



Lesson 3

December 20, 2020

International Honor for the King of the World

Jesus' birth turned the world upside down. When the Magi ignored Herod's request, a fearful Herod tried to turn the world upside down. In 2020, the death of George Floyd turned our world upside down. People of all races, ages, and beliefs marched for justice, showing that we are all connected and how limited exposure to other cultures leads to stereotyping and prejudice.

When Shawn began working at a facility that manufactures cleaning products, Shawn felt blessed. But when she realized she was the only person of color among more than 350 employees, she knew her presence would turn the facility upside down.

A few weeks after starting, Shawn walked into the cafeteria and overheard discussion about the protests that had occurred immediately following George Floyd's death. The comments were derogatory and suggestive that the protests were unnecessary. When the employees realized Shawn had possibly heard a portion of their conversation, they immediately packed up their belongings and walked out.

That incident was problematic for Shawn. She spoke with her grandmother, who encouraged Shawn to address the issue with her boss. Shawn's grandmother shared how her great-grandparents left the Jim Crow South because of prejudice. What Shawn had experienced was modern-day racism, resulting in people refusing to find culturally relevant ways to appreciate one another. Shawn talked to her supervisor. When Shawn had not seen any emails to employees about racial and cultural sensitivity, Shawn took the matter to social media and led a silent protest. Shawn was heard by the facility's international buyers, who vowed to pull their business if the facility did not address the issue.

By upsetting the established order, Shawn drew international attention. Her supervisor tried to lead a hate campaign against Shawn. But it was Shawn's quiet strength and God's covering that protected Shawn, while leading many people on the job to Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Shawn help in exposure the employees to people of color and to Jesus?
2. How did the employees' and supervisor's limited exposure to people of color cause them to be insensitive to people of other cultures?
3. If you were in Shawn's shoes, what is one thing you would do and not do at this juncture?