

WHAT TO DO WHEN MISTREATMENT OCCURS - Part 2

Romans 12:20-21

MAIN IDEA: When others mistreat you, respond in a way which honors God. 8/21/16

I. DON'T RESPOND IN _____ (cp. Romans 12:17-19).

A. Don't repay _____ --reflect on doing _____ (Rom. 12:17).

B. Don't promote _____ --resolve to keep _____ (Rom. 12:18).

C. Don't take _____ --rest in God's _____ (Rom. 12:19). Four levels of response:

- Returning _____ for _____: _____ (cp. Psa. 35:11-12; 38:19-20; 109:5;
- Returning _____ for _____: _____ (cp. Matt. 5:38) Jer. 18:19-20)
- Returning _____ for _____: _____ (cp. Matt. 5:46-47; Luke 6:32-34)
- Returning _____ for _____: _____ (cp. Matt. 5:43-45; Luke 6:35; Rom. 12:17-21; I Thess. 5:15; I Pet. 2:22-25; 3:9)

II. RESPOND WITH _____ (Romans 12:20-21).

❖ A _____ response ("but," "on the contrary"—cp. Rom. 12:17-19)

❖ Not _____ instruction (cp. Deut. 32:35; Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 5:44-48)

❖ A _____ ministry, now to a _____ crowd (cp. Rom. 12:13, 15)

A. When your enemy has a _____, _____ it (Rom. 12:20a). This requires:

- _____: you keep your _____ and _____ open to the need.
- _____: take the initiative instead of _____ on him to change.
- _____: _____ generously of what you have to meet the need.
- _____: release all _____ and _____ toward him.
- _____: put his _____ before your own _____.

B. When you _____ the need, do it for his _____, not for his _____ (Rom. 12:20b).

Two major perspectives on "coals of fire":

- When someone hurts you, you help him _____ to hurt him.
 - You magnify his _____ and expose him to greater _____.
 - You turn him over to God's _____ (Psa. 11:6; 18:12; 120:4; 140:10).
 - This motivation is a form of _____ and violates _____ (Matt. 5:44-48).
 - It results in joy when your enemy falls (cp. Prov. 24:17-18; Job 31:29-30;)
- When someone hurts you, you help him _____ hurting him. Obad. 12-13).
 - You inflict _____ hurt resulting in _____ blessing.
 - Inflicting _____ and guilt resulting in _____ and confession
 - You demonstrate _____ designed to bring _____ and _____ blessing.
 - ❖ _____ his heart to "destroy" him as an _____ and win him as a _____ (cp. Prov. 16:7) (a refiner melting metals)
 - ❖ _____ on him red-hot "coals of _____" (strictly figurative)
 - ❖ _____ him with _____ and _____ (carrying coals for fire)

C. When you _____ in this way, you overcome _____ (Rom. 12:21).

- Repaying evil for evil is to be _____ by _____ (Rom. 12:21a).
- Repaying evil with good is to _____ (Rom. 12:21b).
 - You don't conquer _____ with _____.
 - You conquer _____ with _____.

Applying Paul's exhortations with commands from the Lord Jesus (Matt. 5:44): Show kindness to your enemy . . .

- ❖ In proper motivation . . . why you _____ ("love your enemies"). Why do you meet your enemy's need?
- ❖ In personal communication . . . how you _____ ("bless those that curse you"). How do you speak to/about him?
- ❖ In practical demonstration . . . what you _____ ("do good to those who hate you"). What needs are you meeting?
- ❖ In prayerful intercession . . . how you _____ ("pray for those who spitefully use you"). Do you pray for his good?

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MAIN IDEA: When others mistreat you, respond in a way which honors God. 8/21/16

I. DON'T RESPOND IN KIND (cp. Romans 12:17-19).

A. *Don't repay evil--reflect on doing good (Rom. 12:17).*

B. *Don't promote division--resolve to keep peace (Rom. 12:18).*

C. *Don't take revenge--rest in God's justice (Rom. 12:19). Four levels of response:*

- Returning evil for good: *despised* (cp. Psa. 35:11-12; 38:19-20; 109:5; Jer. 18:19-20)
- Returning evil for evil: *tolerated* (cp. Matt. 5:38)
- Returning good for good: *expected* (cp. Matt. 5:46-47; Luke 6:32-34)
- Returning good for evil: *unexpected* (cp. Matt. 5:43-45; Luke 6:35; Rom. 12:17-21; I Thess. 5:15; I Pet. 2:22-25; 3:9)

II. RESPOND WITH KINDNESS (Romans 12:20-21).

❖ *A different response ("but," "on the contrary"—cp. Rom. 12:17-19)*

❖ *Not new instruction (cp. Deut. 32:35; Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 5:44-48)*

❖ *A similar ministry, now to a different crowd (cp. Rom. 12:13, 15)*

A. *When your enemy has a need, meet it (Rom. 12:20a). This requires:*

- *Attentiveness:* you keep your eyes and ears open to the need.
- *Initiative:* take the initiative instead of waiting on him to change.
- *Sacrifice:* give generously of what you have to meet the need.
- *Forgiveness:* release all bitterness and resentment toward him.
- *Unselfishness:* put his need before your own hurt.

B. *When you meet the need, do it for his good, not for his harm (Rom. 12:20b).*

Two major perspectives on "coals of fire":

- When someone hurts you, you help him *in order* to hurt him.
 - *You magnify his guilt and expose him to greater judgment.*
 - *You turn him over to God's judgment (Psa. 11:6; 18:12; 120:4; 140:10).*
 - *This motivation is a form of revenge and violates love (Matt. 5:44-48).*
 - *It results in joy when your enemy falls (cp. Prov. 24:17-18; Job 31:29-30; Obad. 12-13).*
- When someone hurts you, you help him *instead of* hurting him. Obad. 12-13).
 - *You inflict temporary hurt resulting in eventual blessing.*
Inflicting shame and guilt resulting in repentance and confession
 - *You demonstrate kindness designed to bring present and future blessing*
 - ❖ *Softening his heart to "destroy" him as an enemy and win him as a friend (cp. Prov. 16:7) (a refiner melting metals)*
 - ❖ *Pouring on him red-hot "coals of love" (strictly figurative)*
 - ❖ *Providing him with food and warmth (carrying coals for fire)*

C. *When you respond in this way, you overcome evil (Rom. 12:21).*

- *Repaying evil for evil is to be overcome by evil (Rom. 12:21a).*
- *Repaying evil with good is to overcome evil (Rom. 12:21b).*
 - *You don't conquer evil with evil.*
 - *You conquer evil with good.*

Applying Paul's exhortations with commands from the Lord Jesus (Matt. 5:44): Show kindness to your enemy . . .

- ❖ In proper motivation . . . why you respond ("love your enemies"). *Why do you meet your enemy's need?*
- ❖ In personal communication . . . how you speak ("bless those that curse you"). *How do you speak to/about him?*
- ❖ In practical demonstration . . . what you do ("do good to those who hate you"). *What needs are you meeting?*
- ❖ In prayerful intercession . . . how you pray ("pray for those who spitefully use you"). *Do you pray for his good?*