

Bible Study 14 – Loving our enemies – Matthew 5:43-48

Seventy years ago many Japanese people in occupied Tokyo after World War Two saw US troops as the enemy. And American GIs were told not to fraternise with Japanese women, but they did. Tens of thousands of young Japanese women married GIs and then faced a big struggle to find their place in the US. They found it difficult to adapt to a different culture and it was hard to fit in to segregated America. The war had been a war without mercy, with incredible hatred and fear on both sides. And America was a racist place at that time, with a lot of prejudice against inter-race relationships. These marriages are an example of hatred being replaced with romantic love. But Jesus requires a different kind of love – agape love.

The context	After Jesus was baptised by John & tested by Satan, He preached urging people to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17). Because Jesus healed “every disease and sickness among the people”, large crowds followed Him. After Jesus chooses the 12 disciples, He preached the Sermon on the Mount to them (Matthew 5-7). Six times He contrasts His teaching with the Old Testament (Mt. 5:21-48).
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PART 1 Read & summarise each section – Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:32-36

Discrimination (v.43, 46-47)	
Love (v.44-45, 48)	
Discrimination (v.32-34)	
Love (v.35-36)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

2. What I learnt about people like us.

3. Summarise a key verse in your own words.

4. In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. How is Jesus an example of loving one’s enemies (Luke 13:34)?

7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

As God showed agape love to us, He wants us to be His witness by doing good to those who oppose us.



