

Creekside Community Church  
*"The Return of the King"* The Gospel of Matthew  
October 1, 2017  
John Bruce - Pastor

**Your Bias May Be Your Problem**  
(Matthew 13:53-14:12)

**A. Blinded by Cultural Bias** (Matthew 13:53-58)

**B. Blinded by Personal Bias** (Matthew 14:1-12)

**C. How to Escape the Tyranny of Bias**

**For further thought and discussion:**

**Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Can you think of an example where you believed what you wanted to believe, regardless of what the evidence said? Why did you want to believe so strongly? What was the result?

**Going Deeper**

3. Please read Matthew 13:53-58. What do you notice about the way Jesus' hometown reacted to Him? Have you ever experienced anything similar? How is Nazareth an example of cultural bias? What are some of our cultural biases as Americans? How do these biases affect us? Can you identify one cultural bias that has affected you?
4. Please read Matthew 14:1-12. Herod comes to a conclusion about Jesus nobody else seemed to come to. Why? Can you identify any ways your past has created biases and unhealthy ways of looking at reality? How did these biases develop? How have they affected you?
5. Why is identifying our biases and getting free of them important? (John 8:31-32) Did any of the personal biases listed in the sermon resonate with you?
6. Discuss the three steps in escaping the tyranny of bias.
  - a. Admit I'm not unbiased. (Proverbs 28:26, 12:15, Eph. 4:17-19)
  - b. View everything through the perspective of the gospel. (2 Cor. 10:5)
  - c. When Jesus and I disagree, Jesus wins. (Luke 6:46)

**Application:** What is one lesson you've learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?