



**Questions for Application for the Week of March 24, 2014**  
**Part 7 - Hate is Expected. Show Christ. - Matthew 5:43-48**

1. While never specifically addressed to do so, people in Jesus' day thought they were supposed to "love your neighbor and hate your enemy" (Mt. 5:43). How do you think people today outside the church would respond to that statement? In what ways would their response be any different than those inside the church?

2. Jesus says that when we love our enemies we reflect the attitude and actions of our Father in heaven (Mt. 5:45). Reflecting on John 3:16 and Romans 5:8, how does God's behavior towards us challenge our feelings of hate for our enemies?

3. If tax collectors and gentiles know how to show love to those who show love to them (Mt. 5:46-47), what difference does the Holy Spirit make in the life of a believer? Our love for enemies is one example of the renewing of our minds that Paul speaks of in Romans 12:2. In what ways do you need to respond to be faithful to Jesus' instruction in Matthew 5:43-47?

4. Jesus closes this section with the instruction "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). How does this statement run totally counter to the Scribes and Pharisees concept of godliness and how does it challenge and encourage you in your walk with Christ?

5. Make a list of people who you would consider your "enemies" and pray for them. Ask God to work in their hearts and your own, revealing to you any ways in which you might work for their good and that he would draw them to himself.