

# How Did Jesus Show His Love for Others?

John 15:9-17

## Introduction

There are a lot of ways we can try to figure out what truly loving others looks like, and a final way we will study today is to look at Jesus and learn from how He loved others.

## Background Passage

This passage is in the middle of Jesus' "Abide in Me" teaching.

Our primary verse today is verse 12, but here is the full paragraph:

John 15:9-17 – <sup>9</sup>"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. <sup>12</sup>This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends, if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. <sup>17</sup>This I command you, that you love one another."

## Examples of Jesus' Love:

**Concern for others' physical needs** – In Matthew 14 and 15 we see Jesus showing concern for the physical needs of the crowd who was following Him by healing their sick and miraculously feeding the multitudes from their very meager resources. (Mt. 14 example included here just for reference. Don't read it.)

Matthew 14:13-21 – <sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard it, He withdrew from there in a boat, to a lonely place by Himself; and when the multitudes heard of *this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities. <sup>14</sup>And when He went ashore, He saw a great multitude, and felt compassion for them, and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>And when it was evening, the disciples came to Him, saying, "The place is desolate, and the time is already past; so send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!" <sup>17</sup>And they <sup>\*</sup>said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And He said, "Bring them here to Me." <sup>19</sup>And ordering the multitudes to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food*, and breaking

the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave* to the multitudes, <sup>20</sup>and they all ate, and were satisfied. And they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. <sup>21</sup>And there were about five thousand men who ate, aside from women and children.

Jesus was concerned about their sicknesses. How can we today express love to others who are sick? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was concerned about the crowds' hunger. How can we today express love to others who are hungry? \_\_\_\_\_

James 2:15-16 – <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

Proverbs 19:17 – He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

What would a baby step toward this ideal look like for you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mercy, not judgment toward sinners** – There are two examples of this that I love so much: the woman caught in adultery and the Samaritan woman at the well.

John 8:1-11 – <sup>1</sup>But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup>And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and *began* to teach them. <sup>3</sup>And the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst, <sup>4</sup>they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. <sup>5</sup>Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" <sup>6</sup>And they were saying this, testing Him, in order that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground. <sup>7</sup>But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him *be the* first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup>And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>And when they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the midst. <sup>10</sup>And straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" <sup>11</sup>And she said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more."

Wow! What do you think the woman felt after this encounter? \_\_\_\_\_

When we have encounters with sinners how do they feel? \_\_\_\_\_

What's the difference? \_\_\_\_\_

John 4:1-30 – <sup>1</sup>When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), <sup>3</sup>He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee.

<sup>4</sup>And He had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>So He came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; <sup>6</sup>and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." <sup>8</sup>For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw." <sup>16</sup>He said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet." <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

<sup>27</sup>And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" <sup>28</sup>So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city, and <sup>29</sup>\*said to the men, <sup>30</sup>"Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?" <sup>30</sup>They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

After reading these two passages, is there any way you can walk away thinking that the two ladies thought adultery was OK? \_\_\_\_\_ But that's not the issue. Loving these ladies was Jesus' priority, without diluting His doctrine.

Song – *Jesus, Friend of Sinners* – Casting Crowns

Luke 7:47 – "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

What would a baby step toward this ideal look like for you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Put others' needs above his own life** – Of course Jesus' love's ultimate expression was His giving His life to pay for the sins of all mankind.

John 15:13 – <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends, if you do what I command you.

What facets of Jesus' giving of His life on the cross showed His love for others? \_\_\_\_\_

What would a baby step toward this ideal look like for you? \_\_\_\_\_

## Warning:

All of these things we've talked about today sound a lot like the "social gospel" that so many denominations have chosen and fallen away soon afterward. Loving others is not at the expense of the pure Gospel of salvation through faith in Christ alone or any doctrinal stance. It is a reflection of all of humanity's failure and inherent inability to fulfill the law and our mercy, grace, and love as an extension of God's hand to meet them where they are and be used and a part of their spiritual healing through salvation and discipling them to draw close to God.

It is ineffective to approach the lost with doctrine or calls to good works. We must accept them where they are and love them without judgment, never condoning their sin or moderating our positions against it. Just loving them like Jesus did.

## Conclusion:

Jesus is, of course, the ultimate example of love. What did you see in Jesus' life today that you can begin to incorporate into your own life, even if just a little?

What baby steps are you willing to take? \_\_\_\_\_