

POWERLINE #5

d: when the storms of life toss you about, what have you got to hold onto? hi, i'm dave clark

s: and i'm shereen holier. grab onto the powerline. during the next half hour, we're going to peel back the truth about prejudice. why do you think the way you do?

d: are your attitudes and opinions based on fact or fiction. we'll talk to one local lad who learned the hard way.

s: some great music helps tell the story. stay and join us.

s: shirley, the gossip queen, thats lisa bevill. you're on the powerline with shereen and dave. sounds like shirley has turned gossip into an artform.

d: well judging by the demand for tabloid newspapers, many of us have developed quite an appetite for gossip. usually the news is pretty sauncy and tends to assume the worst in people.

s: i'm embarrassed to attest to the truth of that statement. i see though, that some gossip which by definition is usually untrue, takes on a light of it's own and damanges some peoples' reputation.

d: half truths and untruths can affect how we think about people and on a larger scale the group they're apart of. often that's how prejudice is born.

s: prejudice tell us to keep certain people at arm's length. it occurs when we choose to limit our view of them and make judgements about them, usually negative.

d: you know, a common form of prejudice that's found in the world today, and right in our own backyard sounds like this:

boy 1: all i know that you must do is mix with your own kind, own color, own religion, not mix everything up.

s: this viewer sees that life is better without coming into contact with people that are not like us. it seems a false superiority.

d: shereen, if everybody held to that view then our world would be a very dull place indeed. finding friendship with people who are not like us is the very spice of life.

s: often, we're quick to see in people what we were told to expect instead of what is real. that's the root of racism.

d: buz hood, a johannesburg songwriter, and founder of the group UC 27, once practiced another form of prejudice. he shares his story in a song called "johnny."

bh: "johnny" came about when i went to school in Zimbabwe and i think it isn't that much different than here. in my class there was a guy, he wasn't like weaker than anyone else, he was just slightly different in a sense that he didn't get involved in your macho sports like soccer or rugby. he didn't do anything like that and not even slowly but quickly he got put into a little bracket of like "nudge, nudge. wink, wink" we can't include him. so, he got segregated from us and put into a corner in the classroom where he was basically left to his own devices and nobody every associated with him because of the peer pressure. if you're associating with him, you're associating with a "nerd," as they would call him. and unfortunately, i got caught up in it until one day after i realized hey, he's a person, i don't even know this guy. i decided to befriend the guy and it wasn't a big, heavy thing to do. i just started chatting to the guy. and from chatting to him, i realized that this guy was probably one of the nicest guys i had ever met. if i had never taken that first step, i would never have known this and eventually we became very good friends. and the whole time, i just wished i had, right in the beginning instead of leaving it for a year or two, had gotten to know this guy.

bh: if i could say one thing, it's that if you know anyone like that, if there's a guy or a girl in a classroom now, i would be the first one to say "go and chat." if they are rejected by the mainstream, chances are they are actually very good people because they stick to their guns and are not gonna change for anyone. they're not gonna put on the false clothing, just to become part of the fold or become surface level to be like everybody else. i think that the lessons we learn are that we don't even judge a book by it's cover. we get told that's what the cover looks like, and so we leave it alone and we reject it. often times the things we hate and everything are because we actually haven't got to understand.

d: you're listening to powerline. that's "lean on me" by dctalk.

s: before that, the band "under construction." songwriter, buz hood, sharing his own struggle when it came to overcoming prejudice.

d: we're your hosts dave and shereen, working on a troublesome prejudice theme. they say the tongue is a fire and you know that's true, watchout for careless words babe, i'm talking to you.

d: powerline

s: oh, the temptation to gossip. i think it strikes most of us from time to time. without realizing it our careless words can actually fuel the fires of prejudice.

d: maybe part of the problem of prejudice is that we're often not even aware that we're practicing it. author moshe

rosham shares some light here:

s: prejudice is thinking we understand something about people that we don't know.

d: prejudice is the conviction we're better than others.

s: prejudice is justifying unkind behavior and suspicion towards others who don't deserve such treatment.

d: prejudice says "me and mine first."

s: prejudice says "you don't deserve as much as I do."

d: prejudice is almost always the result of ignorance.

s: so prejudice begins with a faulty way we allow ourselves to see others. it continues with a biased way we sort people in categories of "us" and "them."

d: the best way to avoid the "blindness" of prejudice is to view people as God does. begin by washing out the splinters of pride and self-righteousness from your own eyes. then put on those love-tinted glasses that help you see the best in people rather than the worst.

s: it's the right thing to do.

d: "love sees what eyes cannot see." love hears what words cannot say." great song by Pam Thum and it's called "love sees."

d: Al Denson, "say it with love."

s: that's the powerline for this week. we've been talking about prejudice. if you would like a free transcript and music list of today's show,

d: hit us up on the web. our address is thepowerline.net. there you can also obtain free confidential information on any topic that's bothering you. contact the "wise guys" at our website or send us an email to wiseguys@thepowerline.net. for Shereen Holier, I'm Dave Clark, hope to see you again next week.

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