

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2025! Leading to Worship Sunday, February 23, 2025

Reading: Luke 6:27-38

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's YouTube channel. This week, we consider the difference between our sense of fairness, and Jesus' command to give others our God-level love! Click here: <https://youtu.be/dZhYz2fWNS8> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- This week, we hear the "Golden Rule!" "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31) But Jesus does not start or end with just a sense of earthly fairness.
- Jesus asks us to love our enemy and do good for those who hate us. If someone tries to take your coat, give them your shirt too! If they strike you on the cheek, turn the other cheek as well. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
- Do not judge, and you won't be judged. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. "[F]or the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Like 6:38)

Two Questions

- Do these verses express a seemingly simple, common sense behavior toward our neighbors (the Golden Rule), or a seemingly impossibly high bar (love your enemies), or both? If the Golden Rule does not seem to extend to loving those who truly hate us, why not? Does our own sense of "fairness," or "right and wrong" get in the way of compassion and generosity? Does it require a level of "trust" to be kind to others? Who are we trusting? Others to return our kindness? Or God?
- Is Jesus describing us *earning* God's love (i.e. **if** you don't judge, or **if** you forgive, then you will not be judged, or you will be forgiven)? Or does Jesus' teaching work the other way around? (You are not judged, **so** don't judge; you are forgiven, **so** forgive others.) Which one of these is more consistent with a Golden Rule modeled on God's Grace?

Action Step

- "Do to others as you would have them do to you!" Do it as Jesus meant it, the best you can!

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!