

4. What step will you take today to surrender at least one area of prejudice in you?

In the space below, write down at least one way you will replace that prejudice with the love of Christ.

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” (Philippians 2:1-5)

### One Year Bible Reading

January 14 Genesis 30:1-31:16 Matthew 10:1-23 Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 3:13-15  
January 15: Genesis 31:17-32:12, Matthew 10:24-11:6, Ps. 13:1-6, Prov. 3:16-18  
January 16: Genesis 32:13-34:31, Matthew 11:7-30, Psalm 14:1-7, Prov. 3:19-20  
January 17: Genesis 35:1-36:43, Matthew 12:1-21, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-26  
January 18: Genesis 37:1-38:30, Matthew 12:22-45, Psalm 16:1-11, Prov. 3:27-32  
January 19: Genesis 39:1-41:16, Matthew 12:46-13:23, Ps. 17:1-15, Prov. 3:33-35  
January 20: Genesis 41:17-42:17, Matthew 13:24-46, Psalm 18:1-15, Prov. 4:1-6

# Let's Talk Prejudice

**Text: Matthew 10:1-20**

## Plain Truth:

Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ about your prejudice, but be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is only \_\_\_\_\_ against you and me being in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus is prejudicial towards emotional and spiritual bondage – (demonic possession).
3. MOST PEOPLE NEVER GROW BEYOND THEIR SPIRITUAL \_\_\_\_\_ (comes with superiority and self-focus).

# Life Group Lesson

Week of January 14

Prejudice is pre-judgment of others. Without realizing it, we see someone and immediately a signal is sent to our brain assessing the value of that person (or group of people) as though we have a right to rank them in a certain class. It's as though we have an inner grid built in our brain that causes us to evaluate an individual based upon their accent, color of skin, socio-economic status, education, or even body size. In the beginning God created *all* of humankind in His own image, with great worth and value. When we look down upon another person because of the color of their skin, for example, we are actually looking down at the living God who has breathed into all humanity His very life. And it is not good to look down at God.

When Jesus saw the vast crowd, He was filled with compassion. He knew they were “confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36) and the Lord healed *all* who came to Him (Matthew 9:35b). People from all walks of life were drawn to Jesus when He publicly ministered, taught, and healed—rich, poor, status, no-status, religious, irreligious. Really the only obstacle that kept anyone away, regardless of who they were, was pride. When Jesus sent out His disciples, initially He instructed them to go to the ‘lost sheep of the house of Israel’ (Matthew 10:6 NKJV). This was so the Gospel would be preached to the Jews first. But at the right time, God’s covenant promise was to bless *all* people through Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

Read Matthew 10:1-20

Everybody has prejudice—preconceived notions or unverified assumptions. For example, in Ghana when we go on medical mission, some may look at people in the villages and ask why are they living in such poor conditions. On the other hand, some of the Ghanaians may look at Americans and think all Americans are rich. Pre-judgment comes from making quick and false assumptions without knowing the facts.

1. Arrogance, on either side, is at the root of prejudice. In what ways do you find yourself pre-judging others?

In what ways are we bound in our own prejudice?

It has been said that all the ground is level at the foot of the cross. We lay down our arrogance, pride, and prejudices in the presence of the Savior. The apostle Paul said, “There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you” (Galatians 3:28-29). Christ gives us a new inner grid. Jesus’ love imparted into our hearts changes everything. In Christ, we are no longer locked into the old—we are released from the bondage of sin and the chains of racial prejudice.

2. How have you seen Christ break the barrier of prejudice in your own inner grid?

What areas do you still need to surrender over to the Savior?

Martin Luther King, Jr. knew undeniably that God’s call was upon him. But in order to courageously live into that call—especially in times of suffering—living off the faith of his parents would not be enough. King said in his own words, that there came a time when he had to surrender his fear to God. King acknowledged his utter dependence on the Lord and chose to trust God, no matter what. As a result, he experienced a deep and personal peace that sustained him through the trials that lay ahead.

3. Re-read Matthew 10:16-20. Living into God’s call is not always easy. In fact, many times it involves suffering and persecution. Outline Jesus’ words here—in times of trials, what is to be our attitude? What encouragement do you find in His words here?

The Lord promises to give us the right words at the right time. How does this compel you to know His Word and live into the light of His presence?

Jesus said, “And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Are you standing in a place of humility and integrity? Are you speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves? Are you willing to lay aside false assumptions regarding people who may be different or hold to a different opinion politically, economically, spiritually?