

Discussion Questions for *The Rabbi and Mrs. Goldstein* by MaryAnn Diorio

1. Miriam Goldstein was a devout Jew, an exemplary member of her synagogue. As a rabbi's wife, she was held in particularly high esteem. What traits in Miriam caused her to question her Judaism?
2. Was Miriam right to question the ancient rabbis and sages of Jewish history? Was she being arrogant in assuming that they could have been wrong in their interpretations of Scripture? After all, they had studied the Sacred Scriptures for centuries.
3. Have you ever questioned the *status quo*? Did you receive a lot of pushback? If so, how did you handle the pushback?
4. In seeking truth, Miriam was being honest with herself. Yet, it was this very honesty that got her into trouble. How does Polonius' statement in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* apply to Miriam?

*"This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."*

5. Miriam had a bias against Christians and falsely believed that Christians wanted to separate Jews from their Jewishness. This caused her to fear that Clarissa Steubens would do the same. How can false biases interfere with our discovering truth? How can we discern between what is true and what is false?
6. Jacob's motive in divorcing Miriam was based on his false understanding of righteousness. Why and how can a wrong belief cause us to harm others?
7. Miriam thought that by accepting Yeshua as the Messiah she would no longer be Jewish. This is a common misconception among many Jews. Yet, Jesus Himself was a Jew. In light of this misconception, how can we best share the Gospel with our Jewish friends?
8. What is meant by the Scripture verse in Galatians 3: 28 that states: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
9. Miriam was willing to give up everything for Yeshua. What does it mean to you to forsake all to follow Christ?
10. As she trusted Christ, He turned everything for good in Miriam's life. Please share how God has turned negative situations for your good in your own life.