

**Radical living – Luke 6:27-36**

**Starter – sharing our stories.**

When and where do you find it most challenging to live as Jesus calls you to live in your workplaces, homes, neighbourhoods, leisure activities?

Share any situations where you have been put in difficult positions and found it hardest to live Jesus' way...

*Pray for each other about these situations as you begin this session*

Michael Frost in his book **'Surprise the world: Five habits of Highly Missional People'** describes in his first chapter how the church grew so rapidly in the early years after Jesus, because there were both a) gifted evangelists (e.g. Paula and Peter) proclaiming the gospel, and b) alongside them, hundreds of thousands of ordinary people 'infiltrating every part of society and living the kind of **"questionable lives"** that evoked curiosity about the Christian message... they surprised the empire with their unlikely lifestyle.'

- What must these 'questionable lives' have looked like then?
- What might it look like for us to live not just 'good lives' but 'questionable lives' today which might provoke a similar reaction?

**Read Luke 6:27-36 where Jesus gives some ideas as to what 'living questionable lives' might look like. After reading, have a couple of minutes silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.**

- Who are your enemies? Who do you find it hardest to love?
- How do you want to react when people are unkind, unjust and hurt you?

- Jesus calls us to respond differently and suggests 4 different actions (v27-28). Discuss each of them. Why do you think Jesus calls us to those things? How does it change us? How does it potentially change the person who has hurt us?
- The examples Jesus then goes onto give (v29-35), of what this looks like in practice seem on the surface to be a bit extreme! Dave, in his sermon, described how another writer has described these actions as **'transforming initiatives'**... responses which act as 'grace-based breakthroughs in the reign of God'... responses which are carried out in the hope that such radical, 'questionable' responses would bring transformation into these situations.
  - How might these actions in these examples that Jesus gives be 'transforming initiatives'?
  - Think of any situations you have already discussed. What actions in those situations might act as 'transforming initiatives'?
- Many who read this would question whether we were then as Christians to be 'doormats' and just walked all over.
  - What would your response be to that?
  - How did Jesus model this (Luke 22:49-52, 23:33-34)?
  - How do we discern how to respond in different situations?

**Prayer and response**

In a time of quiet, be open to God and ask him to show you what he wants to say to you through this passage.

- a) Where are you facing a situation where it is hard to follow Jesus' radical way?
- b) What sort of 'transforming initiative' might Jesus be leading you to respond with?
- c) How might God be calling you to live a 'questionable life' which evokes curiosity amongst those who you live?

Share any thoughts you would like to with others and pray for each other.