

Foundation for a New Community

Lessons from Luke on
Racism, Classism and Sexism

Racism, Classism, Sexism

“the belief that people from certain social or economic classes are superior to others”

dictionary.com

Classism

The Struggle for True Unity

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, **he wept over it** and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes because you did not **recognize the time of God’s coming to you.**”

Luke 19:41–44.

Then Jesus asked, “**What is the kingdom of God like?** What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.” Again he asked, “**What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?** It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Luke 13:18–21

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, **turn to them the other cheek also.**

Matthew 5:38–39.

Jesus changed the whole world by forging a unity in the hearts of His people through Deep Faith in God and Sincere Love for One Another.

The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through by injustice.

Proverbs 13:23.

1. Look Inside

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Luke 18:9–12.

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, **went home justified before God**. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:13–14.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. **Now what do you say?**”

John 8:2–5.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

John 8:6–8.

2. It Takes Time

While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. **But God has shown me** that I should not call anyone impure or unclean

Acts 10:27–28.

Then Peter began to speak: “**I now realize** how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Acts 10:34–35.

‘A man who views the world the same at 50 as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life.’ Ali

3. Overcome Evil with Good

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.

Romans 12:17–21.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **If you bite and devour each other**, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:13–15.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **Those who belong to Christ** Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:16–26.