



## **Conflict in Community**

Mat 5:43-48      Mark 10:35-45      Luke 23:33-34      John 13:34-35

One of the easiest ways to discover if you are really following Jesus or just admiring Him is what you do when someone hurts you—because some of Jesus’ most difficult and radical teachings were about responding to hurt and offense.

If you only love people who love you—when it’s easy, when they do what you want them to do and don’t cause you any inconvenience— Is it real love if it doesn’t cost you? If it’s still all about you?

Consider Jesus. If God had decided to cancel people anytime we hurt or offended Him, we’d have no hope. We offend the heart and break the law of God every day. And yet, Jesus is still inviting us back to the purpose we were created for—to reflect the image of our gracious God.

Most of the time, forgiveness comes at great personal cost. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are giving up our right to get even. That means if someone hurts you, you don’t hurt back. When someone starts that rumour about you, you don’t try to find a way to destroy their credibility.

Instead, you respond with love—with grace and truth. Instead of punishing them, you pray for them. Because when you’ve received mercy from God, you show mercy to others.

Doing community Jesus’ way does not mean you will never have conflict. We’re still human beings with different perspectives, pasts, triggers, and traumas. And yet, Jesus said that the whole world would know who He is by the way we love one another.

### **Points for Discussion**

1. How did Jesus deal with conflicts in His community?
2. How can we change the way we see and handle conflict?