



WEEK 6 - HATRED

OVERVIEW

Our world is burdened by the broken place of hatred. We see discrimination, racism, genocide, dehumanization, and segregation along so many different lines (gender, age, race, nationality, ability, etc.). Most of the time when we try to fix these problems, however, we don't acknowledge the fact that these are *outcomes* of a much longer path of hatred which starts anytime we see ourselves as better than the "other" we are encountering. To heal the broken place of hatred, we must walk an entirely different path: the path of self-giving love.

In Philippians 2:1-11, Paul pleads with the church in Philippi to "love one another" and "work together with one mind and purpose." To do this, he suggests we must have "the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." And how did Jesus live? He walked the path of self-giving love. Even though he had all power in the universe, he "gave up his divine privileges," lowered himself in humility, and lifted broken humanity up through his self-sacrificial love on the cross. As Christ's church, we can show the world an alternative to the hatred we see around us. When we encounter "others," we must follow our savior down the humble path he chose to walk.

*Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.
Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.
You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*
Philippians 2:3-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the broken place of *hatred*?
2. Read John 18:4-12.
 - a. Milton asked us to consider - what do you think Peter must have been thinking in this moment?
 - b. As in Peter's case, how do you love when hatred is the only thing that makes sense?
3. What is the real enemy? (see 1 John 3:15 NLT and 1 John 2:9-11 MSG)
4. Read Philippians 2:5-9. How did Jesus think? What was the attitude of Christ?
5. Explain how having empathy can help with the broken place of hatred. (Hebrews 4:15)
6. How can holding on to hate hurt us? (like the illustration of the hand holding thorns)
7. Milton said, "love can afford to lose." What do you think that means? (see John 10:18)
8. Give an example of a situation where you might show someone an alternative to *hatred*. How could you have an attitude like Jesus?