

**"Intractable Conflicts Between Israelis and Palestinians;
Difficult Conflicts Between You and Me"
Matthew 5:1-10
Growth Group Questions
October 26, 2014**

1. Think and tell about a time when you have been the victim, when someone has harmed you. What are some of your emotions, reactions and resolutions when you felt victimized?

2. What are some of the benefits of continuing to play the victim role?

3. Read and then re-read Jesus' story of the father and his two sons, Luke 15.11-32. Take time to think about both sons from different, maybe new angles. We normally boo the younger son early in the story and applaud the older son later in the story. But what else does Jesus want us to see? Think about how the older son gets stuck in rule keeping to please his father, and how he gets stuck in playing the victim role, keeping the offense alive.

4. *Jesus in me trumps the harm done by you.* Take a look at both sides of this good news!
 - a. Jesus by the Holy Spirit, lives in you: Romans 8.9-10, Colossians 1.27, etc.

 - b. Jesus in you is triumphant over the offenses and hurts of others: Colossians 3.12-14, Ephesians 4.32, Luke 23.34, etc.

Thank Jesus that He lives in you. Thank Him that He already has victory over the harms done to you. Thank Jesus that He will give you His desire and His power to trump the wrongs done to you. Be who you are: Jesus lives in you!