

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 6

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee!”**

Luke 6:27–3827[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29To 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. 30Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

32“**If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34And 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. 35But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.**

37“**Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.**”

In the Name of Jesus:

‘Then who, O Lord, ARE these ENEMIES of mine, whom you command me to love?’ ‘Command?! I suppose that’s all the Old Man in you can hear!: Law, Moses, threat, gettin’ busy! But when I say to you LOVE...YOUR..ENEMIES...I, your King, am breaking your chains!’

So there remains NO WONDER that they howled and hurried Him up the hill called Golgotha; and there, they crucified Him, with— Saint Luke WROTE: “TWO...OTHER...CRIMINALS!”

BOTH SIDES of OUR politics, in our country today, JOINED SIDES to laugh This Man away from the kingdoms WE establish. Those who at least acknowledge that there is Truth with a capital ‘T’; and those who know nothing but POWER, though the mightiest of us all is but a breath. The Romans knew that you expend yourself ONLY for those from whom YOU can derive a benefit! Rules and morality and even the gods were only there to buttress THAT PROGRAM, THEIR program, their agenda; sad to say, OUR agenda, daily and much. So call in morality and decency ONLY when it HURTS the other side; NEVER when it would hurt OUR TEAM!

Then, there are those who have a shred of conscience left by the mercy of God!

Many of those who heard Jesus could not believe what was going into their ears; including one of His most dear, who would betray Him. For if your conscience still KNOWS that there is a code, a God, a morality by which is decided Life and Death and a judgment that is final; even the MIGHTIEST of our consciences is still nothing but Adam in the Garden, ‘HIDING’ his sins from God; then blaming that God and God’s unmatched gift for all his woes.

And so the so-called ‘GOOD’ that day needed Him gone too! For when WE soiled souls delude ourselves into thinking that WE— THAT ANYONE!—is ON the side of GOD, while this one or that one or the masses most surely are NOT!....

Then LOVE can be withdrawn, with justification, from those who are clearly enemies of God—Romans, Republican, Democrats, blacks, whites, men, women....

And then, this religion Adam and we make up and pretend pleases heaven somehow—it allows us to stopper up and bottle up our exertions of love from those who are enemies of ours—NOT because we can point to a commandment they are breaking...but

just because they don't sit right with us, they do not elevate our majesty high enough,
THEY...ARE...NOT...EXERTING...THEMSELVES...TO...US!
 This includes those troublesome unborn—our leading and most popular politicians called them 'burdens'; and we will do nothing to keep them out of office! And this includes those who disagree with us on any point of such VITAL-ETERNAL matters, such as how much of our pennies and our stuff WE can keep or WE must give away, in the few short seconds we have left HERE, and NOW!

The Lord Jesus points to our
EARS...AND/HE/IS/CERTAIN/THAT/HE/IS/HERE/TO/MAKE/US/SAFE!!!!!!!!!!!!

EARS—then all focus is on the WORD—then on the One from Whose Lips comes that WORD—and then, on Him!

“FEARRRR....NOTTTT!!!! For behold, I bring you good tidings; tidings of great joy! Which shall be for all people!

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord!

And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall the Babe: wrapped in swaddling clothes;

Lying in a manger.”

“Glory to God in the highest and peace, goodwill to men!”

HOW will the Baby make heaven and earth, Holy God and those who SHOULD be holy but ain't—have peace?

Luke 9 and verse 41:

⁴¹ Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you?”¹

Luke 12 and verse 49 and so:

⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”²

There are more in this Gospel... Those are enough.

It is clear as day the unbounded JOY the Spirit of Jesus calls us to take, daily and much, from our Baptism at Christ’s authority! For just ANYONE can get RAINED ON! Yup! And just ANYONE can be washed by some ig-nant preacher-man who knows God less than any crying babe in the house! And have the words spoken over just anyone, that there is a King and He has a Kingdom that we never need fear is bounded by anything here, and now.

All those disgusting things Jesus hurried to the comfort of the CROSS to escape TALKING ABOUT ANYMORE!!!! From our Gospel lesson today:

‘I don’t like you; because you don’t like me!’

‘That’s MINE! My coat! My time! My day to fill with MY agenda! My plans!’

Jesus said: ‘Dear Father, can’t I please walk up to the happy place of my Crucifixion; and get away from all these people and their little idols?!’

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 9:41). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 12:49–51). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

‘All you need do is follow ME where I am going; and when you learn at MY cross that your GOD HAS given and WILL GIVE more from here ON than HE HAS BEFORE:

³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” ³

‘And then, I will rise—and surpass pardoning MY ENEMIES!!—and I will even pardon my BEST FRIEND!’---

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” ⁴

And after the Emmaus revelation:

³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ⁵

If the Lord can pardon His friends, then who can still be an enemy of God? Or YOOUUUU????!!!! Or even, me?!

‘My coat?! Yours! And here’s my shirt! Need shoes?!’

‘YOU?! You think YOU can interrupt ME and MY SCHEDULED DAY?! Let me carry you twice as long as you wanted to burden me!’

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:31–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

‘Sorry that I turned my head away, in disgust, as you tried your best to offend me. I’m even a worse sinner than YOU are! But I am baptized by the Friend of Enemies! And I am back for more; more of you!’

It must have been an impressive sight, all those sacrifices and the machinery of slaughtering and burning that went on to make the whole money-making scheme of the temple churn along. Golgotha does not compare; only one man there found it of any interest. HE has been in Paradise with the King since that Day.

The only thing that comes CLOSE to the Place of the Skull as far as LACK OF EXCITEMENT from MEN---is the oh, so delicious bread and wine you and I eat and drink, however often, so that the King still has a Kingdom; those whose whole confession is that GOD bears with us, without a doubt, because He would never ask US to do anything less that HE will do FOREVER with us ALL:

‘I say to you: Love your enemies!’ And we’re safe in the Name of Jesus! Amen!