

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passage and the questions above, what “takeaways” do you think God has revealed to you?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

Jesus was calling his people to a higher standard, one that points to the Father and that he himself embodied.

What, then, does it mean to be perfect like God is perfect?

Do you think that perfection is something you can achieve on your own—or even at all? Explain.

What are some healthy, God-honoring ways to respond to legitimate spiritual persecution? What would be the end-goal of these responses?

What does God want us to do? Flowing out of our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s leading, call us to?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Identify the people or groups in your life you would consider to be enemies. What would it mean to pray for spiritual healing in their lives? What actions might you be called upon to increase their receptivity to that type of healing? What should you do if you can’t do this safely?

Make a commitment to pray for your enemies at the same time every day for a week.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step God is calling you, personally, toward?