

March 12, 2017 Sermon Discussion Guide

Rev. Steve DeNeff

“An Other Spirit”

Gathering

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Grant us the courage to confront our own prejudice and the wisdom to take the steps needed to overcome it.”

Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶ *Seek the Lord while you can find him.*

Call on him now while he is near.

⁷ *Let the wicked change their ways*

and banish the very thought of doing wrong.

Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them.

Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

⁸ *“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.*

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

⁹ *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,*

so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Prayer

- For those who have lost loved ones, security, and peace after bombings. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For unity in diversity. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For each person at CWC to walk the way with Jesus and be formed by the journey. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Summary of the Sermon

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

Scripture

Take the time to read aloud the scripture that was preached. Luke 9:51-56

⁵¹ *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.*

Major Sermon Discussion Points

- Prejudice is judging someone based on a preconceived opinion before having reason or actual experience. Tell of a time you have seen prejudice or maybe experienced prejudice.
- Talk about this statement, “If a person is prejudice, they probably don’t know, but others will.” Have you experienced this to be true?
- If someone is prejudice, they may not want to be. It may be a result of the input they have received from others. How does this idea impact the way we deal with prejudice?
- React to this statement – “If you’re going to follow Jesus to the cross, you’ll have to go with people who may make you uncomfortable.”

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- Do you have any “Samaritans?” Can you identify the people you have labeled, fear, or devalue?
- Are you more concerned with being “right” than you are concerned about people?
- Do you know “what Spirit you are of?” Is your spirit right? Does God need to do a work in your heart to rid you of any prejudice?
- Who are 3 people you might get to know better to begin to deal with your prejudice? What is a first step you could take to get to know these 3 people better?

Closing Prayer

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or pray the following prayer individually or together:

(from Psalm 139:1-6; 23-24)

¹ *You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.*

² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.*

⁵ *You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*

⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

²³ *Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

²⁴ *See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Amen.