



6/24/26

*I was listening to a message by Timothy Keller, and he said something that really caught my attention. He said that when we sin against the Lord, we need to stop thinking of it as breaking His rules, but of breaking His heart. Oh! I so don't want to break His heart!!! Also, you can't break someone's heart if they don't care about you. God cares about us so much that our sin grieves Him because He knows it hurts Him AND us! Wow.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Luke 6:27-36*

*I recently heard a pastor on a podcast say that Christians today often falsely see Jesus as "The Candy Man." Have you ever heard that song? Some of the lyrics are...*

*Who can take a sunrise? (Who can take a sunrise?)  
Sprinkle it with dew (sprinkle it with dew)  
Cover it with chocolate and a miracle or two  
The Candy Man (the Candy Man)  
Oh, the Candy Man can (the Candy Man can)  
The Candy Man can 'cause he mixes it with love  
And makes the world taste good (makes the world taste good)*

*Who can take a rainbow? (Who can take a rainbow?)  
Wrap it in a sigh (wrap it in a sigh)  
Soak it in the sun and make a groovy lemon pie  
The Candy Man (the Candy Man)  
The Candy Man can (the Candy Man can)  
The Candy Man can 'cause he mixes it with love  
And makes the world taste good (makes the world taste good)*

*The Candy Man makes everything he bakes*

*Satisfying and delicious  
Now, you talk about your childhood wishes  
You can even eat the dishes*

*That sounds great, but that kind of generosity is actually not good. What happens when you give a child everything he wants? What happens when your goal is to keep him happy at all times? That child becomes extremely selfish and actually is never happy or satisfied. That kind of love is not healthy love, and it's not who Jesus is.*

*His calling on us is to live against the stream of the world's teaching. Two words that the world fights for more than ever are "fair" and "safe". But God does not tell us we always get what's fair. In fact, if I got what was "fair", I would be spending all eternity in hell, separated from God. God tells me that this world absolutely is unsafe... but HE is my safety, my refuge. Why would I need Him to be my refuge if this world was always safe? We live in a broken, corrupt world that is tainted because of the sin of man, because man chose separation from God rather than communion with God. God is the source of all that is good. To separate from Him is to separate from all that is good.*

*The candy man is a lie, perpetuated by the father of lies, to make us think that suffering is due to the cruelty or abandonment of God. Believing that God should be the candy man is to be deceived and to miss all the goodness of God.*

*O Lord, please help me to see Your goodness as I study this very difficult passage in Luke 6. To truly live this passage is to surrender myself to the leading and teaching of God and to allow the Holy Spirit full access to my heart. To think like this passage tells me to think takes a supernatural transformation... and to actually LIVE like this passage calls me to live takes a continuous dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit at work in my life. To live like this, in the world's eyes, is unsafe and unfair. But in God's eyes, this is a life of gratitude and eternal safety and security in the one who sees all, knows all, and loves me more than any candy man can.*

*Vs. 27-31 ~ "But I say to you who hear..." Why does Jesus start with the word "but" in this part of His Sermon on the Mount? Right before this He said, "Woe to you, when ALL people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets." He's saying... if you live in such a way that all the men of the world speak well of you, you're probably more concerned with the glory that comes from men than the glory that comes from God. The false prophets spoke "smooth things... illusions" (Isaiah 30:10). They were not concerned about pleasing the Lord, but pleasing man. This is not love.*

*Instead, Jesus calls us to do what is hard. "Love your enemies..." But Lord, they're unsafe! Yes, they're unsafe, but the Lord is my safety, my refuge, the one who blesses me for obedience to Him. Jesus is my example... He loved me when I was His enemy. I was unsafe. He loved me to death.*

*"Do good to those who hate you..." But Lord, that's unfair!!! Yes, that's unfair, but the Lord is my reward. And He says in Romans 12:19, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'" Jesus is my example. He did good to me even when I hated Him. He took my nails, my punishment, my sins, my wrath on Himself.*

*"Bless those who curse you..." What? Shouldn't I be allowed to complain about them? Absolutely... complain about them to the Lord. Leave them in His hands. And then bless them... as Jesus blessed me when I cursed Him.*

*"Pray for those who abuse you..." This is not a call for me to pray curses on them. What if Jesus had done that from the cross? Instead, He prayed, "Father, forgive them. They don't understand what they're doing." How do I let it go, Lord? I keep bringing it to You. I allow You to show me how anything anyone has done against me, I've done against You in some way... and You were innocent. I'm not.*

*Let me not forget the whole of scripture here. I'm also called to submit to the governing authority, which says physical abuse is illegal. To pray for them and bless them is not to enable them. It is to be gentle and respectful, to pray for their hearts to turn to the Lord, and also... to call the police if what someone has done is illegal. Revenge is not calling the police. Revenge is taking matters into my own hands.*

*"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..." Father, what does this mean? It means, "Don't retaliate in sin." Among the Jewish people, to strike someone on the cheek was the greatest insult. The punishment for this was a very heavy fine. This is not saying, "Let someone beat you up." It was saying, "Don't retaliate when someone insults you. Instead, continue to offer them an opportunity for restoration." This is HARD! When someone insults me I want to defend myself! When I hear that someone has spoken badly of me I want to explain why they're wrong.*

*How do I obey this command from Jesus??? I have to entrust myself to the Lord. I have to trust that He sees all and that He is a God of justice. I have to leave this in His hands and trust that He will handle it. The truth is, anytime I do defend myself or get critical, I go away with regret and a pit in my stomach. O Lord, please remove my pride and my thinking that says, "I have the right to retaliate." Let me trust that You love me and will work all things together for my good. Let me live in the peace that comes in handing everything to You.*

*"Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back..." How do I do this? Again... by trusting that You provide all I need.*

*This teaching had to shock the Jewish people when Jesus spoke it. They were used to, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." What was Jesus doing? Was He teaching us to be doormats??? No... He was teaching me to trust that He who owns the cattle on a thousand hills,*

*who created everything, is able to provide my needs when I'm generous to others.*

*Jesus didn't just give to me when I begged for mercy. He came to give to me BEFORE I ever begged for mercy. He never even made me beg. He didn't just give me His tunic, He gave me His robe of righteousness. If I forget the gospel and the cross, I will never be able to follow His example. O Lord, please help me to remember that everything You call me to do starts with Jesus doing it FOR me.*

*"And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." This is the Golden Rule. God calls me not to treat others according to how they treat me. How can we ever find unity if that's our plan? Someone has to bend... to treat the other with kindness when not being treated kindly. What if Jesus' plan was to wait until I matched His goodness? I would have no hope!*

*This is so HARD to actually live! It takes massive humility!!! Supernatural humility. The only way I can do this is if I keep my eyes on Jesus and remember what He has done for me. This takes a servant heart, like Jesus served me while I was still His weak, ungodly, sinful enemy.*

*Pastor David Jeremiah says, "You will know that you truly have a servant heart by how you respond when you're treated like one." I look at how Jesus responded and I am blown away. He never retaliated! He could have called thousands, millions of angels to bring down revenge at the cross. But instead He willingly gave up His life so that I could have life. O Lord, You're asking me to do far less than what You did for me. You did far more than treat me as You want to be treated. You took all my punishment. You were a dying sacrifice. You call me to be a living sacrifice. I will never know the horror of You faced for me. Let that be my motivation!!!*

*Vs. 32-36 ~ "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."*

*The world calls me to be FAIR. God calls me to something so much higher. He loves those who hate Him. He gave to those who rejected Him. No one can pay the debt that He paid for the world. Let me never think that just being FAIR is enough. Let me be like Jesus.*

*"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great..." God promises me reward for my obedience to Him. The blessing I need to seek is not the reward of men, but the reward of God! Part of trusting Him, according to Hebrews 11:6, is believing that He rewards those who seek Him. The ONLY way I can be obedient to Him is by seeking Him. This kind of obedience is absolutely impossible to do without His help, but absolutely possible with His help.*

*"and you will be sons of the Most High..." This kind of sacrificial giving love is the evidence that I am a child of God. Why? Because the more I'm with Him, the more I become like Him... and everything He's calling me to do is what He does perfectly without fail.*

*"for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil." I KNOW He's kind to the ungrateful and evil because I have been ungrateful and evil toward Him. He never gave up on me and He never will. O Lord, I want to follow Your example! Please help me to deny myself, take up my cross every single day, and follow You!*

*"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." You are so merciful with me!!! Your mercy and compassion are new every morning. As sure as the sun rises, Your mercy covers me. You have crowned me with steadfast love and mercy (Psalm 103:4). So Lord, I want to be like You. Please help me to show others the mercy, the compassion that You've shown me. Let this be so true in me that those who are closest to me, who see me the most and at my worst, could say it's true. You are so much better than the candy man!!!*