



The contradictions of love

Matthew 22:34-40

**Why does Jesus *appear* to
contradict himself and what can
we learn from it?**



34But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

35Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying,

36“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” 37Jesus said to him, ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ 38This is *the* first and great commandment. 39And *the* second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ 40On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Jesus' decisions weren't based on
policy,
they were based on **love.**



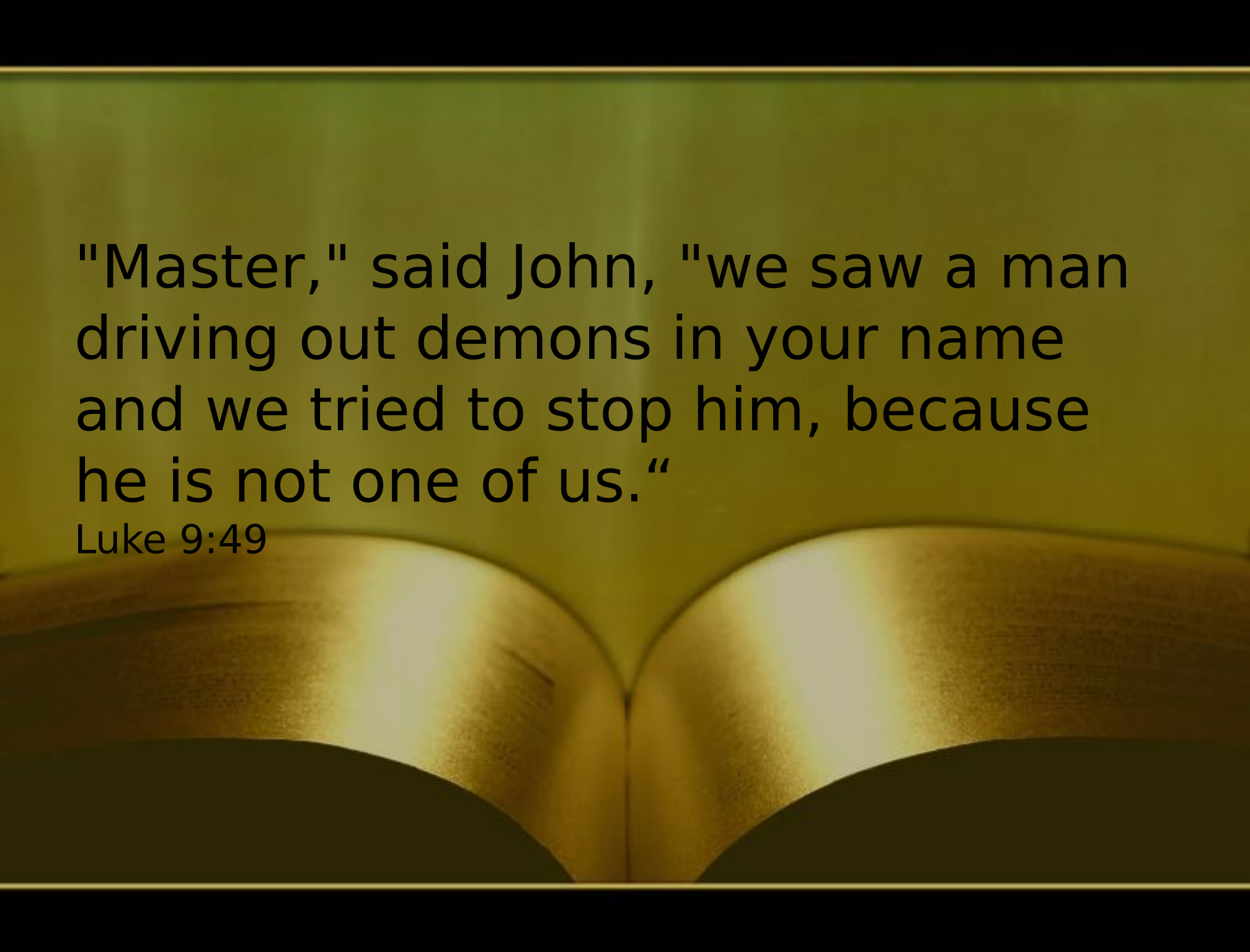
An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages slightly curved. The book is set against a solid, glowing green background. The text "Love must win out over policy" is centered in the upper half of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Love must win out over policy

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Matthew 18:1





"Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."

Luke 9:49

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Holiness is not a perfect response to the rules but to the **need at hand**



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with the pages curving upwards. The entire scene is bathed in a warm, golden-yellow light, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

How do we disarm policy?

**What is it like to be the other
*person?***

John 11:35



What do they truly *need*?

Matthew 9:36



**What do I have or
what can I do that will *help*?**



15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:15-16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9



What is your Policy?

