

How does your heart impact your conduct and actions? What's the connection? Share some examples of how the two work together.

Read **Matthew 5:33-37** and discuss the following.

Is Jesus condemning *all* swearing or a certain kind of swearing? Explain your answer.

How are Jesus' examples of "*heaven,*" "*earth,*" "*Jerusalem,*" and one's own "*hair*" all connected to the Lord? That is, how is swearing by one of these ultimately swearing by God?

What does Jesus statement in **v.37** mean? How does **James 5:12** help improve your understanding of this verse?

What is Jesus' main idea of this section of Scripture?

Read **Matthew 5:38-42** and discuss the following.

What does the phrase "*eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*" mean? According to Jesus, what is the true spirit and intention of this law?

Jesus gives four examples (*illustrations*) to consider. Which of these seems most doable? Which one would be most difficult for you personally?

What is Christ's primary point of this section?

Read **Matthew 5:43-48** and discuss the following.

Without sharing specific names, who are some people (*or types of people*) that you have considered an enemy in the past?

Why are we to love our enemies and to pray for our persecutors? Additionally, how is an ability to love unloveable people evidence of God's grace in our lives? Explain.

What is your initial response to **v.48**? How should we interpret its meaning, and why?

What about this passage and discussion has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?