

# Talk It Over

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*Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.*

*For the sake of time, you may want to choose one or two questions.*

## Ancient Wisdom for a Present Crisis

### Warm Up:

Describe what you felt as you watched the events of last week--and this past year--unfold. Honestly share your feelings, without attacking other positions or viewpoints.

### Read:

Matthew 7:3-5

### Discuss:

- What do you think about the statement, "We all bear some culpability for what we have witnessed in our culture this past year?" How does Jesus' teaching about removing the plank from our own eye apply to our present situation?
- Jesus' lived during a politically turbulent time as we do. Does it surprise you that Jesus never directly addresses the politic turmoil of his day? Why is he silent? What does he talk about instead of politics?
- Do you agree that "How we treat the cashier at Wal-Mart will either set the stage for violence and viciousness, or create an environment where such things do not happen?" Is this too simplistic of an approach to our culture's problems?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What is the most challenging aspect of love for you to practice? What would it look like for you to practice that aspect of love in relationship to your political opponents or enemies?
- Jesus plan was simple--treat everyone you encounter with love and respect. Have you had any specific opportunities this week to practice this plan? How did it make you feel?

### Pray:

Take a moment and close in prayer as a group.