

Introduction: Operation "Insulation"

- We are all born into a cultural _____.
- Apart from interaction outside "our group," we grow up assuming "our view" accurately defines reality.
- Generations of socialization and _____ **create barriers** at best and **hatred at worst** with those who are different from ourselves.
- **Internal** inaccurate assessment (pride) and **external** inaccurate assessment (prejudice) result in the fulfillment of Satan's agenda – to kill, steal, and destroy.

Pride – "a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in behavior."

(Webster's)

Prejudice – (1) : "preconceived judgment or opinion (2) : an adverse opinion or learning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge."

:"an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race, or their supposed characteristics."

(Webster's)

The Problem: Prejudice creates walls between individuals and groups so the Gospel cannot move from one group to another.

The Context – Historically and culturally

The Story – The _____ smashes hundreds of years of prejudice and hatred through an enlisted soldier and fisherman.

How did it happen?

- Cornelius' vision Acts 10:1-8
- Peter's vision Acts 10:9-16
- Messengers arrive in Joppa Acts 10:17-23a
- Peter's reception by Cornelius Acts 10:23b-33
- Peter's sermon Acts 10:34-43
- Gentiles "grafted" into the Church Acts 10:44-48

How to break the power of prejudice:

1. God is working in places and among people we **assume** He doesn't. Acts 10:1-8

Practice = _____ God is speaking to everyone, everywhere and wants to use you.

2. Prayer is a **prerequisite** to seeing others differently than our cultural bias. Acts 10:9-16

Practice = _____ God to let you see others the way He does.

3. Walls of prejudice often come down a few **bricks** at a time. Acts 10:17-23

Practice = Take a _____ step this week to connect with someone much different than yourself.

4. Obedience to God often **alienates** us from "our group" and is the **price tag** to take the good news across cultures. Acts 10:23b-33

Practice = Choose to _____ God, not men.

5. The "good news" of the Gospel is for **all** people, of **all** backgrounds, in **all** places. Acts 10:34-43

Practice = _____ the difference Jesus has made in your life with someone this week.

6. God refuses to allow Himself or His **ways** to be put in a box. Acts 10:44-48

Practice = _____ to assume that God will work in others the same way He's worked in your life.

Application Questions for Personal and Small Group Use:

1. Why do we all have some measure of prejudice toward others – even if we don't realize it?
2. How have you seen or experienced prejudice affect people negatively?
3. Which of the six principles/practices covered in this message spoke to you today? Why?
4. Who or what group (kind of people) do you find yourself pre-judging?
5. This week, how could you “let the walls fall down?” (i.e. pray for them, get around and understand them, share a meal, ask questions, ask for forgiveness)
6. How will our inter-generational, inter-racial, and inter-socio-economic unity and love impact our geographical area according to Jesus? John 13:34-35