

JANUARY 1

*‘For if you love those who love you,
what reward do you have?’*

– Matthew 5:46

You do not have to be a Christian to love, help, or give to people. In fact, you do not even need a religion, faith, or commandment to do it. Everyone instinctively prioritizes those who love them. But Jesus wants to completely transform your thoughts and actions; indeed, your very nature. The person you most despise, disapprove of, or dislike is exactly who He wants you to love. Such supernatural love is only possible when you follow Jesus. No other so-called god encourages this type of love, but your God does! This type of love is exactly what Jesus calls you to shine forth in this world. Jesus also modeled it for you. When struck, He did not strike back. When ridiculed, He did not ridicule in return. When nailed to the cross, He prayed for His enemies.

Of course, this inspired question reveals more about you than just your external behaviors. The way you treat other people exposes the true inclinations of your heart. Apart from Christ, you are utterly selfish. But Christ has given you a new heart.

Therefore, by the power of the Holy Spirit, go beyond this world’s expectation and love those who cannot or will not love you in return. This love does not necessarily mean liking someone or pretending sin is not evident. God loves sinners by providing rain and sunlight on the righteous and unrighteous alike. You can love them as He does by treating them equally, providing for them, and being a source of blessing.

2 Kings 6:20-23; John 15:12-17

For what does the Scripture say?

– Romans 4:3

When you discuss things, this inspired question ought to be on the tip of your tongue. It should be your most asked question, even if just in your mind. What does God think and say, not just people? The inspired and infallible Word of God must illuminate every question you have; every truth you accept.

Be an excellent student of God's Word. Bring up others in the instruction of the Lord. Continually appeal to the Scriptures. Store God's Word in your heart.

*Deuteronomy 11:18; 2 Timothy 3:16**'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?'*

– Revelation 5:2

Imagine finding something of infinite value—but you cannot open it because it is sealed or locked. How disheartening! The good news for you, however, is that Christ is able to unlock everything. He unlocks the true meaning of the Old Testament. He unlocks the door of salvation. He unlocks an eternal inheritance. Christ alone has authority over judgment and redemption because He is worthy. Still more, Christ is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals because He suffered the wrath of God for you as your sinless substitute, paying the penalty for your sins.

No matter what you suffer in this life, you can find comfort in the answer to this inspired question. Christ is worthy enough to open God's Word and accomplish His purposes, and you are firmly established in Him as a believer. Your eternal destiny is secure. Continue abiding in Christ.

Isaiah 29:11-12; Hebrews 3:3