Dear Open Door Family,

This past Sunday was a precious day for me as we joined together and considered HIM who endured such opposition for us. The Lord's Supper was a symbol of hope in the midst of hard times. May the Lord help us all to focus on Him this week as we seek to honor Him. Carol and I would appreciate your prayers; I will be speaking this coming Sunday at our daughter Rachel's church in Liberal, KS. This church has recently been through some struggles so would you join with us in praying that God would use His Word to challenge, comfort, and convict. May we be His instruments of blessing. Here at Open Door John Beck will be speaking in the morning and Ken Rogers will be speaking in the evening. Thanks for your prayers.

Luke 6:35-36 *But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because* ***HE is kind to the ungrateful and wicked****. [36] Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. [NIV]*

This whole passage is full of hard things. The last thing I want to do with someone who is acting like my enemy is do good to them. I would really rather do something much worse than that if I'm honest. Yet the Lord Jesus is very clear; I'm supposed to love my enemies, do good to them, even lend to them never expecting it to be returned. Why? Because that makes me become a child of God? NEVER. If I am able to do this, it is the grace of God working in me. Helping me to see that I am supposed to submit to my Lord Jesus no matter what. In submitting to Him I obey and He gives me the strength to do good even to those who are my enemies. That is one of the proofs that there is REALITY in my walk with Jesus Christ. When I do good things, that can only be explained as the work of God in me. And loving my enemies and doing good to them can only happen by God's grace at work in my life. Of course, the patter for all of this is God Himself. What does God do? He is "kind to the ungrateful and wicked." If I am truly honest there have been times that God has been incredibly kind to me when I have been very ungrateful, and there have even been times that my behavior has been sinful. Yet God WAS MERCIFUL TO ME! And in doing that He set the pattern for me to follow. I am to be full of mercy towards my enemies.

PRAYER: Lord, help me please, I know that I cannot do this, not without Your supernatural strength. It is not in me to do this, so please help me to Love even those who try to harm as You have loved me.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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