

# Luke 6:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

## Analysis

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Jesus commands: 'Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.' This radical ethic of enemy love reflects God's character—He shows kindness to those who don't deserve or appreciate it. The phrase 'children of the Highest' (Greek 'huioi hypsistou,' *υἱοὶ ὑψιστοῦ*) means bearing family resemblance—loving enemies proves we're God's children because we act like our Father. Grace-based love mirrors divine love that blesses the undeserving.

## Historical Context

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Ancient honor-shame culture valued vengeance and retribution—harming enemies maintained honor. 'Love your neighbor' was accepted, but 'your neighbor' was narrowly defined, often excluding enemies and Gentiles. Jesus radicalizes Old Testament ethics, commanding love even for enemies. This teaching distinguished Jesus' ethics from both Jewish and Greco-Roman morality. Early Christians' practice of enemy love astonished pagans and demonstrated the gospel's power to transform. Jesus Himself modeled this, praying for His crucifiers (Luke 23:34) and loving those who hated Him.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does loving enemies demonstrate family resemblance to God and prove authentic conversion?
2. What does God's kindness to the unthankful and evil teach about the nature of grace and how we should treat others?

## Interlinear Text

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πλὴν ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἔχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ ἀγαθοποιεῖτε καὶ  
But love ye enemies your and do good and  
G4133 G25 G3588 G2190 G5216 G2532 G15 G2532

δανείζετε μηδὲν ἀπελπίζοντες· καὶ ἔσεσθε ὁ μισθὸς  
lend for nothing again and shall be reward  
G1155 G3367 G560 G2532 G2071 G3588 G3408

ὑμῶν πολὺς καὶ ἔσεσθε υἱοὶ τοῦ ὑψίστου ὅτι  
your great and shall be the children of the Highest for  
G5216 G4183 G2532 G2071 G5207 G3588 G5310 G3754

αὐτὸς χρηστός ἐστιν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀχαρίστους καὶ  
he kind is unto the unthankful and  
G846 G5543 G2076 G1909 G3588 G884 G2532

πονηρούς  
to the evil  
G4190

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 13:35** (Love): By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Proverbs 19:17** (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

**Psalms 145:9** (Good): The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

**Proverbs 22:9** (Parallel theme): He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

**2 Corinthians 8:9** (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

**Psalms 112:5** (Good): A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

**Psalms 37:26** (Parallel theme): He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

**John 15:8** (Parallel theme): Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

**Acts 14:17** (Good): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

**Luke 1:32** (Parallel theme): He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: