



Read: Luke 9:51-56

In a conflict rooted in cultural and religious difference the disciples believe God is on their side.

The hostility between Jews and Samaritans was so 'traditional'. Their shared history of hurt had hardened into uncompromising enmity. Given this legacy, the disciples and villagers behave in totally predictable ways. Each community stands defiant in the conviction that it is 'right and good' while the other is 'wrong and bad'.

In our conflicts we can share with the disciples a 'self-righteousness' that is convinced that God is on our side. With religious sincerity we can even invoke the flames of God's judgment on our enemies. Jesus challenges us to think about the 'spirit' behind this attitude.

Suggestion: Go to a place that symbolises personal or community conflict and prayerfully hold the hurt of that brokenness before God and listen. Reflect on the broken relationships that touch your life. Consider how the hurt you have experienced or the fear of difference has created division for you. What hurt or divisions might you have had a hand in creating?

Pray: What is your prayer in this place of division and conflict?

Reflect: What has challenged you most deeply in this place?

Act: Is there something you can bring to a situation of division and conflict?