019;m tenderly caring for you. <small><font color="#999999">9&#x2014;</font></small>

â€-10</font></small> â€œThis exile is just like the days of Noah for me: I promised then that the waters of Noah would never again flood the earth. Iâ€™m promising now no more anger, no more dressing you down. For even if the mountains walk away and the hills fall to pieces, My love wonâ€™t walk away from you, my covenant commitment of peace wonâ€™t fall apart.â€ The God who has compassion on you says so.  
<https://bible.com/bible/97/isa.54.8-9>.MSG

Series: Luke 2020 â€ A Study of Jesusâ€™s Life and Mission  
Title: Your Reward Will Be Great  
Text: Luke 6:27-36

#### Key Question:

Who sets the standard for how we treat others?

More specifically, who sets the standards for how Jesusâ€™s followers treat others?

#### Luke 6:6-11 NET

<small><font color="#999999">6</font></small> On another Sabbath, Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. Now a man was there whose right hand was withered. <small><font color="#999999">7</font></small> The experts in the law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they could find a reason to accuse him. <small><font color="#999999">8</font></small> But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, â€œGet up and stand here.â€ So he rose and stood there. <small><font color="#999999">9</font></small> Then Jesus said to them, â€œI ask you, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save a life or to destroy it?â€ <small><font color="#999999">10</font></small> After looking around at them all, he said to the man, â€œStretch out your hand.â€ The man did so, and his hand was restored. <small><font color="#999999">11</font></small> But they were filled with mindless rage and began debating with one another what they would do to Jesus.  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/luk.6.6-11>.NET

#### Luke 6:17-19 NET

<small><font color="#999999">17</font></small> Then he came down with them and stood on a level place. And a large number of his disciples had gathered along with a vast multitude from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, <small><font color="#999999">18</font></small> and those who suffered from unclean spirits were cured. <small><font color="#999999">19</font></small> The whole crowd was trying to touch him, because power was coming out from him and healing them all.  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/luk.6.17-19>.NET

#### Luke 6:22-23 NET

<small><font color="#999999">22</font></small> â€œBlessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject you as evil on account of the Son of Man! <small><font color="#999999">23</font></small> Rejoice in that day, and jump for joy,

because your reward is great in heaven. For their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/luk.6.22-23>.NET

Luke 6:26 NET

<small><font color="#999999">26</font></small>   Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/luk.6.26>.NET

Luke 6:27-36 NET

<small><font color="#999999">27</font></small>   But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
<small><font color="#999999">28</font></small>   bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <small><font color="#999999">29</font></small>   To the person who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other as well, and from the person who takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. <small><font color="#999999">30</font></small>   Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your possessions back from the person who takes them away. <small><font color="#999999">31</font></small>   Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you. <small><font color="#999999">32</font></small>   If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <small><font color="#999999">33</font></small>   And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. <small><font color="#999999">34</font></small>   And if you lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full. <small><font color="#999999">35</font></small>   But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people. <small><font color="#999999">36</font></small>   Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/luk.6.27-36>.NET

Sermon in a Sentence: Love goes first to build bridges no matter what the cost or the response.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

I donâ€™t know about you, but that command ignites a firestorm of mixed feelings in me.

DESPERATION (â€œIâ€™ll never be able to love EVERYONE like God loves me.â€œ)

HOPE (But I also hear a gentle whisper assuring me that â€œIf Jesus commands me to love like our Heavenly, then he will help me do it.â€œ)

Just as God rebuilt the deformed hand of that man in the synagogue through Jesusâ€™s command, he wants to rebuild the core of our souls until his holy love motivates and shapes all we do.

Letâ€™s pray.

Come Holy Spirit. We need you.

Awaken an awareness of our holy discontent â€” we want to want more than forgiveness and habitual rituals.

Come Holy Spirit. We need you.

Just as you rebuilt the hand of that man through Jesusâ€™s command, rebuild the core of our souls until your holy love motivates and shapes all we do.

Come Holy Spirit. We need you.

We quickly confess our absolute dependence on you to transform us. Fill us with your infinite love.

Come Holy Spirit. We need you.

Amen.