



WEEK FIVE
SURVIVOR
May 24 & 25, 2014
Pastor Ken Ingold

MESSAGE NOTES

Matthew 5:9

Conflict is inevitable in every relationship, not because we are selfish people, but because we are all wired differently. Conflict can be resolved in many different ways, but as followers of Jesus, we are called to a higher standard. We are not to be peace-lovers, but peacemakers.

Conflict Resolution:

1. Competition (works best in war, sports, and business – but someone always loses)
2. Compromise (a negotiation that can lead to bitterness and resentment)
3. Concession (one sides gives in - gives up - to the other in surrender)
4. Collaboration (each person works toward the good of the other person)

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. If you were to be a contestant on the TV show, "Survivor," how do you think you would do? What would be your game plan for survival?

What might be the reason the victor of this kind of show usually wins?

2. What has been your usual coping tool for dealing with conflict? Do you consider yourself to have a flight or fight response -- or something in between -- to conflict in your personal relationships?

Have you always been this way? How was conflict handled in the house you grew up in?

3. What were the four ways of dealing with conflict that Pastor Ken mentioned in his message?

Which one did he say is the only method of conflict resolution between the sinner and God? Why is that the case?

4. Take a look at Genesis 25:19-34 and 27:36-38, 41. What kind of personal relationship did Jacob and Esau have with each other? How did they deal with conflict in their younger years?

How did their relationship affect their other relationships?

5. Why does compromise as a solution to relational conflict often lead to resentment or bitterness? Have you found this to be true?

6. What six things does the Apostle Paul tell us in Ephesians 4:30-31 to get rid of within our personal relationships?

What does the word "malice" mean? What do you think are different kinds of malice?

What three things are we to do instead? What relationship do those things have with each other?

7. Henri Nouwen wrote: "In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger, and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds." What do you think he meant by "privileged vocation?" What does "privilege" mean to you?

8. How do you think Jacob and Esau got to the point in their lives where they could move past their shared history, and be reconciled? (Genesis 33:1-15)

Personal Meditation: Is there a relationship in your life that is strained right now and in need of repair? What steps will you take this week to seek a collaborative solution to this area of conflict? Ask God to prepare not just your heart for restoration but the heart of this other person as well. Then share your goal with a person you trust who will pray for you and keep you accountable to make peace.

Memorize Romans 12:18 – "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."