

Weekly Prayer Strategy

30 April – 6 May 2018

This week's prayer strategy is based on the sermon by Paul Nyamuda entitled: The Roots of Prejudice.

Prayer Point 1

Acts 6:1

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

- **Pray that as a Church we would not adopt any racial or discriminatory tendencies that would hinder revival.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you lies from the enemy you may have believed that have resulted in prejudice against other people. Repent as the Holy Spirit reveals the lies to you.**

Prayer Point 2

Luke 18:15-17

Now people were even bringing their babies to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them. And when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17Truly I tell you, if anyone does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child, he will never enter it."...

Matthew 8:5-13

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." 7 Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" 8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that

many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

- Pray that we would be a Church that takes after Jesus, modelling the correct behaviour as opposed to conducting a war of words with those around us.

Prayer Point 3

- Examine yourself with regards to these key words.
- Pray for a pure heart and Godly attitude toward others.
- Ask the Lord to reveal His heart to you concerning these areas and to grant you wisdom on how to deal with them in your community.
- **Attitude:** A mental position regarding a particular fact or topic.
- **Bias:** A personal judgment, often unreasoned and prejudiced outlook.
- **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment based on arbitrary standards or criteria.
- **Emotion:** A strong mental reaction to something, often causing sudden behavioural changes.
- **Prejudice:** An adverse opinion, often accompanied by irrational suspicion or hatred, formed towards a particular ethnicity, religion, or group.
- **Socialisation:** The process by which a culture is learned, usually through the influences a youth experiences while growing up.

Prayer Point 4

Pray through the following roots of racism, stereotyping and prejudice:

- Repent of any **evolutionary and biological myths** you may have held that have perpetuated prejudice against others.
- Examine your heart to see if there is any **collectivist pride** (I am better than you/pecking order attitude). Repent of any perceptual distortion of others this may have caused in you.
- Pray and break any **fear** (i.e. essentially fear of strangers) that may have created any prejudice against those around you.
- Repent for where you may have allowed mental or social **laziness** to form stereotypes that cause prejudice.

- Repent for where **stress** may have caused you to view things simplistically and create prejudice toward others.
- Examine your life to see if there has been any **transference** (redirection of feelings and desires onto an object, particularly those unconsciously retained from childhood) that has resulted in a racial attitude in you.
- Pray that we may not be a nation that focuses on **economic factors** to justify prejudice.
- Repent on behalf of our nation for using **immigrants** as scapegoats when unemployment rises, crime increases, or the quality of education declines.
- Repent for where you may have **justified your own hatred** of other people due societal or historical influences.
- Pray that we may be a nation free from any **propaganda** (this was there in liberation struggles but still there today e.g. ballet is for girls, soccer is for black people etc the consequences are not good) that perpetuates prejudice.
- Pray against any form of **rationalisation** (making something seem reasonable even when it is not to most people) that has caused discrimination against others.
- Repent for where you may have embraced prejudice passed on **generationally by observation** and thereby formed untrue ideas of other people groups.
- Pray for wisdom to know what to discard from the **media** that causes stereotyping of others.
- Pray that you would become so secure in who you are in Christ that you will not necessarily seek **relational ease** (socialising along the lines of least resistance).
- Repent of any **exaggeration of real localised differences** (for example, we sometimes think people are so different and strange because of the food they eat in their culture) that have led to prejudice.
- Pray and break any **psychological factors** (psychological factors related to prejudice may include fear of the unknown, of something different, or the use of others to blame for one's own misfortunes) that may have influenced you to be prejudiced against others.