

DISCRIMINATION-some realities!

The internationally known South African Anglican archbishop Desmond Tutu is definitely no stranger to living amidst racial discrimination.

One of his favorite stories that highlights by way of a metaphor the futility of racial discrimination concerns an 8 year old girl closely watching the *balloon man*. What he would do is randomly release a colored balloon into the air so as to attract some more customers. The little girl eventually said to the man; *“Excuse me sir how come every balloon that you let go no matter its color they all float up into the sky?”* The man casually to her with much unintended wisdom; *“Love, it’s not the color of the balloon that enables it to rise above it is what’s inside of it that really matters.”*

I think that it is a fair comment to make that very few people at some stage of their life would not feel the pain of discrimination of some type. Besides racial discrimination based on someone’s skin color it could also be because of their religion or lack of one, their educational or social status or their mental or physical ability. The challenge here for us all to keep in mind is that like a balloon to allow the spirit within us to rise above any form of discrimination.

Jesus of Nazareth definitely knew the pain of discrimination when it was said of him; *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”* (John 1 verse 46)
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