**Dreaming of a Life Without Racism**

**Date: June 14, 2020**

**Introduction: Kenneth Ulmer’s Sermon** *(See link below)*

**Source:** https://www.faithfulcentral.com/media/may-31-2020-pentecost-sunday-you-dont-look-your-picture

**Racism Defined:**

**Oxford**

* “Belief in the superiority of a particular race".
* This can be manifested in systemic ways throughout a culture or relationship.

**An Example of Philosophical Racism**

* The *Oxford English Dictionary*'s first recorded utterance of the word *racism* was by a man named Richard Henry Pratt in 1902. Pratt was railing against the evils of racial segregation.
* Segregating any class or race of people apart from the rest of the people kills the progress of the segregated people or makes their growth very slow. Association of races and classes is necessary to destroy racism and classism.
* Although Pratt might have been the first person to inveigh against *racism* and its deleterious effects by *name*, he is much better remembered for a very different coinage: *Kill the Indian...save the man.*

**Source:** https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/01/05/260006815/the-ugly-fascinating-history-of-the-word-racism

**Big Point:** Racism robs the world of your God given gifts and denies others access to what God gave you.

1. **Dreaming of a Better Life Without All The Pieces**

**Acts 10:1–9 (NKJV)**

**1**.**The Lifestyle of Cornelius** **Described**

* 1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 a devout man and one who **feared God** with all his household, who **gave alms generously** to the people, and **prayed to God always**. 3 About the ninth hour (***3:00pm***) of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

1. He **feared** God
2. He **gave** alms
3. He **prayed** to God
4. He has a spiritual **encounter** (This encounter will change his life)

**2. The Spiritual Encounter of Cornelius**

* 4 And when he observed him, **he was afraid,** and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and **your alms have come up for a memorial before God.** 5 Now ﻿**send men to Jopp**a, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. 6 He is lodging with ﻿Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. ﻿He ﻿will tell you what you must do.” 7 And when the angel who spoke to him had departed,
* Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. 8 So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

1. He was **afraid** (a true encounter silences you) v4
2. He was **impressive** (his prayers are up as a memorial) v4
3. He lacked **exposure** (“send men to Joppa and ask for Peter) v5
4. He lacked **information** (“He will tell you what to do) v6
5. He was an early **adapter** (He immediately responded) v7-8
6. **Dreaming Selfishly and Refusing to Share the Pieces**

**Acts 10:9-23 (NKJV)**

**Note:** God wanted Cornelius to meet Peter to lift his life to a new level

**1. Peter Has a Spiritual Encounter That Confuses Him**

* 9 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour (***12 noon***). 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”14 But Peter said, “**Not so, Lord!** ﻿**For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.**”15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, ﻿“What God has ﻿cleansed you must not call common.” 16 **This was done three times.** And the object was taken up into heaven again.

**2. Peter Is Asked To Cross an Ethnic Line (Acts 10:19-23)**

* 19 While Peter thought about the vision, ﻿the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you. **20**﻿**Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”**21 Then Peter went down to the men ﻿who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?”22 And they said, “Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and ﻿has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.” 23 Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, ﻿and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

**3. Peter Discerns God Was Telling Him to Cross the Ethnic Line (Acts 10:28-29)**

* 28 Then he said to them, “**You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation**. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

**Note:** Peter went because the Lord said to him, “**Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”**

**Closing:**

1. **The Consequences of Peter Sharing His Pieces With a Gentile**

**Acts 11:1–3 (NKJV)**

* 1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, 3 saying, “You went into uncircumcised men and ate with them!”

**A.** Peter had to **explain** to other Jewish Christians why he reached out to the Gentiles in A.D. 37.

**B.** Peter was **rebuked** 20 years later over this same issue by Paul in A.D. 57. (Galatians 2:11-16, NKJV)

**Closing Question: How do we fix the problem of racism once and for all?**

* 1. **A Spiritual Encounter (John 16:8)**
     + **8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment
  2. **A Voice Like Paul to Remind You**
  3. **Personal Repentance (**In the Greek, metanoia is a compound word that means to have an after-thought, to think again, or come to a new conviction.)

**Next Time**: The Dreams and Challenges of Being a Dad