



ST. BRENDAN'S MINISTRY OF

Human Life + Dignity

Pursuing divine loving and healing changes of heart
for ourselves and our neighbors.

WHAT WOULD JESUS THINK AND DO ABOUT... PREJUDICE & RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

WEEK ONE: TOPIC: PREJUDICE & RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

SATAN'S STANCE ON PREJUDICE & RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: Satan revels when God's children literally hate one another because of their color, their nation of origin, how they "look," speak with accents, the religion they practice, the clothes they wear and anything else that makes them different from the haters. This is prejudice, and it comes in the form of ostracism, poking fun, threatening language, and violent actions against one or more of God's children.

JESUS' TRUTH ON PREJUDICE & RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: The New Testament is filled with Jesus' examples of loving and helping people who supposedly were different from him. From His parable of the Good Samaritan¹ to the story of giving a cup of water to the least of these brothers and sisters²; from the Samaritan woman at the well³ to the healing of the possessed Gerasene⁴ in Gentile lands – Jesus was always caring deeply for others. In Jesus' time, people were taught by their religious leaders that they must do or not do hundreds of things to keep them ritually clean. To stay clean, the Jesus' contemporaries were told not to associate with Samaritans because of their violations of the Mosaic Law, and different methods of worship than the Jews.⁵ Men (and particularly rabbis such as Jesus) were also not to converse with women in the days of Jesus. Also, in that time, seriously ill Jews were deemed to be that way because of their sins, and they were banned from the Temple. Jesus objected to all these rules by touching, talking, praying, and healing one after another, Jew or Gentile, man, or woman, clean or filthy, healthy or poor ones filled with leprosy sores. These actions repelled Satan and his demons time and again, even as Jesus cast their spirits into pigs and drowned them in the sea.

REFERENCES RELATING TO PREJUDICE & RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE:

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| 1. Luke 10:33-34 | 5. 2 Kings 17:29-41, Ezra 9:1-10:44, Neh. 13:23-28; |
| 2. Mat. 25:35-26, 40 | 6. Bereshit Rabban 18:1, CF. Taanit 236 |
| 3. John 4:4-26 | |
| 4. Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-37 | |

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