



20-26 February 2022 • Faith 24/7

Measure for measure

 **Luke 6.27-38**

In an extended piece of teaching, Jesus challenges his disciples with radical ways to behave towards others. He is not asking them just to show love and respect to fellow Israelites and to those they know. Instead, Jesus asks them to show love, respect and mercy to everyone – neighbours, friends, enemies, those they dislike, and even to themselves.

Now read **Luke 6.27-38** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

This challenge from Jesus applies as much to his followers today as it did to the people he was speaking to. This can be uncomfortable teaching for all and, for some of us, the path to showing respect for the 'enemy' is a long and complex one. The challenge of this passage is to look at those situations where we could change our viewpoint and try to do it.



Ask yourself: How does this image relate to how you see your inner self?
What loving 'measures' could you try to live by – for yourself? For others?



Look at stories in a newspaper or watch a news programme. Who are the people in these news stories that you find difficult to like? When do you find yourself making judgements? What difference would it make if you tried to look at everyone with love, respect and mercy?



Take a sheet of paper and decorate around its edges. Look at the last paragraph of the passage and the things we are encouraged to do, e.g. 'Do not judge' and 'forgive'. List these in the centre of your paper. Take this list and stick it somewhere you will see it often. Each time you look at it, choose one of the words or phrases from the list and think about how you can act on it.



Find a pack of cards and invite people at home, friends or those you work with to play a game of 'Snap' in reverse. Each time someone wins the cards they must give them to an opponent instead of keeping them. Talk together about how it feels to give the cards away when you have won them, and how it feels to receive them. Are there areas of life we could think about working in this 'reverse' way?

WATCH



Watch the movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* [U] or watch the following clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3u0l1VOwyA>. Raya has to change her perception of Namaari and trust in her rather than seeing Namaari as an enemy. Only by doing this can Raya reunite the tribes and restore peace. Think of a time when you have changed your perception of someone and this has led to something good. What situations are there where you could do this now?



Use this body prayer each morning:
As I go through the day (*point forwards*)
and I find things challenging, (*hands clenched pressed to the chest*)
may I stop, (*hands in front in a 'stop' signal*)
look at myself and ask: (*one hand on chest*)
How can I see this differently? (*arms outstretched with palms open*)



Pilgrim – Turning to Christ. A Lent Course for 2022

Can I urge everyone to take part in this – the course material is extremely good and I am sure you will enjoy re-igniting your learning through Pilgrim.

Sign up forms are available for you to fill in – please hand to Rob – or email to revdrobfarmer@gmail.com with your name, day you wish to attend and how many course booklets you require.

Singapore and Hong Kong

An illustrated talk by Penny Welford on Thursday 24th February 7.00 p.m. at Lincoln Green Lounge WR5 1QU Tickets £5 (inc. light refreshments and raffle) all proceeds to church funds. Contact Penny on 01905-351468



Saturday 26th February 10.30 – 12.30 at Ronkswood Community Centre. A table is reserved for raising funds for church. Contact Penny if you can help.

← Editorial error...please note the time for Penny's talk is 7.00 p.m.

Thinking it through...

How likely is that war will breakout today? The news seems to think it could be any minute now, and any conflict between Russia and Ukraine will inevitably drag in lots of other countries. Whether we are following this story closely or not, we can all agree, it sounds serious. Inevitably, when we talk of war, we talk of enemies. We work out who is with us and who is against us. We quickly create a 'them and us' situation. This is not a new phenomenon; it has always been part of human nature and, in today's reading, Jesus says something revolutionary. He says, 'Love your enemies.' It was a challenge then and it is a challenge today. It can feel impossible to know what the best course of action is when it comes to these global events. Every decision has massive consequences. But Jesus' call to love our enemies isn't just about giving up and letting people get away with evil deeds; he goes on to tell people to turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile. These were peaceful ways of showing that there was an alternative to aggression and getting your own back, but which highlighted the misuse of power.

On the global stage let us pray for our leaders - that they will not just focus narrowly on what is best for their country, but what is best for the world. That they will be creative in how they engage with those on opposite sides to find peaceful outcomes. And, in our lives, let us be creative in how we deal with those who annoy us and hurt us. We all have the responsibility to love our enemies.

Daily Readings for week commencing 21 st February 2022		
Monday	Genesis 29: 31-30:24	2 Timothy 4: 1-8
Tuesday	Genesis 31: 1-24	2 Timothy 4: 9-end
Wednesday	Genesis 31: 21-32:2	Titus 1
Thursday	Genesis 32: 3-30	Titus 2
Friday	Genesis 33: 1-17	Titus 3
Saturday	Genesis 35	Philemon

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine and those involved in negotiations to prevent conflict...for those on need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane... **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**