

Messages from a Mugging: What Love Does

Romans 12:9-21

 Luke 10:37b (NIV) “Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

 Romans 12:9–21 (NIV) “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

We need to love people and hate evil.

 Romans 12:9 (NLT) “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.”

 Romans 12:9–10 (NIV) “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

We need to serve the Lord and pray nonstop.

 Romans 12:11–12 (NIV) “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

 Romans 12:13–14 (NIV) “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

We need to be happy and sometimes sad.

 Romans 12:15 (NIV) “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

 Romans 12:16 (NIV) “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

We need to pick peace and rely on the Lord.

 Romans 12:17–18 (NIV) “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

 Romans 12:19–21 (NIV) “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

 1 John 4:19 (NIV) “We love because He first loved us.”

 1 John 3:16–18 (NIV) “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

IMPACT

- **Imitating Christ**
- **Meeting Needs**
- **Proclaiming the Good News**
- **Assimilating people into the church**
- **Celebrating God**
- **Teaching the Word of God**

Have you ever experienced a real revival? What does Jesus need to rekindle or awaken in you? What is dead but needs to live again? Who is lost but needs to be found? Have you been the recipient of distorted “love?” Do you feel like your walk with God is powerful or powerless?

