

The Problem of Prejudice

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Introduction:

There are many types of prejudice in the world today. Here are a few examples:

1. Prejudice against those who are richer than we are.
2. Against those who are poorer than we are.
3. Against those who seem to be happier than we are.
4. Against those of a different nationality or skin color than we are.
5. Against those in authority over us.
6. Against those under our authority.
7. Against people of other beliefs.
8. Against people from other cultures.

No doubt there are other types of prejudice as well.

This study will deal specifically with racism, or prejudice against those of a different nationality or skin color. This type of prejudice seems to be a big problem in America right now. However, it is nothing new and has been a problem for mankind for thousands of years. How did this problem arise, and what is the root of it even now? Here are a few things that enter in –

1. Wrong teaching, tradition, and thinking
2. A wrong understanding of the origin of man, and/or of nationalities and skin color
3. Selfishness
4. Pride.

A lack of teaching of God's word and a wrong understanding of why God created us, leads to the problem of prejudice. Selfishness and pride provide it much fuel.

Why did God create man?

Why do people have different skin colors?

The answer to these questions can be found in the Bible in Revelation 4:11, *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”* **All things** are created **for God’s pleasure**.

God created many things. He made trees with different types of leaves and different varieties of fruit. He made plants with different colors of flowers. And He made people with different personalities and different colors of skin. God made **all** these things **for His pleasure**.

All people on earth today can trace their ancestry back to one couple – Adam and Eve. Acts 17:26 explains that God *“hath made of **one blood all nations** of men for to dwell **on all the face of the earth**...”* It is important to realize that all people everywhere on the face of the whole earth are of one blood. There are not really different races. We are all of one race – Adam’s race. However, there are many different nationalities on the earth. Acts 17:26 goes on to tell that God *“hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their [people’s] habitation.”*

When did this prejudice we call “racism” get its start?

It would be hard to say exactly when it started, but I believe the roots of it go back to the time of the building of the tower of Babel. Let us take a look.

After the great flood of Noah’s day, *“God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth... And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.”* (Genesis 9:1 & 7) God told man to multiply in the earth and replenish it, or fill it up again with a new supply.

However, as the years passed, people did not disperse to other areas. They did not want to be separated. The problem is that this was contrary to God’s

command. God said to fill the earth. The Bible tells the story in Genesis chapter eleven.

¹And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. ³And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. ⁴And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, [Why?] lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

The sin of these people did not begin with building the tower of Babel. It began with rejecting God and pleasing self. The first thing they did was to find a place that they liked and settle there. *"They said one to another,"* (planned together), **"Go to, let us."** They decided what **they** wanted to do for **themselves**. They would build a city and a tower.

There were at least two reasons these people wanted a city and a tower.

1. To make a name for themselves
2. To make sure that they would not be scattered abroad all over the earth.

There were at least two things wrong with what these people decided to do.

1. They should have desired to make God's name great, not their own
2. God told them to fill up the earth, not stay in one place.

Listen to why God said these people were able to do this:

*⁶And the LORD said, Behold, **the people is one**, and **they have all one language**; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."*

Notice how God answers the words of these people. They had bragged, **"Go to, let us"** build a city, build a tower, make a name, and so forth. God responds, **"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."** No one can lift their name up above God's name, not even if the people of the whole earth conspire together to do so. This is true because *"those that walk in pride, [God] is able to abase."* (See Daniel 4:37)

What happened after God confounded the language of everyone who lived on the earth. Genesis 11:8,9 continues the story, “⁸So **the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.**

⁹*Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because **the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.***”

Here we see the sins and the results.

Man (mankind) had lifted himself up in pride. He refused to submit himself to God. Therefore, God humbled man.

Man thought he could make his own way to heaven, but they did not even get to finish building a city.

Man sought to make a name for himself. God showed man that there is no name above His own.

Man attempted to carry out his own plan rather than fulfill the plan of God. However, God is sovereign. It was His will that man fill up the earth. This cannot happen if everyone stays in one place. Therefore, God scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. He also made them speak different languages so that they would not come again to one place as one people.

It would be hard to know exactly when prejudice against people of other ethnic backgrounds got its start, but I believe it started when people were scattered to different areas on the earth. At that time, they began to speak different languages. One group did not understand the other group. Some groups began to think that they were superior to others. This would result in tension between people groups and prejudice of one people against another.

Prejudice Based on Skin Color

One of the most common types of prejudice is that of fair skinned people being prejudiced against darker skinned people. This kind of prejudice is nothing new. Consider this example from Scripture – Solomon's lover. In Song of Solomon 1:5,6, Solomon's lover describes herself. She tells how she was despised and made to serve her own family because of the color of her skin.

"⁵I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. ⁶Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept."

I have heard some say that this verse does not really mean she was black. It only means she had darkened skin from being out in the sun. Is that what these verses says? Do they say, "Look not upon me because I have gotten a dark tan?" No, it says, *"I am black but comely... Look not upon me because I am black."*

The verses do indicate that her skin had become darker by reason of exposure to the sun. However, they also say, "I am black" twice before they talk about how she was despised by her family and made to work for them as a slave. It is evident that part of the reason she was rejected was the color of her skin. There were other reasons she was rejected as well. Verse six says, *"My mother's children were angry with me."* The verse does not come right out and say so, but it does indicate that she had a different father and perhaps was the product of an illegitimate relationship.

All these things did not seem to matter to Solomon. He loved her for who she was. She was rejected as a slave, perhaps had a different father than the rest of her mother's children, and was dark-skinned. But Solomon, who was fair (v.15), rich, and a king (and a shepherd), loved her anyway. He had no problem marrying her.

God also apparently had no problem with Solomon, a fair skinned person, marrying this lover, a dark skinned slave. God used their relationship to picture the love between His Son and the church. We were all despised and being sold on the slave market of sin. Our heart was darkened by exposure to sin, and we were the children of another father, the devil or Satan. But none of this mattered to God. He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross and shed His blood to buy us from the slave market of sin and set us free and to draw us to Himself. He is our Lover forever. We were precious to Him just as this slave girl was precious to Solomon.

God Uses People of All Different Nationalities

It is sometimes thought that God's plan for forgiveness of sins and knowing Him was only open to the children of Israel in the Old Testament. Although the law and ordinances were specifically given to Israel, God's love and mercy were available to all. God loved and used people of different nationalities all throughout history, including in Old Testament times.

Here are a few examples:

1. Moses' wife, an Ethiopian

Not much is said about Moses' wife, but being his wife must have been quite a challenge. Can you imagine going through all those hardships in the wilderness. One wonders what she thought when he had to calm the people often or when they threatened to stone him. What about the days in which he spent many hours judging matters the people brought to him? Even after Moses appointed able men to judge the easier cases, "the hard causes" were still brought to Moses. (See Exodus 18:13-27)

Although the Bible doesn't say much about Moses' wife, she is mentioned in Numbers chapter twelve. Miriam and Aaron (Moses' sister and brother) spoke against Moses because of his wife. Listen to what God's word says in Numbers 12:1,

"And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses"

[Why?]

"because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman."

Thus we see that the criticism against Moses was not for any wrongdoing in his ministry but rather because of his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. Miriam and Aaron felt this marriage made Moses unfit for ministry. They said, *"Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it."* (verse 2)

What was the Lord's response? Verse ten explains, *"And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous."*

Whew! What a scene to ponder. Moses' sister and brother criticized Moses and questioned his fitness for ministry because he had married a woman of another ethnicity, an Ethiopian. Their criticism so angered the Lord, who had chosen Moses to minister, that He did two things.

1. He took away His glory form above the tabernacle
2. He struck Miriam with leprosy.

Aaraon was horrified and no doubt very afraid. Miriam had to be shut out of the camp seven days until God healed her leprosy. This was a warning, not only to them, but also to all the camp of Israel.

God did not have any problem with Moses marrying an Ethiopian and harshly judged those who questioned Moses' fitness to minister based on Moses' marriage to her. This Ethiopian woman was married to one of God's choice servants.

Interracial marriages are not a problem with God. People of different ethnicities can marry and serve the Lord together if they love each other and love the Lord with all their hearts.

2. Rahab of Jericho -- Joshua chapter 2

Rahab was a harlot who lived in Jericho at the time that Joshua led the children of Israel over the river Jordan to go in and possess the promised land. Rahab was different from the other people of Jericho. She feared God and aided the Israelites. Here are some things that she did.

1. Rahab allowed the spies to lodge in her house (Joshua 2:1)
2. Rahab risked her own life and displayed much courage by not betraying the spies (see verses 2 – 7)
3. Rahab acknowledged the power of God and the fact that God had given the land of Jericho into the hand of the Israelites.

4. Rahab expressed fear of God and freely declared who God is. Rahab believed in God.

5. Rahab pleaded for mercy and was promised that she would receive it.

(See verses 8 – 14)

6. Rahab helped the men escape and told them where to hide until it was safe to leave. In return, she was promised mercy and protection for herself and for all her father's house.

Rahab was not an Israelite, one of God's chosen people. However, salvation was not just for Israel. Israel had God's ordinances and laws. They had God's word. They were to be a sign and an example to other nations. People from other nations and ethnicities could trust in God and receive mercy and forgiveness from Him. Rahab was one of those people that did so.

What did God do for Rahab?

1. God saved Rahab alive and also her father's household (Joshua 6:25)
2. God preserved Rahab and protected her belongings (all that she had, verse 25)
3. God allowed Rahab to dwell in Israel (verse 25)
4. God allowed Rahab to marry an Israelite named Salmon (See Matthew 1:5)
5. God even placed Rahab in the line (genealogy) of Christ (see Matthew 1:5)

God chose Israel out of all nations. He gave them His word and set them apart. However, when it comes to trusting in God, receiving His mercy and blessing, and enjoying Him and the everlasting life He provides, every nation and every people is included. *"God is no respecter of persons: But in **every nation** he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."* (Acts 10:34b,35) If they are all accepted with God, they should all be accepted with us too.

3. Ruth the Moabitess

Many years ago, in a time when judges ruled the land of Israel, there was a very bad famine. A man named Elimelech, from the city of Bethlehem Judah, was afraid of the famine. He took his wife Naomi and his sons Mahlon and Chilion to the country of Moab. Perhaps he meant only to stay until the famine was over,

but the Bible says he “continued there.” Mahlon and Chilion grew up there and married women from Moab.

In the process of time, Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion all died, leaving Naomi and Orpah and Ruth as widows. One of the Moabite women, Ruth, learned to love her mother-in-law and to trust in the God of Israel. Naomi eventually returned to Bethlehem, and Ruth went with her.

Ruth demonstrated her faith and trust in God. She lived such a godly life that the whole city knew that she was a virtuous woman. She cared lovingly for her mother-in-law, conducted herself wisely, and kept herself pure.

What was so amazing about Ruth’s story? Ruth was from Moab. The Moabites had been cursed by God. Why? Deuteronomy 23:3,4 explain, “A... *Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever: ⁴Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.*”

God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel, but rather God cursed Balaam and Moab instead. Because of Moab’s wicked deeds against Israel, no Moabite was allowed to be part of the congregation of Israel forever. However, this did not mean that God would withhold mercy, salvation, forgiveness, and blessing from a Moabite that sought Him. Ruth is a great example of this.

As Ruth worked for Boaz in his field and cared for her mother-in-law, Boaz said to her, “*The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.*” (Ruth 2:12)

God did recompense Ruth and gave her a full reward for her trust in Him and for her pure testimony.

1. Although Ruth could not enter into the congregation of Israel, God allowed Ruth to live in Israel.
2. God allowed Ruth to marry an Israelite – the very Boaz in whose field she had been gleaning. (Ruth 4:13)

3. When Boaz took Ruth to be his wife, Boaz and Ruth received a blessing from all the people of Bethlehem that were in the gate, and the elders. They said to Boaz, *“¹¹And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem: ¹²And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.”* (Ruth 4:11,12) What a blessing!
4. God allowed Ruth to be in the line (genealogy) of Christ. (See Matthew 1:5)

4. Ebedmelech the Ethiopian

Ebedmelech was an Ethiopian eunuch during the days of Jeremiah the prophet. Ebedmelech demonstrated great faith. Here is the story of what he did and how God blessed him.

In Jeremiah 38, we find the prophet cast into the dungeon of the prison. He was in a pit, a pit which had no water. However, the pit did have mire, and Jeremiah was sinking in the mire.

Jeremiah 38:7-13 says, *“⁷Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin; ⁸Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying, ⁹My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city. ¹⁰Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. ¹¹So Ebedmelech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts* and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah. ¹²And Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. ¹³So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.”*

*cast clouts – rags

The story continues in chapter 39:15-18, *“¹⁵Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ¹⁶Go and speak to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee. ¹⁷But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. ¹⁸For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.”*

Here we see what Ebedmelech did

1. He put his trust in God (Jeremiah 39:18)
2. He valued the life of the man of God more than his own life.
3. He courageously went before the king to plead for Jeremiah’s life
4. He was a wise steward. Although he had access to the things under the king’s treasury, he did not use things wastefully. Since he would only need the items once, he chose old rags and used the old rags and cords to pull Jeremiah out of the mire.
5. In all the above mentioned things, Ebedmelech showed himself faithful – faithful to God, faithful to God’s man, faithful to the king, and faithful to the task set before him.

Here we see what God did for Ebedmelech

1. God delivered Ebedmelech even though God brought judgment on Jerusalem
2. God did not allow him to be given into the hands of those he feared
3. God delivered him from the sword and kept him alive

Why?

“Because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.”

That is, he had put his trust in the LORD God.

5. Simon of Cyrene and Simeon which was called Niger

Simon of Cyrene is mentioned in three of the gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Simon was the one compelled by the Romans to carry Jesus' cross.

Cyrene was a country in North Africa. Many people believe that Simon was black because he was from Cyrene. However, Cyrene was part of the Roman Empire at that time and was home to many Jewish people as well.

What we do know was that the Gospel made its way into the regions of Cyrene. Acts 13:1 says, *"¹Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul."*

Here we see mentioned Lucius of Cyrene. Lucius was Jewish as he was Paul's kinsman, according to Romans 16:21. Simeon was called Niger. The word Niger means "black." In the Bible, Simon and Simeon are variations of the same name. That is one reason that many believe that Simeon mentioned in Acts 13:1 was the same Simon who carried Jesus' cross. We cannot know that for sure, but it is a possibility.

One thing we do know is that God made no distinction in the leaders of the church based on skin color. Simeon served right along with Barnabas and Paul and other leaders of the church at Antioch. He ministered to the Lord with them and fasted and was part of those who laid hands on Barnabas and Saul (Paul) when they commissioned them to do God's work. God loves those of every color and counts them equal in His sight.

6. Ethiopian Eunuch

The story of the Ethiopian eunuch takes place at the time the church at Jerusalem was experiencing persecution. During this time of persecution, Philip went down to Samaria and preached the gospel there. God blessed that ministry, *"⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ⁶And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing*

and seeing the miracles which he did...¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women...¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost...²⁵ And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.” (from Acts 8)

God blessed this ministry He had given Philip and multitudes came to Christ. But God cares not only for the multitudes, but also for the individual. Right in the midst of the rejoicing over all that God had done in Samaria, God called Philip out to do another work.

Acts 8:26-40 tells the story, *“²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw*

him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea."

Let us take a look at the story of the Ethiopian eunuch. First, we see that he served Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. The Ethiopians seem to have had quite an impact on Biblical history. Here are a few facts about them.

- An Ethiopian woman was married to Moses, the man whom God chose to lead His people out of Israel.
- It appears from the book of II Chronicles that Ethiopia had quite a large and formidable army and lots of allies.
- The Queen of Sheba was also possibly from Ethiopia. Yemen also claims her, and there are even some claims that she is buried in Nigeria. This causes me to wonder if these three countries were all part of the area over which she reigned. She was apparently a powerful queen with much wealth. I Kings 10:2,3 says that *"she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. ³And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not."* Here we see that the Queen of Sheba had much wealth and a very great train. It seems she had many servants as well. However, she was humble enough to seek after wisdom and to listen to the one who could give her wise counsel. She blessed Solomon's God and acknowledged that God delighted in Solomon and loved Israel forever. (I See I Kings 2:9)
- The Bible also tells of Ebedmelech the Ethiopian who trusted in God and served God and His servant. Ebedmelech's story can be found in Jeremiah chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine.
- Finally, the Bible tells about the Ethiopian eunuch who was under Candace queen of the Ethiopians. The Bible describes this man as having "great authority" and having charge of all the queen's treasure.

In spite of the Ethiopian eunuch's powerful position, he realized that he was missing something. Consider these facts about him.

1. He went to Jerusalem to worship
2. He studied the Scriptures

3. He desired Philip to teach him what the Scriptures meant
4. He listened to Philip and believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God
5. He was baptized
6. God filled his heart with joy, and he went on his way rejoicing.

Conclusion:

In this study we have seen examples of several people from different nationalities that God used to do His work. When it comes to salvation and worship and serving God, God is no respecter of persons and accepts, loves, and uses those of every nationality and skin color. God desires that we should all work together to serve Him and love Him because *“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.”* (Ephesians 2:14)

The Bible tells us more about the attitude we should have toward our fellow human beings.

In Malachi 2:10 and Acts 17:26, we saw that God is the Creator of all. The Bible also teaches that *“God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”* (Acts 10:35) Also, Revelation 4:11 reminds us that we were all created for God’s pleasure. He made us to be different nationalities and skin colors because this variety pleases Him and is beautiful to Him. The different colors of skin are beautiful and lovely to God like the colors of the flowers. We were all made for His pleasure and to bring glory to Him.

Hebrews 13:1 encourages us to *“Let brotherly love continue.”* Romans 15:7 says, *“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”*

So, let us pray that God will help us to receive one another and to rejoice that we are all one in Christ. This does not mean we ignore the fact that we are different. The differences are what make the beauty. Think of a bouquet of flowers. Suppose all the flowers in the bouquet were the same type, color, and shape and all had the same fragrance. The bouquet would still be pretty, but it would be much more pleasing if it had a variety of flowers of different colors, shapes and scents. In a similar way, we all blend together into God’s family like a lovely

bouquet, each bringing our own unique beauty and each filling the air with our own sweet savors to God.

God, thank You that You made us all just for you and blended us together in one for Your pleasure and to show forth beauty and loveliness for Your sake. In Jesus' name, Amen!

For interesting reading on Simon of Cyrene and the Queen of Sheba, you might like to check out these sources.

Simon of Cyrene – interesting article

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Simon-of-Cyrene.html>

Queen of Sheba

<https://gotquestions.org/Queen-of-Sheba.html>