



## Questions:

1. Eric mentioned a few situations where forgiveness is impossible. How might we act when forgiveness isn't an option, but healing is necessary?
2. What stood out for you from Matthew 5:39-47?
3. What happens when we get defensive or seek revenge? What are some ways we can heed Jesus when he calls us not to resist or return evil?
4. What do you see as the distinctions between for-harm-not and for-healing? What meaning do you find in Bruce's story of the yogi and the scorpion?
5. Eric and Bruce suggest that we engage in compassion and kindness as a way of life, as opposed to seeking a specific result. What difference does that make? What are some of the ways we find in our lives to avoid pain and reality?

## EPISODE TITLE: "Kissing Cousins"

Forgiveness, Episode 3

### Featured Guest: Bruce Van Blair

Bruce's interests keep him going in several different directions including the startup of a new house church (now streamed live from our Countryside Chapel), and most recently joining the Countryside community to begin our new ministry "Converging Paths;" a partnership venture with the BTS Center in Bangor, Maine, exploring our vocational callings in our everyday workplaces, and our leadership in faith communities. Bruce has written a wide collection of sermons as well as several books, including *The Believer's Road*, and *In A Nutshell*.

### Pneuma Divina Scripture: Matthew 5:39-47

<sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; <sup>40</sup>and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; <sup>41</sup>and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. <sup>42</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.