SERVING AN "ENEMY"

In 1 Peter 2:11-12, we read, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." Our good deeds, our service, can result in people glorifying Jesus on the day he returns. This passage and the whole book of 1 Peter invites us to live as beloved exiles, serving in ways that demand a gospel explanation, winning over even those who speak evil against us.

How do we win over those who speak evil against us? We serve them. We bless them. We do good to the one who does evil to us. The way of the world says to retaliate against your enemies. The way of Jesus invites us to love our enemies and to serve them.

As we love our enemies, we demonstrate the gospel. As Jesus hung on the cross, blood dripping from his palms and his brow, He looked upon those who were murdering him below and said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." His words were true for the Roman guards. His words are true for us. He loved us when we were his enemies and made us his friends, he made us his beloved. And so, beloved, as Jesus has served us, let's serve others, even those who speak evil against us

1) **Who is someone that is your "enemy"?**
   - *Or, who is someone that you are not at peace with? Or sees the world differently than you? Maybe it's a family member, coworker, or an old friend.*
2) **What is one simple thing that you can do in the next week to serve them?**
   - *For example, buy a coworker a coffee, send an old friend an apology note, serve a tangible need in a strained family relationship. Choose how you will serve prayerfully.*
3) **Serve that person, then reflect on how it went when you meet for Huddles on 5/18 or 5/19.**
   - *If you need help navigating a complex situation or relationship, feel free to reach out to your community leader, a deacon, or an elder.*