

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



## Wednesday Feb 19 for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary time

**OPENING PRAYER:** Merciful God, thank you for gathering us together to share life and your Word. In your Word today you challenge us to forgive all who have hurt us. Bless us with your saving mercy so that we may show mercy to all who have offended and hurt us. This we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen

In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”

- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Luke Luke 6:27-38**

Love of Enemies.\*

27<sup>r</sup> “But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>s</sup>

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.<sup>l</sup>

29 To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.

30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.<sup>u</sup>

32 For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.

33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.

34 If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.<sup>v</sup>

35 But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.<sup>w</sup>

36 Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

Judging Others.\*

37<sup>x</sup> “Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.<sup>y</sup>

38 Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”<sup>z</sup>

## Notes

[6:20–49] Luke’s “Sermon on the Plain” is the counterpart to Matthew’s “Sermon on the Mount” (Mt 5:1–7:27). It is addressed to the disciples of Jesus, and, like the sermon in Matthew, it begins with beatitudes (Lk 6:20–22) and ends with the parable of the two houses (Lk 6:46–49). Almost all the words of Jesus reported by Luke are found in Matthew’s version, but because Matthew includes sayings that were related to specifically Jewish Christian problems (e.g., Mt 5:17–20; 6:1–8, 16–18) that Luke did not find appropriate for his predominantly Gentile Christian audience, the “Sermon on the Mount” is considerably longer. Luke’s sermon may be outlined as follows: an introduction consisting of blessings and woes (Lk 6:20–26); the love of one’s enemies (Lk 6:27–36); the demands of loving one’s neighbor (Lk 6:37–42); good deeds as proof of one’s goodness (Lk 6:43–45); a parable illustrating the result of listening to and acting on the words of Jesus (Lk 6:46–49). At the core of the sermon is Jesus’ teaching on the love of one’s enemies (Lk 6:27–36) that has as its source of motivation God’s graciousness and compassion for all humanity (Lk 6:35–36) and Jesus’ teaching on the love of one’s neighbor (Lk 6:37–42) that is characterized by forgiveness and generosity.

\* [6:20–26] The introductory portion of the sermon consists of blessings and woes that address the real economic and social conditions of humanity (the poor—the rich; the hungry—the satisfied; those grieving—those laughing; the outcast—the socially acceptable). By contrast, Matthew emphasizes the religious and spiritual values of disciples in the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus (“poor in spirit,” Mt 5:3; “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” Mt 5:6). In the sermon, blessed extols the fortunate condition of persons who are favored with the blessings of God; the woes, addressed as they are to the disciples of Jesus, threaten God’s profound displeasure on those so blinded by their present fortunate situation that they do not recognize and appreciate the real values of God’s kingdom. In all the blessings and woes, the present condition of the persons addressed will be reversed in the future.

### **Questions for sharing**

1. Jesus tells us first to stop judging, then condemning and finally forgive. It is as if he is pointing out our sins so we can be more merciful. Do you judge and/or condemn?
2. Why are some people able to forgive huge hurts (e.g., murder of a loved one) while many of us are unable or unwilling to forgive much lesser hurts?
3. What are blocks and helps to forgiving life’s hurts?
4. Have you ever had to forgive God or church? If so, what helped you to do this?

### **Commentary**

In this gospel, we continue to listen to Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain. Today’s focus is love of enemies. Jesus challenges us not only to not retaliate against one’s enemies, but also to do them well: love them, do good to them, bless and pray for them. Then Jesus gives practical examples of how we are to show our love for the enemy: turn the other cheek when he strikes you, give your tunic to the one who takes your cloak, lend your money without

expecting it back. Jesus tells us: “If we only love those who love us, we are no better than the pagans.” The real test of our Christianity is our ability to love those who dislike, despise, or hurt us. Obviously, such love is impossible without a fullhearted cooperation with the grace of God. Jesus doesn’t stop there. He goes on to say that we must stop judging and condemning, and we are to give generously to others. In all of this, Jesus is our model. While dying on the cross, he forgave Pilate, the soldiers, the crowd who yelled, “Crucify him!”, and his disciples for abandoning him. Also, David models forgiveness for us in the first reading; and Paul, we assume, forgave all those who stoned him, beat him up, and spread nasty rumors about him. Modern day disciples like Saint Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, and those who forgive the people who murdered their families all show us that with the grace of God we can forgive what seems unforgivable. The more we work at forgiving all who have hurt us, the more we will become like Jesus. We will become a living image of the compassionate and forgiving Christ in the world.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom  
Wednesday, Feb 19 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Feb 19, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607