

Overcoming Prejudice

John 16:1-11

Intro – definition and danger of prejudice (Exodus 20:16 / Leviticus 19:15, 16)

- I. Jesus confronts the religious prejudice of his disciples (1-5)
 - Two dominant prejudices - Luke 19:11f & John 12:32-34 (1 Peter 1:11)
 - Confronted with the truth – 2, 5 (note - 12, 13!)

- II. Jesus comforts his disciples with more truth – (6-8)
 - Truth getting through their prejudice – 6 / Psalm 30:5
 - A shocking truth confirmed by an oath – 7
 - Seeking a conviction: a closing argument (8) - Matthew 18:15 & Titus 1:9
 - Prior to conversion & often resisted – Acts 6:9-14 & 9:22, 23 / Luke 21:15
 - Yet sometimes used as a first step – Acts 6:9-14; 7:58 & 26:14 (John 4:34)

- III. The Spirit will refute the world re: 3 things
 - (9) Of sin because they do not believe in me – John 5:33-40 & 3:19, 20
 - (10) Of righteousness because I go to my Father - John 3:13 (Psalm 15)
 - How do we know? – Acts 2:33 / Hebrews 2:1-3 (Acts 5:30-32)
 - (11) Of judgment because the prince of this world is judged
 - Two inseparable acts – John 12:31, 32 / Matthew 12:27, 28
 - The most compelling evidence of all – Isaiah 49:6 / Genesis 22:18

- IV. A further refutation needed today – Philosophical Naturalism
 - How do we know the Bible is true? – 2 Peter 1:16-19 / Revelation 12:11
 - Defending against scientific dogma -
 - Refuting cultural misrepresentation – 1 Peter 2:12 & Matthew 5:16

- V. A summation for faith in Jesus
 - Creation & conscience bear witness – Psalm 19:1 yet John 14:1
 - The Bible bears witness – John 1:14
 - Evidence for the credibility of this witness – see 4.1

- VI. In conclusion
 - Don't be ashamed – Romans 1:16 / 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 9
 - Don't be afraid – Luke 12:11, 12
 - Be prepared – 1 Peter 3:15
 - Be a good listener – Colossians 4:6 / Proverbs 15:23
 - Believe in Christ's promise – Matthew 28:19, 20 / John 14:16, 17, 23