

- Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy, (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)

Articles

- Shannon Simmons, "George Floyd: Before I talk to My Kids About Another Black Man's Death" at www.familylife.com
- Mika Edmondson, "Is Black Lives Matter the New Civil Rights Movement?" at www.thegospelcoalition.org
- Justin Taylor, "America in Black and White: Why do So Many of Us Respond to Ferguson So Differently?" at www.thegospelcoalition.org

Movies

- *Just Mercy*, Warner Bros., 2019 (caution: PG13 for violence and profanity)

Sermon Notes

"Considering My Response"

James 2:1-13

June 7, 2020

Let's Pray:

In light of the national conversation right now regarding racism, let's pray ...

- confessing our own sin and the sins of our nation;
- confessing the sin of racism wherever it continues in our systems and in the hearts of people;
- confessing our indifference, our lack of unity, and our lack of compassion within the Body of Christ;
- lamenting the evil, injustice, and hurt – the fruit of evil one who came to steal, destroy, and kill;
- longing for the Lord Jesus' return and for all things to be made new.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 06-07-20

Questions adapted from Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Mature, David C Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2008, pp. 81-82; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: James, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1988, p. 53-60.

Getting Started:

1. What patterns (positive or negative) have you observed in conversations about race and discrimination?

Digging Deeper:

Read James 2:1-13

2. What three tests of true religion – genuine faith – does James list in 1:26-27? Which of the three tests does James seem to be elaborating on in this passage?
3. What does it mean to show favoritism or partiality?
4. Can you think of any times when you have shown favoritism? If so, ask God to forgive you for these and commit yourself to avoid favoritism in the future. Ask God to enable you to do this. Watch for any temptations to show favoritism this week.

5. What might lead a person or group to treat some people better than others? What's wrong with the motives you just listed?
6. What is the "royal law" (2:8)? How do favoritism and discrimination show that we love ourselves more than others?
7. Specifically, how should you "speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom" (2:12) in your current circumstances?
8. Who is someone you can dialogue with, either personally or indirectly by reading or by watching? What step could you take this week to listen and learn from someone from a different ethnicity than yourself?

If you need some suggestions, consider these:

Books

- Jemar Tisby, Divided by Faith, (Oxford University Press, 2001).