

THE THIRD OPTION LIFE GROUP SERIES (LESSON 1)

HEALING OUR BLINDSPOTS

Introduction: This is the beginning of a series aimed at empowering us to heal the hurts and breakdown walls caused by discrimination, racism, and cultural bias. We learn in Ephesians 2:14 that Jesus came to remove walls of hostility between people groups so that we can come together to be a kingdom family that can change the world.

We are calling the series, “The Third Option” based on the Miles McPherson book. We know that to get to any new place than the one we have been stuck in for a long time, we have to discover new options. As mentioned in this sermon, this means going beyond the option of hostility and even tolerance or political correctness to true honor-loving our neighbor as ourself. We want to find out how to live this option of truly being passionate about helping others feel and experience the value and worth God has put on their lives.

In today’s lesson we are looking at the story of “the Good Samaritan” from Luke 10:25-37. We will see how Jesus exposed the blind spot of hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans and replaced it with a radical alternative.

Questions for Discussions

1. Introduce yourself and share something that someone did for you that has left in you a memory of feeling very honored.
2. What is something or an area of your life that you have felt discriminated against? How did that affect you? Examples could be race, gender, age, socio-economic background, nationality, physical appearance, some kind of physical challenge (speech impediment...), religious background affiliation, other.
3. In the story of the Good Samaritan we see Jesus skillfully exposing a blind spot of hate and discrimination that existed among the Jews, especially among the Pharisee’s. They saw themselves as the chosen and learned to see, think, and treat others as the “unchosen.”

What are some observations of how we must be careful not to let the attitudes of the Pharisee’s get in us? Examples:

- a. Making secondary issues more important than the primary issues of mercy, justice, and love
- b. Finding ways to rationalize why we won’t associate with people of certain other groups
- c. Being complacent about the injustice others face because we can defend ourselves as being tolerant or “not prejudice.”

- d. Figuring out ways to defend or cover up our blind spots
4. What challenges you most about the actions of the Good Samaritan?
 5. What can you admit to when it comes to how you face and handle your “blind spots?”
 - a. I’m defensive.
 - b. I change the subject.
 - c. I counter argue and attack people who try to bring them up.
 - d. I struggle because to admit them would expose flaws in “my people,” how people in my family or circle view things.
 - e. I don’t know how to admit blind spots without feeling shame and believing I’m a bad person.
 6. Which blind spot(s) mentioned in the message can you relate to?
 - a. Holding unintentional bias and thinking in terms of stereotypes when it comes to certain people
 - b. Having resentments towards a people group because of how someone similar to the people group hurt or offended you
 - c. Believing a narrative of fear that makes you feel threatened or automatically in danger when they are around
 - d. Being ignorant and uninformed because you’ve never really tried to understand or get to know someone like that
 - e. Being quick to make excuses and justify more “tolerance” view
 - f. Wearing the hurt and label of others discrimination that makes it feel too hard even to risk trying to make things different
 7. What do you think Jesus would say to you if you asked Him about what He thought about your “blind spots?”
 8. What step could you take this week to move towards becoming more like the Good Samaritan?