

YOUR LIFE MATTERS

Study Guide

Season 17 - Episode 10 - Page 1



Dear Friend,

You and I live in chaotic times. People have become so divided over politics, race and religion. It seems that a lot of the progress toward equality and unity that society made over a few decades has started to unravel. That's why I'm so thankful that my dad taught such a beautiful lesson with the way that he lived his life. That's why I decided to call this lesson "All Lives Matters." That was my dad's motto. And that's exactly what the Bible teaches. Let's take a look.

Jimmy Sites

REFLECT

1. Have you ever experienced a great duck hunt like Jimmy and his friends enjoyed? When was it and where were you?
2. How would you describe the Intimidator UTV designed by Robert Foster that was showcased in this episode?
3. Did you notice the excitement level of the retriever? Name one lesson that you can learn from Joel Strickland's dog *Indie*?
4. This was the last hunt that Jimmy ever got to experience with his father Carroll Sites. What part of the episode touched you the most?
5. This episode reveals a time in American history that we should not be proud of. Were you alive during the era of the Jim Crow laws? If not, you might take some time to research these laws and how they impacted society.

LOOK at the BOOK

1. Jesus grew up in a region and during a time when there was extreme prejudice on several fronts. Consider these situations:

The Romans

The Seleucid empire (312 BC to 63 BC) ruled over the Jewish people during the time between the Old and New Testament. They imposed Hellenism (Greek culture and religion) on the Jews in Jerusalem and the surrounding region. A man named Judah Maccabee, the son of a Jewish priest, led a revolt against the Seleucid army in 166 BC and used gorilla warfare tactics. He had some success over six or seven years, but the Roman army began to intervene and eventually took over the territory. Rome had become the biggest empire in the known world, and they were conquering nations as far away as Egypt. They were also imposing severe taxes on all of the conquered nations, so that they could feed their own people back at home and build great roads for their army. Their main travel corridor connecting Asia to Africa ran right along the northern and western shores of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias), down past Jerusalem, and on through the Sinai region to Egypt. By the time Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Romans were in full control, and they allowed the Jews to have a puppet king (Herod), but they called the shots. The Romans created a new province and called it *Iudaea*, which was formed by combining Judea proper with Samaria (north of Jerusalem and south of the Sea of Galilee) and Idumea. The Romans would build an arch (like the Arch of Titus that still stands today in Rome near the great coliseum) and they would force the citizens of the region to march underneath the arch, thus binding them under the “yoke of Rome.” The Jewish people hated this so badly that they called this the “yoke of oppression.” They hated the Romans with a severe hatred, and prayed for a Messiah to come and deliver them from the hands of the Romans. They lived with extreme prejudice toward the Romans.

The Samaritans

In 721 B.C. the Assyrians invaded the land of Canaan where the Israelites lived (the Promised Land) and captured the 10 tribes making up the northern kingdom of Israel.

They carried away many of the Israelites, but some stayed behind and eventually intermarried with the Assyrians, thus producing a new race called the Samaritans. They were half-Jew and half-Gentile. These people lived as a group in a region called Samaria, in between Jerusalem and the Galilee. Over time they developed their own copy of the Torah (first five books of the Bible), known as the *Samaritan Pentateuch*. They also developed their own unique system of worship, including building their own temple where they sacrificed animals. A severe rift grew between Jews and Samaritans, and they had nothing to do with one another. That's why it is such a unique story to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman at a public well in John 4 and asking for a drink of water from her. An old Jewish tradition reveals that some Jewish rabbis would pray that the Samaritan, upon his death, would be buried so deeply that he will not be able to get out of the ground on the Day of Judgment. There has probably never been a deeper prejudice than what the Jews and Samaritans felt for one another.

2. Let's see if we can find an example of how Jesus dealt with the Romans in the middle of these extreme prejudices.
 - a. The Romans had a law known as the "one mile" law. In other words, if any Roman official needed help with something, he could stop any Jewish person from their own work or hobby and force them to carry their bags one mile. The Jews hated this law so badly that they would literally step off 5,260 feet and drive a peg on the side of the road with their name on it. They did not want to go ONE STEP past that law mile. Again, they hated the Romans for this. With this in mind, listen to what Jesus says during his famous Sermon on the Mount, "*If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two*" (Matthew 5:41).
 - How do you think the Jewish people who were listening to Jesus' sermon that day felt when they heard him say these words?
 - What was Jesus trying to teach here?
3. Jesus used a Samaritan to be the hero of the story when he told about a Jewish man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. At the end of the story Jesus asked the teacher of the Law that he was addressing, "*Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?*" (Luke 10:36). Look closely at the teacher's answer to Jesus in *Luke 10:37*.

a. Write what he said:

b. Now write what he did NOT say:

- What point do you think Jesus was trying to teach?

Jesus' main point is . . .

DIG DEEPER

1. The Bible contains a lot of verses that specifically address the issue of prejudice. Sometimes it's a good thing to just allow the Bible to pour into us, like a refreshing drink of cold water on a hot day while we are working outside. Take a moment to read each of the following verses and let them soak into your heart.

Galatians 3:28

Romans 10:12

John 13:34

Mark 12:31

Proverbs 24:23

Leviticus 19:33-34

Revelation 7:9

Genesis 1:26-27

Revelation 14:6

Acts 10:34-36

Romans 2:11

James 2:1-9

FROM the HEART

1. Now it's time to get real. Be honest with yourself and take a deep look into your heart. Do you see any prejudice and hatred there for people of a different race, religion, political party or some other persuasion than you? Circle your answer below:

(strong prejudice) 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10 (no prejudice at all)

2. In particular, what is your greatest struggle with prejudice?

My greatest struggle with prejudice is . . .

3. Think back to how Carroll Sites overcame prejudice and changed how he thought about black people. List some of the action steps that he took to portray his obedience to Christ in loving all people:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. What are the action steps that you plan to take to grow in love for all people, no matter of their race, religion or political persuasion? Write your game plan below:

My Action Steps Plan to Grow in Love for ALL People:

Signed & Dated