

## 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.*

### Violence in the Old Testament - Part 1

#### Read:

Joshua 6:15-21; Matthew 5:43-45

#### Discuss:

1. When did you first hear the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho? Do you remember? What were your initial impressions of this story? What were you taught the story was about?
2. As you read this story as an adult, what problems or questions does it raise for you? Is any of this narrative troubling to you? If so, what parts?
3. Have you ever given much thought to the accounts of violence in the Bible? How have you reconciled these accounts in your mind?
4. Have you heard of any of the five approaches we discussed that have been frequently used to justify the violence found in the Old Testament (1-God is sovereign; 2-people deserved it; 3-it was the world before Jesus; 4-eschatological intrusion; 5-you have to have faith)? What is your impression of these approaches?
5. How does Jesus reveal the nature and character of God? If you had to form a description of God from the life and teachings of Jesus, what qualities would that description contain?
6. Do you have any additional thoughts about how to reconcile the violence in the Old Testament with the nature of God that Jesus reveals? How can we read the Bible in a way that acknowledges the violence the Old Testament contains while taking seriously the nature of God that Jesus reveals?



#### Wrap Up:

Share any final thoughts and close in prayer.