



Jesus says

"God's Intercultural Vision"

Life Group Questions: June 7, 2020

This week's topic has the potential to be emotionally challenging. Pray before you begin, that the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with His gracious presence and gentleness.

PRAY

Scripture Starters

- Read the following: Luke 10:25-37; John 4:3-9, 27-30, 39-41; Luke 17:11-19
- What do all of these passages have in common?
- If these were written in our day, what people-groups might Jesus have used to make His teaching hit home with you?

Our Experience with Racism, Discrimination, Prejudice and Partiality

Share with the group an experience you have experienced being on the receiving end of racial discrimination. Let's listen to each other's hearts, not just our words, with the intent to understand, not to respond in defence. [If your group is primarily Caucasian, have you personally witnessed or heard about from a close friend or family member.]. Let your group feel the pain, and drop not try to defend or give counter opinions.

All of us have some biases in our hearts that Christ is continuing to root out & replace with His love. This is some of the deepest work of discipleship.

- With whom do you have some discomfort being around, or with whom you get a strange feeling inside being close to?
- On Sunday, Gerry said that sometimes racism can be subtle, where we tend to express it by ignoring, avoiding and choosing to *not* get to know certain peoples. Does this surface any potential hidden biases or prejudice — a people-group whom you tend to ignore, avoid or not want to get to know?

God's Intercultural Vision

Read Revelation 7:9,10.

This is the fulfilment of the promise to Abraham. It has already begun in the heavenly realm, and will become a full-blown reality in the New Heaven and New Earth. In the meantime, as Jesus' Body (the Church) is to both live and love as He did. The Church is also to reflect the Kingdom of God breaking into this world — His intercultural vision. This is the reality in Eternity, so let's look at how we move towards this now...

The Impact of the Cross

Read Ephesians 2:11-21 13-16

- What do you notice about Jesus & what His death on the cross accomplished in regards to racial division and followers of Jesus?

Read Galatians 3:26-29

- What is the overall message the Holy Spirit is teaching through the Apostle Paul? Is He teaching the *obliteration* of our differences?

Principles Shaping Our Value of All People (foundational pillars)

The truth about all people(s)

- * the image of God in every person. (Gen. 1:26)
- * the shared oneness of humanity (Acts 17:26)
- * the worth and dignity of people vs. animals (Matt.12:12)

The will of Jesus for all IFJC's

- * the call to love neighbour (Matt 22:36-40)
- * the impartiality of God (Acts 10:34,35)
- * the transcendent unity of believers in Christ (Gal. 3:28)
- * The command to show no partiality (James 2:1, 8,9)

PRACTICAL STEPS WE CAN TAKE TOWARDS RACIAL UNITY

1. ***Humbly pray for God to search our hearts...and repent*** (Psalm 139:23,24)

- some of the deepest challenges in discipleship are exposed in this area
- read John 17:20,21 — why do we need to get racial unity right?

2. ***Intentionally listen & learn about racial discrimination*** (Proverbs 18:2,13)

- will you commit to caring-ly ask and listen to one another in this area?
- share any helpful resources you have become aware of to “open our eyes”

3. ***Proactively be “thermostats” of racial unity & justice*** (Isaiah 1:16,17a)

- where and how do you see you can be an influence for change?
- how could Summit collectively do so? (LGL's send responses to Gerry)

4. ***Personally initiate & celebrate intercultural relationships*** (John 15:12)

- what real friendships do you have with people of another race?
- will you commit to pray for and build some new intercultural friendships

PRAY for one another, our Summit Family & expressing Jesus' transforming influence