

# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep.1376: Do I Really Have to Love My Enemies?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1376-enemies/>

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1. What kind of love does Jesus say we must have for our enemies? What does it encompass? If we love this way, do we ignore evil done by them? Explain. Do you think you can have this kind of love for someone who has wronged you? (Matthew 5:43-44)
2. Why was Judas annoyed with Mary's use of the expensive perfume on Jesus' feet? What was her purpose in doing this for Jesus? How did the apostles obtain money for their work? In what way did Judas profit from this? Contrast Judas' heart with the heart of Jesus. (John 12:1-8, Luke 6:29-30)
3. How did Judas negotiate with the chief priests? How did Jesus respond to Judas, even knowing he would betray him? (Matthew 26:14-16,25, John 13:2-5 21-27)
4. Describe Jesus' prayer in John 17:12 and how it relates to Judas. Describe what happened next in the Garden of Gethsemane. How did Jesus react towards his apostles? How did Jesus react towards Judas? How does this scene make you feel? (Mark 14:41-44, Matthew 26:49-50, Proverbs 27:6, Luke 22:48)
5. How can we bless someone who has committed an atrocity against us and is unrepentant? How does the Christian "Golden Rule" in **Luke 6:31-34** define our actions?
6. To love others and mean it:
  - a. **Philippians 1:19-21**—Does the essence of Christlikeness flow through you? How do others see a reflection of Jesus in your life?
  - b. **Romans 12:14-17**—How do you treat with respect those with whom you disagree? Are you able to treat even enemies this way, without rendering evil for evil? How do you associate with those around you on an equal basis? Can you enter into their joys and sorrows?
  - c. **Romans 12:18-19**—Is this a difficult concept for you? What should you seek for someone who has done significant evil to you or someone you love? What must be left with the Lord?
  - d. **Ephesians 4:26-32**—How will you manage to "be angry, but without sin"?
  - e. **1 Peter 2:21-25**—Why should we love even our enemies?
  - f. **Romans 12:20-21, 8:18:22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**—What might be the reaction of an enemy if you "heap coals of fire on his head"? Have you ever done this? What will be our mission in the future kingdom? How does this inform our actions today?
7. Does loving your enemies seem doable after studying this topic further? How can we begin to love our enemies today?