

## **Race and Racism in the U.S.**

### Session 5: The Problem of Understanding Systemic Racism for White Evangelicals

This is the fifth in a series of six video episodes that address issues of race and racism that society faces currently, but that have been part of our history as a nation since its founding. In this episode I discuss the ongoing struggle of today's white evangelicals to accept certain structural, systemic and historical realities of our country while fully embracing others that are just as present. I also note the personal and relational way that this leads evangelicals to address racism and the shortcomings of such, using an example from a listener's agitated response to my podcast.

Scripture: John 4

### Questions for Discussion

1. What is the difference between sin at a systemic and structural level versus an individual level? What sins can you name that are part of the culture and society in which we live?
2. How does Jesus respond to those on the margins and who were oppressed and what does this teach us? What socially constructed boundaries did Jesus overcome in his visit with the woman at the well?
3. Why do evangelicals have difficulty accepting responsibility for structural or systemic sins today?
4. Where in the Scripture do we experience God being concerned about societal level sins and what does he expect of his people in these examples?
5. How did you find yourself responding to the businessman who was agitated with Conrad's approach to racism?
6. What questions do you have from this episode?
7. What does this description of systemic sin mean for your witness in your community? How is our response related to God's mission to the world and the mission that we are called to carry out in our communities?