

Plain Talk about My Future

Luke 6:32-38

This text begins by telling us three things that the lost do:

- (1). They love those who love them.
- (2). They treat well those who treat them well.
- (3). They lend to those they expect to receive money back.

I. Living as Christ lived means repentance.

Repentance is the Greek word “metanoéo,” which means “a change of mind and of purpose.” There must be a transformation of life for there to be any warrant to claim Christ as Savior. “Therefore let all know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). The Bible knows nothing about a man coming to know Christ without a change of behavior. “Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return” (Luke 6:33). This way of life is opposite of the world. They love and are kind in return for love and kindness.

II. Living as Christ lived means regeneration.

“Can the Ethiopian change the color of his skin? The leopard his spots? How can you who are accustomed to doing what the wicked do change your ways?” (Jer 13:23). It’s impossible. There must be a ‘new birth’ (regeneration). Life from above must invade your life here and now. “And you who were dead in your trespasses and sins ... He has made alive in Christ” (Eph. 2:1, 5).

(A). Regeneration gives to us the mannerisms of our Father.

When you are kind to those who hate you... you are called “*Sons of the Most High*” (v. 35).

(B). Regeneration generates in us the mercy of our Father.

When our hearts are full of the mercy of God in Christ, we shed that mercy to others (v. 36).

(C). Regeneration grants for us the measure of our Father.

“Give, and it will be given to you ... For by your *standard of measure* it will be measured to you in return” (v. 38). This verse is usually used by preachers to try to get people to give money. This verse is not about goods, money, or fortune; it’s all about grace, mercy and forgiveness.

III. Living as Christ lived means reward.

“Your reward will be great.” Notice that this reward is in the singular - the evidence of eternal life. This reward is eternal life. The wicked will perish and be utterly destroyed; you will live forever.

(A). This is not a quid pro quo arrangement with God.

In the political world, for example, quid pro quo sometimes refers to giving support, financial or otherwise, to a political candidate in exchange for the expectation of direct support for an activity of the political benefactor. Quid pro quo may appear as bribery in these cases.

You can’t bribe God. You can’t barter with God.

(B). You can’t give what you don’t already have.

You can’t give what you don’t have. This text is like a gauge that measures. It’s a barometer or a thermometer, not a contract. Your ticket to heaven is produced in the chambers of your heart.