

## HARD THINGS

-Ryan Parsons-

Have you ever read the words of Jesus and thought to yourself, "I could NEVER do that!" OR "Is that really necessary?" Why did Jesus teach and command so many hard things? Is this new way of Kingdom life supposed to be this difficult? For instance:

### **Matthew 5:44**

But I say to you, **Love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

### **Matthew 5:11-12**

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 **Rejoice** and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First **be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

### **Matthew 6:19-21**

19 "**Do not lay up** for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Matthew 7:1-3**

1 "**Judge not**, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

### **Matthew 7:12**

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, **do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

### **Matthew 16:24**

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself and take up his cross and follow me**.

### **Matthew 18:15**

"If your brother sins against you, **go and tell him his fault**, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

As you continue to read the teachings of Jesus, be reminded of Paul's attitude.

### **Philippians 4:13**

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

This new way of Kingdom living calls us to do hard things. But make no mistake, Jesus is with us every step of the way, empowering us to live in faithful obedience.