

Friday, 26th February

Love and integrity

Jesus said, 'How can you say to your neighbour, "Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye'.
Luke 6.42

With a typical compelling and humorous image, Jesus makes a powerful point about our tendency to hypocrisy.

Questions

- Why do most of us find it easier to see small faults in others and miss the obvious ones in our lives?
- Why is hypocrisy such an unattractive quality?

Challenges

- Put something right in your own life today. (May be it's been waiting to be done for a while.)
- See something good in someone else today.

Saturday, 27th February

Love and goodness

Jesus said,
'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.'
Luke 6.45

With somewhat strong and direct language, Jesus gets to the heart of the matter: it's what in the heart that counts. This determines all we are and all we say.

Questions

- What do your words say about the sort of person you are?
- What do you think Jesus means here by 'good' and 'evil'?

Challenges

- Reflect on what you have learned and acted on in the last week.
- What could you begin today which will make a lasting difference for good in your community or in the world.

challenge

**Dare to make a difference
by living the words of Jesus**

Week 2

21st - 27th February

Living the Love of Jesus

The main aim of Challenge is for you to take time to pray and think for yourself about the meaning of Jesus' words and how living them might make a difference in your life and, through your life, in the community. This leaflet offers a bit of help to get you started, but its not a substitute for your own reflections.



read it • learn it • pray it • do it

Sunday, 21st February

Love for enemies

Jesus said,
'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you'.
Luke 6.27-28

This week we look at some key sayings of Jesus which Luke records in chapter 6 of his gospel. In this verse Jesus sets his disciples a huge challenge. But what a difference it would make if we put it into practice.

Questions

- In what ways are Jesus words here are practical or possible?
- In what situations might you love your enemies?
- What do love, blessing and prayer mean in your life?

Challenges

- Say something good about someone, or to someone, today.
- Pray for someone you find hard to love.

www.challenge2010.org

Monday, 22nd February
Love and the golden rule

Jesus said,
'Do to others as you would
have them do to you'.
Luke 6.31

This short saying of Jesus is often known as the 'golden rule' and is also found in a wide range of cultures around the world.

*Fairtrade Fortnight
begins today.
www.fairtrade.org.uk*

Questions

- In what sense does this saying serve as a 'golden rule' for our lives?
- Where do you find it difficult to keep this rule?
- Who do you know who lives these by these words?

Challenges

- Look out for an act of kindness that you could do today.
- Thank God for those who show you kindness
- *Visit the Fairtrade website, explore the issues and get involved.*

Wednesday, 24th February
Love and forgiveness

Jesus said,
'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven'.
Luke 6.37

For Jesus, it's not simply a matter of what we do or how we treat others, but true love shows in what we say, and think, about people. Speak well of others and forgive and so receive good in return.

Questions

- Reflect on the destructiveness of harsh words and judgemental attitudes.
- Have you found that choosing to be gracious and forgiving 'works' in the way Jesus describes?

Challenges

- Seek to live today without using words which judge or criticise others.
- Pray for someone who has hurt you.

Tuesday, 23rd February
Love of a different kind

Jesus said,
'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them'.
Luke 6.32

Jesus spells out here how the love of his followers must be strikingly different. He invites us to see love as something freely offered even if it we get nothing back.

Questions

- Put this saying of Jesus into your own words.
- How easy is it to give and not to expect anything, even thanks, in return?

Challenges

- Choose to do something or give something today totally unconditionally - no strings attached.
- Reflect on the nature of true love.

Thursday, 25th February
Love and generosity

Jesus said, 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'
Luke 6.38

Using the analogy of a flour seller in the market who goes out of his way to give a generous amount, Jesus encourages his disciples to be generous in all they are and do.

Questions

- In what different ways is it possible to 'live generously'?
- In what situations do you find it hard to give lovingly and act generously? Why is it sometimes hard to be generous?

Challenges

- Do something surprising in its generosity today.
- Spend some time reflecting on all the good things in your life. Thank God. for them.