



Icebreaker

What are you celebrating in your life right now?

Begin with the End in Mind

Read Matthew 5:4-8. Jeff suggested that Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount was announcing a brand new way to live, **a third way to live**, not the way of religion or the world. Notice all the

“will be’s” in this section.

1. When have you begun a new thing with the end in mind? Describe it to the group.
2. What are you currently working at, working through, committed to, how could you benefit from pausing and considering what “the end” would look like?
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3. Jeff taught, “religion is about earning God’s favor/blessing, it always ends in shame and guilt or moral superiority.” Do you agree? Why or why not? Can you give some examples you have witnessed in yourself of these two outcomes of religion?

Love Your Enemies

Read Matthew 5:43-48 and James 1:19-20. Jeff taught, “There is nothing more “Third Way” than loving your enemies. Loving the people that oppose you is what makes the third way so different.”

1. Why do you think the last line, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” is placed here of all the places in the Bible it could be placed? Why did Jesus choose here?
2. Jesus intentionally sought out very different disciples, [a zealot](#), a Roman tax collector, a traitor, a coward, two pairs of brothers. Who in your closest circles do you need to practice loving? Where is the best place to start? Jeff suggested we park in Jesus Sermon in the Mount, Matthew 5-7. Would you study the Sermon on the Mount with the end in mind of loving your enemies, those enemies that are close?

Listening is Loving

Watch or Listen to [Jeff’s teaching beginning at 28:43](#). When Jesus says to love our enemies, he doesn’t mean you have to start thinking like them; he doesn’t mean you have to start going along with them; he doesn’t mean you have to agree with them. He wants us to listen to them. To hear them. To see them. Love them. Find ways to bless them. And just maybe, you will learn something. (Courtney)

1. Where in your life is this sort of listening needed?

