

Awaken | The Third Race Kingdom

INTRODUCTION:

We all inherit a world-view, values, prejudices and baggage. The gospel of Jesus challenges almost all of it. Genesis tells us that we are all image bearers of God, and Revelation tells us that Jesus died to purchase for Himself a people made up of every tribe, tongue and nation. In Acts 10-11, Luke continues building his argument that those who are in Jesus are one people, one Kingdom. God shows no partiality, and the only true and long-lasting answer to hatred, prejudice and racism is the good news that Jesus has ransomed a diverse people. His Bride--the church--should be a beautiful reflection of His coming Kingdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. We are all a product of the environment we grow up in to a certain extent. Where did you grow up? During your formative years what people and events helped to shape your worldview?
2. Review Acts 10-11. The Hebrew people were no exception when it came to being shaped by a certain worldview. Why would Peter, initially, and the circumcised believers be shocked that God's Spirit were accepting of Gentiles? To help better understand the significance of circumcision for the Hebrew people read Genesis 17.
3. What led to the change in Peter's heart toward Gentiles in Acts 10-11?
4. In question one you were asked about what helped shape your worldview. Based on the gospel of Jesus has your worldview changed at all? How does your worldview impact your life now in light of the gospel of Jesus?
5. What type of covenant does God have with His people now? Who are God's people?
6. What is your life reflecting to the world right now?

TAKE A STEP

The words of Jesus would often turn worldviews upside down, especially for a Jewish people that thought they had it all figured out. Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, was another person who was confounded by the words of Jesus. Nicodemus has a personal encounter with Jesus that is recorded in John 3:1-21. What lesson do you think Jesus was teaching Nicodemus? In light of the lessons from Acts & John what lesson is Jesus teaching us today? We may have prejudice toward other people for a variety of different reasons. Is there prejudice in your heart toward anyone right now? Sometimes we may not even realize we have prejudice toward someone or a group of people. Have you ever spent time with another person from a different culture, race or background? Ask God to reveal His will for your life concerning others that may not be like you or didn't grow up in the same culture as you. What step is He wanting you to take to express His love for those not like you?

REMEMBER & MEDITATE

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.: John 3:16 (NIV)