

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-38

I have no enemies. I don't permit such a thing. —Cormac McCarthy

The Bible reading above is from Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount. In this passage, Jesus asks us to love our enemy.

But who is our enemy?

During wartime, we know who the enemy is. Often, inspiring stories emerge when two enemies engage.

For example, there's the story from World War 2 about Luftwaffe pilot Franz Stigler at the controls of a German Messerschmitt who refused to shoot down a crippled American plane trying to get back to England. The 21-year-old American pilot, Charlie Brown, was on his first mission. His crew were wounded or dead. His plane was riddled with bullet holes.

Stigler saw that they were in trouble and felt that to bring the plane down would be murder. Instead, he escorted them to safety and peeled off, after saluting Brown. Decades later, the two pilots met in a well-publicized friendly encounter.

Or, you might run across the account of the Japanese soldier who gave back a graduation ring belonging to American prisoner of war, Mario "Motts" Tonelli, a former professional football player. The officer had studied in America and seen Motts play. According to one report, he said, "You were an [amazing] player," as he handed the ring back to his prisoner. "Good luck."

Today, you might read inspirational stories of Lebanese Christians loving their Syrian enemies, or of collaboration between various Palestinian and Jewish artistic groups.

But do *you* have any enemies? Probably not. But it seems that everyone in America is mad at someone else for some reason or another. You may not have enemies, but they sure do! Do you know what I mean?

What can you do?

Love them, says Jesus. Love your friends, love your enemies, and love the enemies of your friends.

How can anyone stay the enemy of love?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, it is so easy to forget the humanness of those who are angry and at odds with the world. Help me to love those who have forgotten how to love. Let me show them, with your help. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Romans 1-4
- Monday:** Romans 5-8
- Tuesday:** Romans 9-11
- Wednesday:** Romans 12-16
- Thursday:** Proverbs 1-3
- Friday:** Proverbs 4-7
- Saturday:** Psalms 19-21

Verse to Remember

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. —Psalm 19:14 (NIV)

7-WORD SPLIT

CLUES

1. To feel relaxed and at ease (11 letters)
2. To sip (5 letters)
3. An unwelcome joke at another's expense (5 letters)
4. Winsome and attractive (6 letters)
5. To evaluate carefully, consider (5 letters)
6. Relative (6 letters)
7. Preparing an orange, say (7 letters)

SOLUTIONS

PE	PRE	NG	FO	TTY	US
IN	BLE	INK	WEI	RTA	CO
DR	PRA	GH	COM	ELI	NK

DIRECTIONS

Study the numbered clues in the list to the left. Find a word to match each clue. The number in parentheses at the end of each clue represents the number of letters in each solution. You can only use each letter combination once, but you will need every one to finish the puzzle.

Answers below.



BRAIN TEASER: Here are three words:

job, polish, herb.

What is special or interesting about these words?

(Answer to the right)

Answer: Each one is pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized!

SOLUTION:
 1-com/fo/rtta/ble
 2-dr/ink
 3-pra/nk
 4-pre/tty
 5-wei/gh
 6-co/us/in
 7-pe/eli/ng