

WHAT DO YOU SEE? | 8-21-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

When we take in the world around us, we make judgments about what we see. We develop viewpoints and opinions based on this information. But sometimes our opinions are tainted. For example, when we develop a preconceived opinion not based on reason or actual experience about someone, we become prejudice toward them. This prejudice prevents us from seeing them as they really are. It's like we put on a pair of prejudice glasses and can only see them through this tainted filter. How have you seen prejudice play out in your life and in the world around you?

READ: *Luke 10:30-33*

All three of the men who passed by the injured man saw him. How was the Samaritan's response different than the others? It is likely that the injured man was Jewish. The Samaritans and Jews did not associate with each other. There was major tension between these two people groups for centuries. Knowing this, why is it even more significant that the Samaritan took pity on the Jewish injured man? How did prejudice play a role in the responses the other two men had?

READ: *Jonah 3:10 - 4:4*

At first read, Jonah's response is very confusing. Why would he be upset that God spared the Ninevites? Nineveh was a wicked city that rejected God. Jonah was a prophet who served God closely. How did Jonah's response show his prejudice toward the Ninevites? God's question to Jonah in verse 4 was meant for Jonah to check his motives. God is asking us the same question today, "Is it right for us to look at others with anger, prejudice, and racism?" How have you had prejudice toward others?

READ: *Galatians 3:26-28*

How does it help our perspective to see all others (both lost and found) as children of God? Instead of seeing our differences, how can we see each other as one in Christ Jesus? How can we use this message of remedy and unity to heal the racial tension we see in the world today?

CHALLENGE

Go out of your way to talk to someone you normally wouldn't talk to. Lean into the tension and discomfort to truly see them, love them, and serve them.

PRAYER

Father, you have no favorites. You love all your children with all your heart. Show me the ways I have lived with prejudice toward others. I repent for seeing them that way. Help me to see them the way you do.

Written by Dalton Campus Pastor, John Grandy