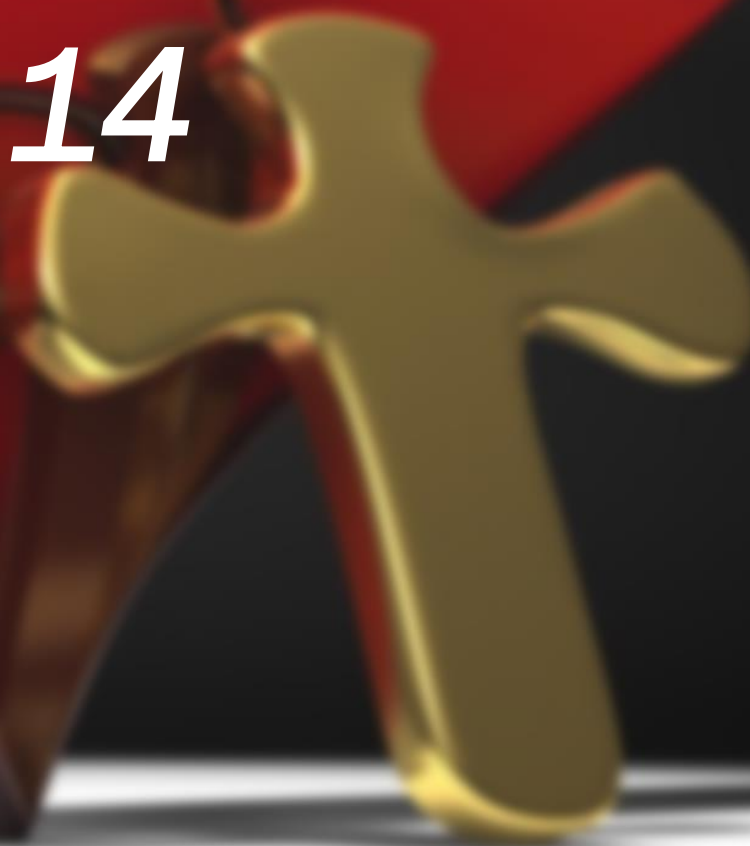


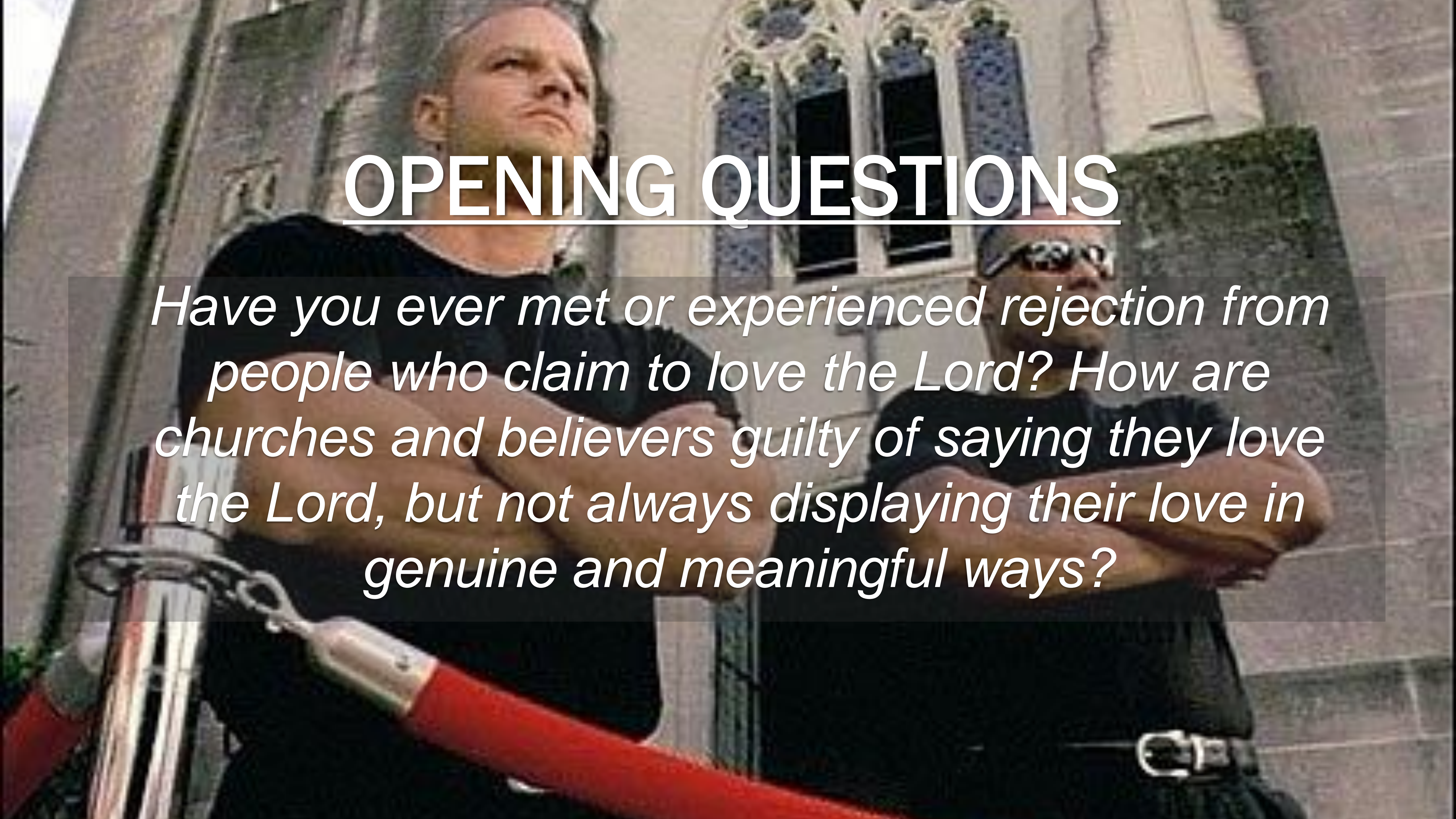


# Return to Love and Justice

*March Quarter*

*Lesson 14*





# OPENING QUESTIONS

*Have you ever met or experienced rejection from people who claim to love the Lord? How are churches and believers guilty of saying they love the Lord, but not always displaying their love in genuine and meaningful ways?*

# Hosea 11: 1-2; 11:7

- 11: 1 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.
- 2 But the more I called to him, the farther he moved from me, offering sacrifices to the images of Baal and burning incense to idols.
- 7 For my people are determined to desert me. They call me the Most High, but they don't truly honor me.

# Hosea 11:8-10

- 8 “Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows.
- 9 No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy.
- 10 For someday the people will follow me. I, the LORD, will roar like a lion. And when I roar, my people will return trembling from the west.

# Hosea 12:1-2; 12:6-7

- 12:1 The people of Israel feed on the wind; they chase after the east wind all day long. They pile up lies and violence; they are making an alliance with Assyria while sending olive oil to buy support from Egypt.
- 2 Now the LORD is bringing charges against Judah. He is about to punish Jacob for all his deceitful ways, and pay him back for all he has done.
- 6 So now, come back to your God. Act with love and justice, and always depend on him.
- 7 But no, the people are like crafty merchants selling from dishonest scales—they love to cheat.

# Hosea 12:8-11

- 8 Israel boasts, “I am rich! I’ve made a fortune all by myself! No one has caught me cheating! My record is spotless!”
- 9 But I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in Egypt. And I will make you live in tents again, as you do each year at the Festival of Shelters.
- 10 I sent my prophets to warn you with many visions and parables.”
- 11 But the people of Gilead are worthless because of their idol worship. And in Gilgal, too, they sacrifice bulls; their altars are lined up like the heaps of stone along the edges of a plowed field.

# Hosea 12:12-14

- 12 Jacob fled to the land of Aram, and there he earned a wife by tending sheep.
- 13 Then by a prophet the LORD brought Jacob's descendants out of Egypt; and by that prophet they were protected.
- 14 But the people of Israel have bitterly provoked the LORD, so their LORD will now sentence them to death in payment for their sins.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **1. Note the times in your life where you found yourself disobeying God and idolizing other things. How did God extend His love and mercy to you even at that time?**
- **2. How do you understand success in any area of your life as it relates to your relationship with God?**
- **3. Do you find yourself seeking love and justice even if the people and communities you love initially reject you?**



# APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

**Always seek God daily in every aspect of your life. Ensure that you are keeping God at the head of your life (Matthew 6:33).**

- Ask yourself, what are you faithful to? What do you find yourself idolizing? You can also examine if the blessings that God has provided you should be redistributed to those around you in need.**
- Lastly, seek to trust God to continue being a provider in your life and not to trust in your own ability to provide.**