

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



REVIEW: Read Matthew 5:43-48. Was there anything besides everything in this section that challenged you? Anything you would like to comment on or had a question on?

1. Pastor Jim began with a great quote by Philip Yancey. "Some Christians get very angry toward other Christians who sin differently than they do." Do you think this is true? What is your take on it? And how does this affect our relationships with other church people?

2. Read Matthew 5:46-47 Jesus introduces Tax Collectors and Gentiles into this "love other" command. Why is this such a huge deal to His Jewish audience? And how does this apply to us?

3. Obviously Jesus is teaching us that a disciple of His is someone who "loves others . . . including enemies."

*\*First Question:* Pastor Jim said on Sunday, "Loving our enemies is the one teaching that gives us the biggest headache." Would you agree? Why or why not?

*\*Second Question:* Read Matthew 26:20-26. This is Jesus last Supper before His betrayal and execution . . . yet He has Judas sitting at the table with Him. HE INVITED HIS ENEMY TO EAT WITH HIM!!! What is your take on that . . . and could you have done that? Explain.

## GOING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 5:44 and then jump to John 13:34-35. Pretty challenging isn't it? Jesus is telling us to love everyone the way He loves everyone. Now at this moment some of us might be thinking about a certain person (Pastor Jim called this person our Personal Public Enemy #1) and thinking, "There is no way I can love that person the way Jesus loves them." Why not? Be honest. And what do you think loving that person might require of you?

2. What do these verses teach us about God's love toward everyone, including enemies?

Romans 5:10

Romans 8:35-39

Jeremiah 31:3

3. The word Jesus uses for love is Agape. It's a great word. Now the Greek language had various words for love: Eros: This has to do with romance and affection. Phileo: It's a friendship love. Storge: This is a family love for each other. And Agape: It is a love that does not depend on warm friendly feelings for that person. It calls us to see past a person's shortcomings and treat that person in a way that is in his or her best interests. You seek the good of the other person regardless of that person's feelings toward you. Who in your immediate circle of family or friends do you need to give agape love to and why?

4. Matthew 5:44 Jesus asks us to pray for those who persecute us, which means "Pray for your enemies." Read Job 42:10-12 What can we draw from Job regarding praying for our enemies. And just because it says "friends" know that his friends did not treat him very nice at all.

TAKING IT HOME: What from Sunday or tonight do you need to put into practice to walk as a disciple of Jesus?

PRAYER REQUESTS: