



**What
Would
Jesus
Say?**

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 January 22, 2023

“...About Diversity and Inclusion”

*Proverbs 31:8; I Corinthians 14:33-35; I Timothy 2:11-12;
Galatians 3:26-28; Luke 10:25-29*



I. The Ethics of a New Generation

- A. Generation _____ is the most racially and ethnic diverse generation in the history of our country.
- B. Both millennials and Generation Z have a passion for social _____.
- C. The central _____ of scripture has to do with how we treat our neighbor.

II. Injustice in America

- A. From 1788 until 1920 (132 years) women were not allowed to _____.
- B. In the 200+ passages that mention slavery in the Bible, not one of them mentioned that it was _____.
- C. For Generation Z and millennials, the civil rights _____ of their day are their friends who are gay and lesbian.

III. Moving Forward

- A. Asbury is going to be a church that _____ and welcomes everybody.
- B. _____ was constantly associating with people who were marginalized by society.
- C. The _____ saw the man on the side of the road and he asked the right question: “If I don’t stop and help him, what is going to happen to him?”

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 23-28, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

Our country has a history of injustice against women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. However, younger generations of millennials and Gen Z have a passion for social justice and they are the most diverse generations in the history of our country. The result is a new focus on diversity and inclusion. So, what would Jesus say about diversity and inclusion?

Monday: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-23

What key message(s) do you find in the poetic archetypal lines of Genesis 1:27: “*God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them?*” What essential qualities do you believe make up “God’s own image”? In what vital ways can human beings share in those qualities? What does this tell you about your worth and that of all other people?

Tuesday: Luke 10:38-42, Galatians 3:26-29

Jesus teaching Mary may seem normal to us. In his day, it was most unusual. It was not an isolated incident, either (cf. Luke 8:1-3, Matthew 27:55-56, and women as the first resurrection witnesses, as in Luke 24:10-11). How does Jesus’ model speak to attitudes and actions that still undervalue (and often underpay) women in homes, workplaces or other settings?

Wednesday: Matthew 15:22-29

Written words can’t show tone of voice or facial expression. If verses 24 and 26 were Jesus’ true view of this desperate Canaanite mother, what he did in verse 28 didn’t make sense. Might we understand the story better if we imagine Jesus with an ironic tone in his voice, and a bit of a twinkle in his eye? Clearly, in the end, Jesus honored the mother’s plea. How did his behavior rebuke and seek to change the outlook the disciples’ expressed in verse 23?

Thursday: John 4:4, 9-10, 39-40; Ephesians 3:10-15

In Luke 9:51-56, Samaritan villagers rudely refused to welcome Jesus. James and John reacted the way we often feel. “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?” they asked. But Jesus said no. Have you ever been in a position to either fan the flames of hatred higher, or to lower the temperature and move toward peace? Which course did you choose?

Friday: Matthew 19:9-12, Acts 8:26-39

Ethiopians were Gentiles and people of color. Yet that man, despite all those barriers to acceptance, was reading from Isaiah 53 and seeking to understand the message. The Bible is literally at our fingertips today, printed as well as on our computers and smartphones. How can you, like the Ethiopian, plan to read and understand the Bible more clearly?

MOVING FORWARD

The central ethic in scripture has to do with how we treat our neighbor. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to do unto others as they do unto you (the golden rule). But Jesus didn’t just talk about loving others, he modeled this principle for us. In the Gospels, you find Jesus constantly associating with people who were marginalized by society. Like Jesus, we need to have a willingness to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are underrepresented or who are marginalized.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Z, B) justice, C) ethic. IIA) vote, B) wrong, C) issue.
IIIA) loves, B) Jesus, C) Samaritan.*