

LET'S MAKE THEM HISTORY

STUDY GUIDE

Let's Make Prejudice History
Pastor Harvey Carey

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introduction

The worship chorus says it best: "the ground is equal at the foot of the Cross". Had Jesus not been born, the dividing wall that separated people from God and from each other would not have come down. Prejudice is the physical, emotional and relational distain caused by a wrong judgment based upon race, religion, ideology, education and class. Prejudice is often founded upon fear, misunderstanding and an unwillingness to cross over a divide or difference to offer Christ's love. But when I see my brother or sister in light of the Cross, fear, hatred and discrimination are made history as I realize we are more common than we are different.

The apostle Peter received this vision of the equality of all people three times in the book of Acts. Jesus made it abundantly clear that His followers and His church were to be "missional" (Matthew 28:18-20). The problem was that early Christianity was seen to be an exclusive religion - for Jews only. That was until Peter received a vision which sent him to, of all people, an Italian guy named Cornelius. That posed a real problem: Peter was Jewish, Cornelius Italian. Jews and Italians did not mix. To make matters worse, according to Jewish law, Peter couldn't eat Chef Boyardee. Cornelius sent a group of his people to invite Peter for supper and here's how things went down.

Begin by reading Acts 10:27-36

1. How would you define "prejudice"? Can you give an example?
2. What would you see as the root causes of prejudice?
3. Why do you think, in the Old Testament, God did not permit His people to associate and eat with foreigners? Why did He change His mind regarding the dietary laws for people in the New Covenant? (Acts 10:28) Read verses 34-36 again and Galatians 3:28. What is it that brings us together?
4. Read Revelation 7:9-10. What impacts you about this vision of heaven?

moving forward

Brad Watson has made a private pact with God to do his part in making prejudice history. He has resolved that God can count on him to be the first one to cross a divide, difference, room or world to offer Christ's love in deed and word - because someone did that for him while he was yet a sinner. As a church, we have a good reputation with other religious faiths and in our community - including the homosexual community - not because we condone their beliefs and practice but because we love them unconditionally, in the name of Jesus, with the hope that they will repent and embrace Him.

When was the last time you went to dinner with someone who was really different from you? Watch for an opportunity in the upcoming week to buy a coffee for or share a meal with someone of a different race, religion, or socio-economic class. When God nudges you, do it and just listen to them. We dare you to let God break your heart with the things that break His heart.

changing your mind

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9