



**The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum**

Lenten Meditations

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Luke 6: 27 – 36

When a person thinks of their enemies, the last thing they think of is love. Yet we as Christians are commanded to love our enemies. It is one of the hardest tasks we as Christians face due to our human nature, and yet during this Lenten season, there is no better time to put Christ's command into our heart.

In this passage Christ reminds us that just loving our friends is not being a Christian after all, everyone irrespective of their faith loves their friends. But we are commanded to go beyond that, as Christ did for us. This passage highlights two aspects of our lives that we should look at during this Lenten season.

The first is that Christ commands us to spread His love to others in the great commission. Love as defined in I John 4, specifically states that love comes from God and that anyone who hates his brother cannot love God. Christ died for all, including those who spat and beat him; He even washed the feet of Judas who was to betray Him. So if we are truly to mimic Christ we must also show unconditional love to all as He has shown to us. After all, every day when we sin, Christ continues to love us and waits for us to return to Him. Do we show that love to our enemies?

The second aspect is similar in nature, and that is forgiveness. In Matthew 5, Christ specifically commands us that before we approach the altar of God, we must go and be reconciled to anyone whom we are angry with. Forgiveness as we are reminded in the Lord's Prayer is what we seek from the Lord as we do unto others. So we must forgive others for the wrongs they do to us as Christ does for us. It is understandable, that as humans this is difficult to do.

As we conclude, we are reminded that both Paul and James remind us not to be consumed by anger for it gives a foothold to the devil. Let us during this Lenten season, be the Christians that we were called to be, let us love and forgive everyone especially our enemies as Christ commanded so that we can carry out His calling for us to spread His love, grace and mercy throughout the world.

Prayer : Dear God, please enable me to be filled with Your love, so that I may go out and share your love with the whole world, not just my loved ones. Please enable me before I go to Your altar to be reconciled to anyone whom I am estranged from.

Mr. John C. Thomas

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that" Luke 6:32-33