

“ Race Relations ”

“God is no respecter of persons”

Acts 11:1-18

Introduction to Sermon:

Sing “Jesus Loves the Little Children, All the Children of the World”

Emotional Journey

Try some emotions on for size:

- 1. You find \$100 dollar bill*
- 2. Your son or daughter gets all A’s on report card*
- 3. A shiny Lincoln drives up next to you and you get a peek at the license plate and it says PASTOR*
- 4. You see a car like the one you have been dreaming about buying and it pulls up next to you at a red light, you look over and you see it is has several young black men in it.*

Let’s be honest... We have a problem in America... We have a problem in our hearts... Wont you consider if the Lord wants to change your thoughts, words, and actions towards others who are not like you.

Hosea calls us to do just that: Hosea 10:12

¹²Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Our heart is exposed by Our:

Discrimination, Discernment, Devotion

I. Discrimination – “Contended”

“Hey, You are not discriminating!” (verses 1-3)

It is distorted by our :

A. Pride – “of the circumcision”

We are somehow better than them:

1. Better looking
2. Smarter
3. More cultured
4. Smell better
5. More moral

B. Prejudice – “contended with him”

Assuming we know before we know

1. Gossip and Offense
2. Legalism
3. Foolish to regard the matter
Prov.

C. Presuppositions – “did eat with them”

- 1. God will not ever work with them directly**
- 2. There is never a reason to break mans rules**
- 3. Jesus’ life doesn’t reference my life –
Matt. 9:11**
- 4. Scripture can be “postage stamp”
manipulated or Cherry Picked**

II. Discernment – “I considered” “Hey, God is not discriminating!” (verses 4-14)

It is strengthened by:

A. Context – “by order”

When trying to get at the heart of a matter, including scripture... We need to know in what context things are done and said.

>>> **Anything can be taken out of context and thus misleading.**

B. Coincidence – “And, behold”

God works all things together...meaning He is working things together...meaning somethings will be scary in their timing and thus we should at least sit up and take notice.

C. Confirmation – “the Spirit bade me” Phil. 4:7 – the peace of God

The Spirit convicts but also guides... We must be very sensitive to the Spirits leading ... The sins of commission and Omission are equally as grievous to God.

God gives us a wonderful help in that the Spirit not only Leads but He gives peace in making decisions and confirmation. Phil 4:7

III. Devotion – “Then remembered I ...the Lord”“Hey, Let God be Glorified!” (verses 15-18)

It is about trusting God’s:

A. Choices – “Holy Ghost fell on them”

The Lord has great plans for us and others too. He has things planned that will surprise us ... But we must still let God be God and flex to his choices. “God gives the Best to those who leave the Choice with Him”

B. Charity – “God gave them the like gift”

I John presents God as _____. Yes, God is Light and He is Love. He Loves whom? All! So who should we show His love to ?

Does it really matter , will it make a difference if I learn to Love all men...

VIDEO – The difference God’s Love makes.

C. Church – “Gentiles granted repentance”

God is building the church and we must be careful not to be in opposition. Our Devotion to Christ cries out for us to welcome all into the church who will trust Jesus.

>> Perhaps an assignment is in order...

Is there a group of people that you have difficulty dealing with? Perhaps you would ask God for the courage and grace to contact a person in that group this week and tell them God has convicted you concerning your love for them and you just want to say it out loud, “I will not let prejudice stand in the way of God loving you through me”