

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Spring Cleaning Series, Lesson 57

Lesson Title: Wash Away Prejudice

Take Home Point: Wash away prejudice. Accept others who are different.

Warm-Up:

A third grade teacher decided to teach her class a lesson in prejudice. She wanted to show her pupils what it feels like. For two days, she divided her class by eye color, those with blue eyes and those with brown. The brown-eyed children were told they were better than those with blue eyes. The teacher praised them and allowed them privileges such as longer recess and being first in the lunch line. The blue-eyed children were criticized and ridiculed by the teacher. What happened was astonishing. The children designated as inferior took on the look and behavior of genuinely inferior students. In contrast, the "superior" students seemed to like discriminating against the "inferior" group. The lesson stuck. "Nobody likes to be looked down upon. Nobody likes to be hated, teased or discriminated against," said one of the students recently.

Read: Colossians 3:11, Luke 10:35-37

Observation (What happened?):

Why are the differences between people eradicated?

What quality did the Samaritan show to the crime victim in Luke 10:37?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

In Colossians 3:11, where is the "here" to which Paul refers?

What do you think Paul means when he says, "Christ is in all"?

Insight:

Prejudice results from our fallen nature's need to establish self-worth without God. In pride and fear we compare ourselves to others and find reasons to consider others inferior. The reasons don't need to be good or even true. They are simply there to justify our need. As Christians, God calls us to be above that, not because we are better but because in Christ we see that everyone is equal before God. Who are those most discriminated against in our culture? Poor people, unborn children, children in general, the homeless, those stricken with the plague of AIDS, and more besides. (Christians, too, but we are called to suffer for doing good – 1 Peter 2:20.) The way the world tends to try to correct prejudice is to give special treatment to those discriminated against, but this just introduces a new prejudice. It is endless without God's perspective – we are all fallen and all redeemed in Christ. Then we are free to see everyone as God sees them – of infinite worth just because of who they are, created in the image of God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

To what group of people can you show the mercy of God, regardless of the opinion of those around you? How will you do it this week?

Pray for the children in your small group to overcome the world's prideful, fearful prejudices.