


the  Venues
Go Deep
The Parables of Dr. Seuss
The Sneetches
8.11.19

What prejudice and/or discrimination have you experienced or seen (Racial, gender, religious, age, etc.)?

The Sneetches is about two types of creatures, separated by having or not having stars on their bellies. The Star-belly Sneetches look down upon Sneetches without stars. Through a series of getting stars put on and taken off, the Sneetches end up realizing that it doesn't matter whether a Sneetch has a star belly or not - they are all the same.

Why do you think many pastors are hesitant to preach about racism?

Read Luke 12:54-56.

What is Jesus telling us to do?

What does it mean to discern?

How does this verse guide how we read the news, see events?

During the Jim Crow era 60% of whites said that blacks were being treated fairly (National Opinion Research Center).

How do you explain such a high percentage of people not seeing and/or acknowledging racism?

Before Dr. Seuss wrote The Sneetches (1961) he had drawn some very racist cartoons. He later regretted them and reformed.

How have you changed your views of discrimination over the years? Or have you remained how you were?

Read Matthew 15:24-28.

What troubles you about this story?

How would you describe Jesus' response to the woman?

What do you think is going on here?

- Jesus is testing the woman.*
- Jesus is exposing the racism of his culture.*
- Jesus is giving the disciples a real-life look at how they really are.*
- Jesus is revealing his own cultural racism.*

I don't know the right answer. If the last one is the right one, and Jesus changed, what does that say about you and me?