

Life in the KINGDOM REVISITED

Part 9: Character Cross-Roads

Matthew 5:38-48 • February 10, 2019

Digging Deeper this week...

BiG iDEa: Jesus invites me to take on the character and characteristics of His Father.

Kingdoms. Governing institutions. Hidden powers. Personal agendas. Set aside some *time* throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says about His kingdom in contrast to our own. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Identify

Who in your sphere of influence would you consider to be your enemy or might consider you to be theirs? Explain.

Read

Scriptures to grow by... Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 12:14-21; Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 10:27; Ps 35:12-13; Ps 109:1-5, 26-31; Proverbs 25:22.

Reflect

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages help you think about who you consider to be a friend, neighbor and/or enemy?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. How do you respond to the statement: "*the choice to love will define who you are ... so that you are no longer defined by those that love you back.*" What might you want to say to Jesus about this?

Respond (Soul-Work)

Moving forward... On Sunday, Doug said "*putting our **enemies** in the **neighbor** box is the most loving thing we can do.*" Take some time this week to make a list of those who might fit the description of "enemy" in your world. Lay the list at the foot of the cross and ask Jesus how He might form your character by helping you pray for those on the list. Then ask Him to give you courage to move them from the status of "enemy" to "neighbor".