

BROKEN BLUEPRINT SERMON SERIES
Lesson #10: The Morning Star & Oakwood
Sermon Bible Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers

When Jesus gave the gospel commission to His disciples He told them to give it to ALL people regardless of their race, residence, or economic status.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not exclusive to one race or people but it is inclusive to all people.

Even in a world of hate and racism, Jesus NEVER gave excuses why ALL people where not given access to the kingdom of God. He is the creator of all people who come from a variety of backgrounds and differences. **God created a variety and differences throughout His creation as a matter of beauty and diversity.** When He made the flowers, trees, and plants they are made of a variety of colors and diversity.

Can you image a world if there where only one type of plants, trees and flowers with no variety of color and structure? What about one type of fruit or veggies like having only grapefruit or beans? God gave us variety of things in His creation to reveal the beauty of His love for us and His divine character.

The same is true when it comes to the diversity and variety of the people that God created. What is also amazing is that every living person on this planet is unique. There is not one person on this earth of seven billion people who are exactly the same, even if they are twins. **In other words you are special and loved by your creator, God.**

Colossians 3:11

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

Jesus is the Christ for ALL people. His Light of truth is for ALL people.

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

When you examine the ministry of Jesus Christ, he hated all racism and bigotry. At the time of Christ many Jews believed that they were better than everybody else. They believed they where supreme compared to their non-Jewish neighbors. They specifically hated the Samaritans because its lineage was a Jewish and heathen mixture. They taught their children to hate ALL Samaritans to look down to them as being inferior to them. All the disciples grew up despising and hating the Samaritans.

How did Jesus teach and show His disciples that hatred and bigotry was not acceptable in the kingdom of God?

Samaritan

Remember, the story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in **Luke 4:1 – 42**. Jesus gives an example that His gospel was for all people. He ministered to her without hate and bigotry. He gave the Samaritan the water of life. Jesus changed her life forever more. She went to tell the people of Samaria of all that she learned from Jesus. They came and learned for themselves of the love and truth of Jesus. Powerful testimony!

The Good Samaritan

Remember, in the parable that Jesus taught in response to the question "who is my neighbor (**Luke 10:29 - 37**)?" When a Jew was robbed and left for dead, the Jewish leaders just walked on by without helping. But when a Samaritan came by, instead of seeing the Jewish man as a people that he should hate, he helped him out of love and compassion.

The Canaanite Woman

A woman from Canaan met Jesus on the road in which He was walking and asked Him to heal her daughter from being tormented by demonic spirits. The disciples told Jesus that he should send her away.

What was Jesus' response?

Matthew 15:22-28

- 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.
- 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.
- 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.
- 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.
- 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.
- 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Powerful lesson of love and faith. Jesus did not cast her away because she was not of the same nationality. He tested her faith and recognized her great faith.

We must always remember Jesus' example. He was not prejudice. He was not a hater, bigot, or a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34

- 34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Jesus did not profile a person as not deserving to be called to repentance and become heirs to the everlasting covenant and everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

The purpose of Israel was to be a light to all people including the non-Jewish better known as the Gentiles.

Isaiah 49:6

6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

What unites us as a family of God in the kingdom of God is not our race, background, ethnicity, skin color, or eye color. What unites us together in God's kingdom is Jesus Christ and His Word of TRUTH. The main thing that we hate is sin and worldliness.

Slave Ships – No Mayflowers

One of the worst stains on United States history was their involvement in the African slave trade. Millions of Africans were stolen from their native land at gun point and literally stuffed on hot slave ships for a two to three month journey along the way. They did not come on Mayflower type ship as immigrants to American. The slave ships were the worst condition ships that a human being was forced to journey in. The slaves were treated worse than animals -whipped, beaten, or shot along the way. Many died from diseases. There were no bathrooms. They had to live in their own and others bodily waste for months. There were dead decaying bodies.

Once the ships reached America, families were forever ripped apart and sold on the auction blocks. Many of the slave owners were mean and cruel. They were heartless and full of greed.

“Between 1500 and 1866, Europeans transported to the Americas nearly 12.5 million enslaved Africans, about 1.8 million of whom died on the Middle Passage, their bodies thrown into the Atlantic.” - Brendan Wolfe, “Slave Ships and The Middle Passage,” Encyclopedia Virginia (https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/slave_ships_and_the_middle_passage)

Civil War and Official End of Slavery

After one of bloodiest wars in America, the Civil War, in which killed over 620,000 soldiers from the Union in the North and Confederate in the South. After the Union (North) won the war, slavery officially ended on December 1865 with the passage of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Even though slavery ended racism, bigotry, and hatred against the former slaves continued especially in the South. Much of the infrastructure and wealth in the US was built on slave labor. Hatred persisted for years after. The system of hate was designed to keep the former slaves uneducated and ignorant of the truth.

God not only freed the slaves from years of oppression, but he wanted to give them the Advent Message. The General Conference at that time did not invest nor pay attention to the southern work at that time. But God revealed to Ellen White the importance of reaching the south and former slaves with the everlasting gospel and the blueprint education of medical evangelism.

The Morning Star Riverboat

The son of James and Ellen White, Edson, answered the call by to minister to the former slaves, their children and grand children in the south to educate them in the everlasting gospel and practical work. In 1893 he bought and renovated a riverboat that was called the “Morning Star.”

Revelation 22:16

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and **morning star**.

Edson's riverboat was truly the bright and morning star" that reflected the hope and glory of Jesus Christ to the former slaves and their children and grandchildren in the south that was still oppressed with racism and hate.

This was a very creative, unique, bold, and successful evangelism work in the south. The boat was used as a floating school of evangelism and church up and down the Mississippi River. Not only did many former slaves and their children accept the Adventist message, but they also where taught the blueprint of practical and the medical missionary work on the "Morning Star."

Children where taught how to read. The youth and adults heard the message of truth and were taught practical skills.

"This boat had a library, a chapel, a photography lab, a print shop, and accommodation for staff." - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edson_White

The Morning Star started and established over 50 schools in the south. This work of evangelism was a great catalyst of the everlasting gospel and the Advent message to the African Americans in the south.

Oakwood – Huntsville, AL

The Morning Star was a great inspiration of the founding and establishment of Oakwood Industrial School in 1896 in Huntsville, AL. **The Morning Star recruited Oakwood's first students.** (Oakwood University Youtube Channel – History of Oakwood [2011])

It was a school established in the south to train young children and grandchildren of former slaves the blueprint of evangelism and the medical missionary work. In 1895 the General Conference of SDA originally purchased a former plantation of 380 acres with 65 oak trees, four buildings, an Old Mansion and nine slave shacks for \$6,700. Later they would expand to over to over 1,000 acres. At the beginning, Oakwood followed the blueprint of medical missionary training starting with 16 students and growing from there as time progressed. They where the black "Madison School" of the south.

They established a hospital in which students where taught and implemented natural remedies and spiritual inspiration for their patients.

They also taught their students with practical skills of training with their hands for business development to support ministry.

Blacksmithing, wagon making, printing shop, carpet weaving, dress making, shoe repair, laundry, saw mill, made roof shingles, sanitarium (hospital), cannery factory, an orphanage a farm and orchard (plums and peaches).

In addition to this they trained students in ministry, pastoral work, and literature evangelism.

Ellen White writes in an article in the Review and Herald, September 21, 1905 referring to Oakwood:

“The students of the Huntsville school are to be given a training in many lines of service. All are to be taught the importance of practical Christianity. And they are to learn how to present the truth for this time to their own people. Not only are they to learn to do public work, but they should learn also the special value of house-to-house work in soul-saving.”

Morning Star riverboat was later dismantled due to fire. They sent the star, bell, and the boiler from the Morning Star to the Oakwood campus. The boiler was used at Oakwood's saw mill. The star was placed on the one of the school houses known as the “Morning Star” school house. The bell and the star from the Morning Star riverboat is in the Oakwood Museum in the library for display.

Today Oakwood is known as Oakwood University. 99% of all their industries are gone. Over the years it has lost its vision of blueprint training and evangelism in the true medical missionary work.

What was one of the main decisions by SDA church and school leaders in the past that have caused many to lose the vision of blueprint training, evangelism and the true medical missionary work? To be continued.

Remember

God wants His everlasting gospel to go to every nation, race, and people.

Acts 13:47

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Revelation 14:6

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

Appeal – God's institutions of present truth and the blueprint of the medical missionary work will be reestablish by God in the last days. Do you want to be a part of the work?

BCME update at Pathway to Peace Ministries