



## Bigoted People

June 22-23, 2019

Four prayers...

**“God, You need to give me love, understanding, and forgiveness (because I don’t have it on my own).”**

*“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” - Jesus, Matthew 5:43-44*

*“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.” Matthew 5:38-41*

**“God, help me understand their background, life, and experiences.”**

*“You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.” Acts 10:28*

**“God, help me to see everyone through Your eyes.”**

*“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. He himself gives life and breath to everything. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. Acts 17:24-26*

*God did this so that men would seek him and reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:27*

*For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19*

*So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. 2 Corinthians 5:16*

**“God, help me see that this is not my home.”**

*Now that we are in Christ, we are nothing but foreigners and nomads here on earth. We are looking forward to a country we can call our own. Hebrews 11:13-14*

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14*

### Talk it Over!

Where do you think racism and bigotry come from? Why are people prejudiced or discriminatory?

Have someone talk about their background with bigotry. Has anyone grown up with it? Dished it out. Had to endure it?

It’s a long section to read, but it’s worth it. Read Acts 10:1-11:3. Talk about what you see regarding historical bigotry, prejudices, what Peter must have been feeling, etc.

What life lessons can be learned from this.

Read Acts 17:17-34. What do you see regarding God’s “big picture.”

If anyone needs or wants to share about revering from bigotry, or needs healing from it, take time to listen and pray together for them.