

Good Advice For Bad Times

August 2, 2020

Eddie Becker in his article “8 Things I Wished Jesus Never Said,” wrote:

“If we can all be truthful, we find some things Jesus said difficult. We can debate over the cultural applications of many of the statements He made. We can add to and take away, twist and rearrange the phrases so they fit our own selfish purposes. I’m as guilty as any other at doing these things. Yet all I can do is wonder if the things I wish Jesus hadn’t said are really the things He wanted me to hear and do the most.”

Is what is most important to God most important to me?

1 Peter 4:8 NIV

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

James 2:8 (NIV)

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

1 John 4:7–8 (NLT)

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Colossians 3:14 (NIV)

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

When Jesus said love your neighbor, He never said it would be easy or convenient.

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:9 (NIV)

Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:14 (NIV)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

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.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:19 (NIV)

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:20 (NIV)

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."

Romans 12:21 (NIV)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

You have the power to overcome evil by doing good, and every good thing you do will begin with a choice to love people.

Dorothy Day: "I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least."

- 1. Love begins with the theological and flows to the practical.**
- 2. Love is a relentless combination of truth and grace.**
- 3. Love doesn't begin with instinct or logic. It begins with a choice.**
- 4. Love takes into consideration who, where, when, and what.**
- 5. When in doubt of what to do or say, side with grace.**