

A woman with her fist raised in a crowd at night, crying with a look of passion and determination. She is wearing a black top, a necklace with a peace sign, and a pink wristband. The background is a blurred crowd of people with bokeh lights.

A Passion for Justice

Pastor Steve Lee
June 7, 2020





Pro-Choice Service
2 TO 5 PM EVERYDAY
WALK IN



CNN (May 30)

“This is what I’ve got to say to the people destroying things. If you’re going to be opportunistic something is wrong with you. If you cannot stand and fight the good fight and you want to be a cheater ... and take what we’re trying to do something is wrong



CNN (May 30)

with you. Cause what we're trying to do is stand up for the basic rights of humanity. ... and we're trying to do it in a peaceful way. ... I want to be able to go into a white neighborhood and feel safe. I want to be able when a cop is driving behind me

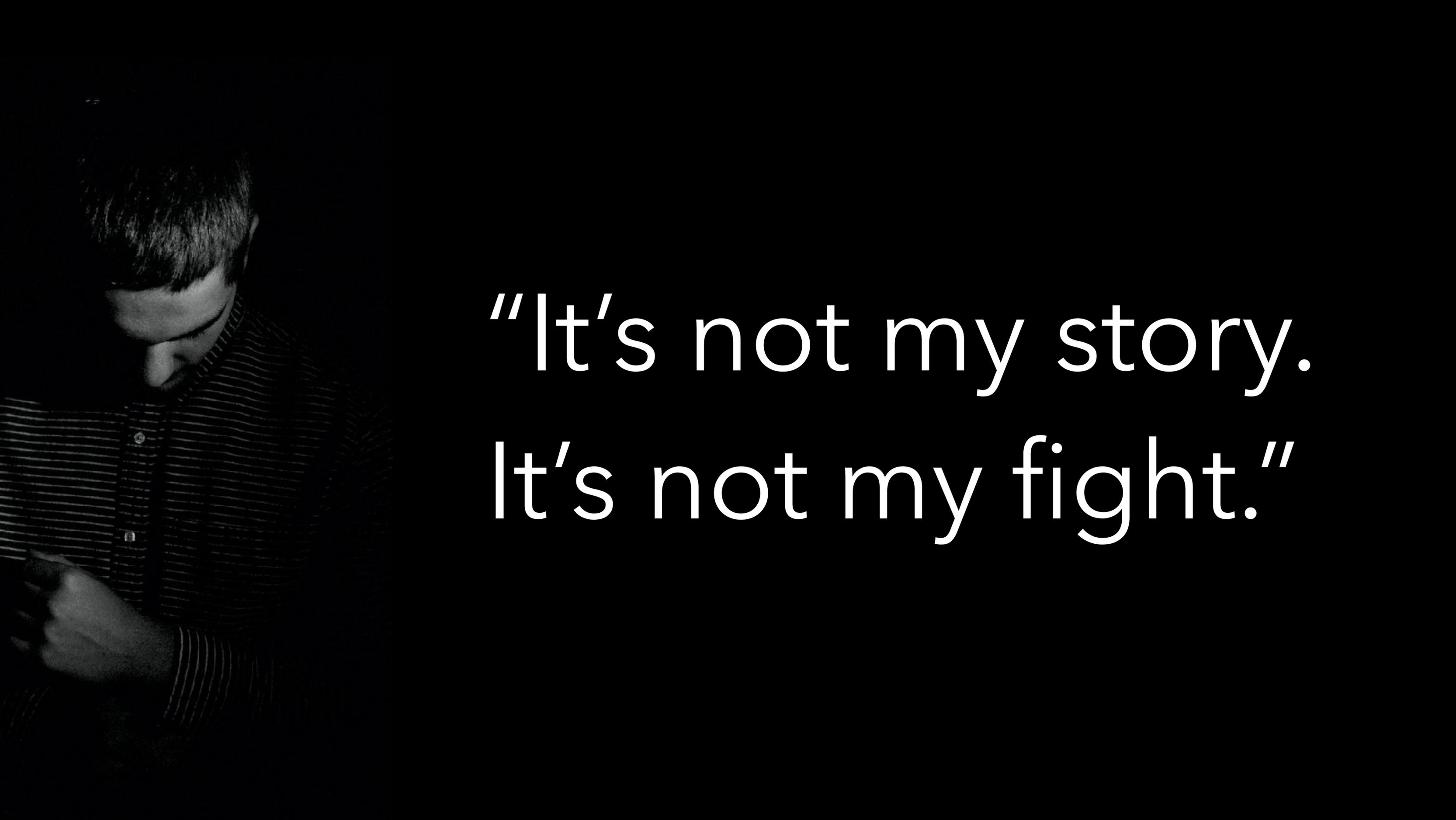


CNN (May 30)

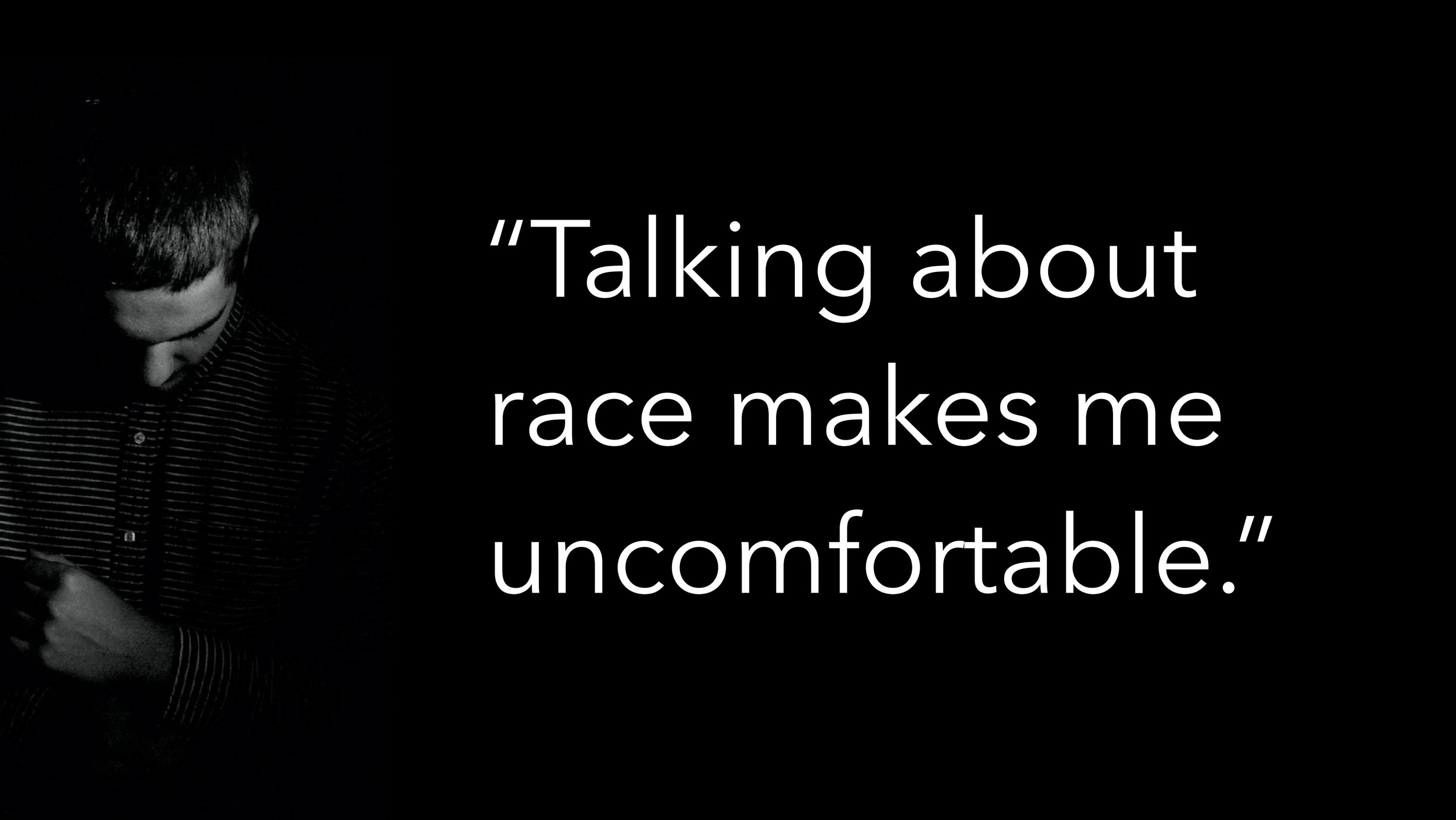
[not to] clench and be tense. I want to be able just to be free and not have to think about every step I take. ... At the end of the day being born Black is a crime to them and I don't understand why because we're all humans."



“There will always
be racism.”



"It's not my story.
It's not my fight."



“Talking about
race makes me
uncomfortable.”



**Ken
Wyttsma**

*(Pursuing
Justice)*

Justice is the single best word, both inside and outside the Bible, for capturing God's purposes for the world and humanity's calling in the world. *Justice* is, in fact, the broadest, most consistent word the Bible uses to speak about *what ought to be*, and it has been used throughout the centuries by Christians and non-Christians alike to

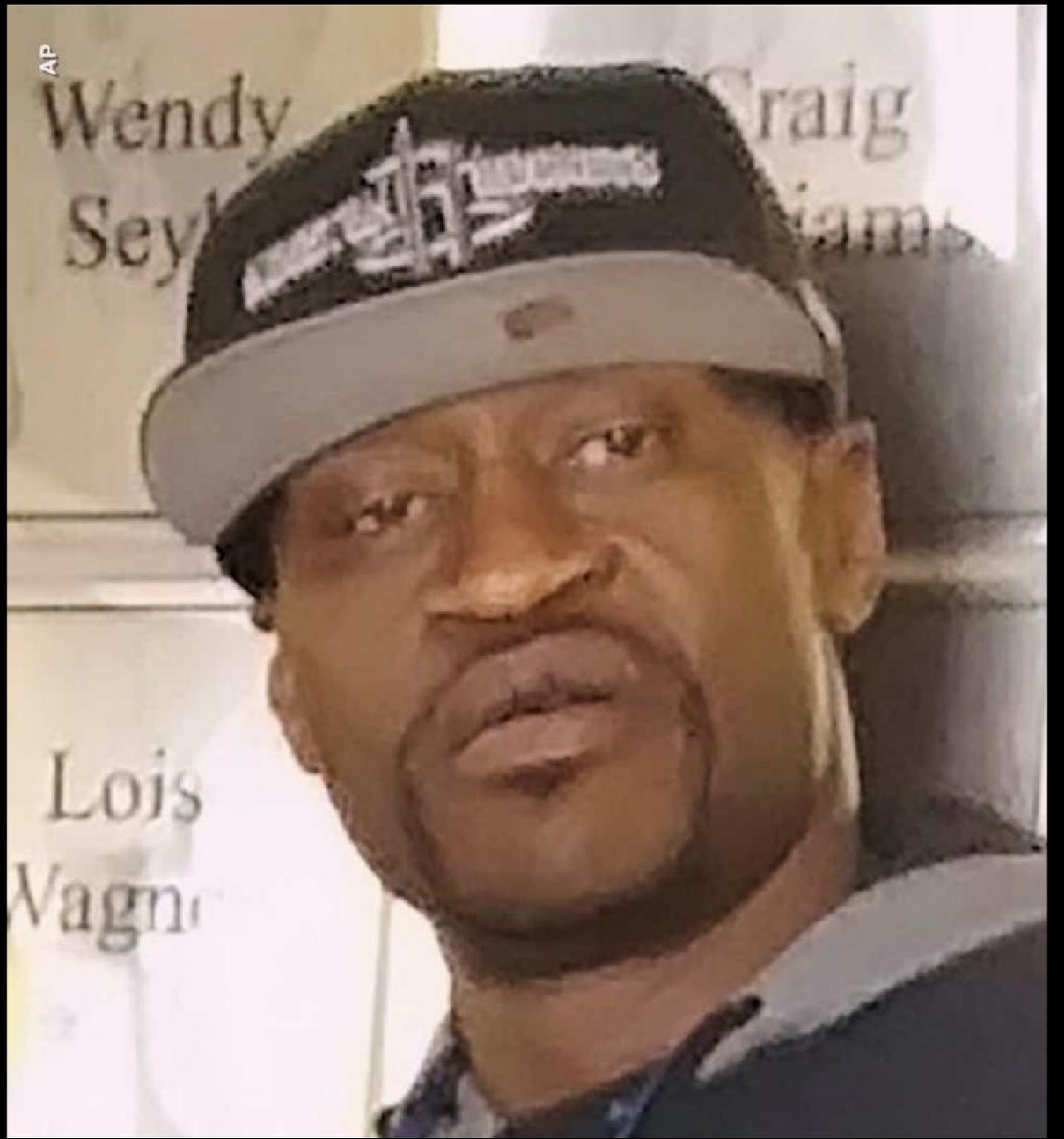
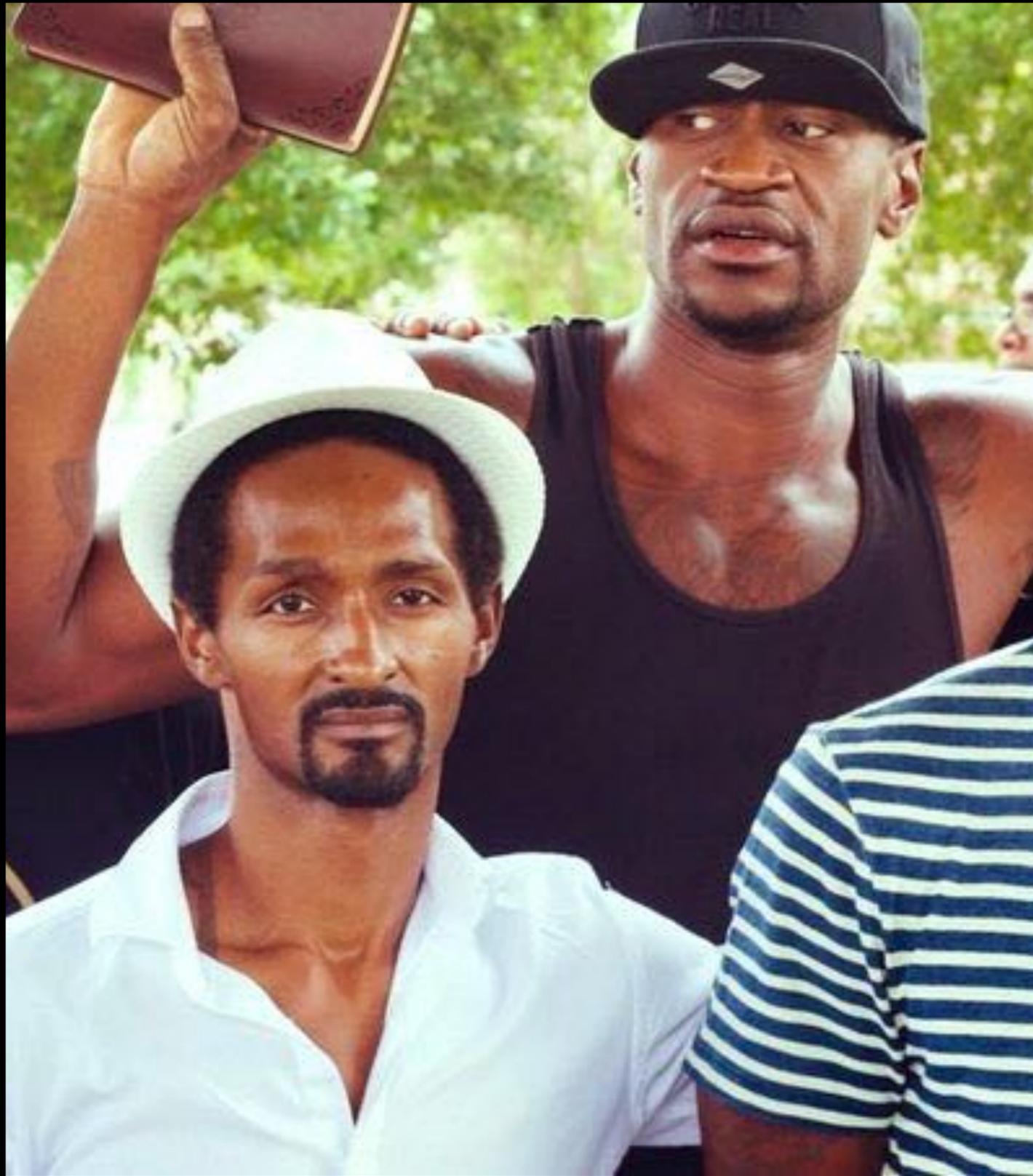


**Ken
Wyttsma**

*(Pursuing
Justice)*

describe vital areas of human and divine concern.

To “do justice” means to render to each what each is due. Justice involves harmony, flourishing, and fairness, and it is based on the image of God in every person—the *Imago Dei*—that grants all people inalienable dignity and infinite worth.



righteousness

law

mercy

integrity

justice

service

truth

love

faithfulness



Psalm
146:6-9

He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the

**Psalm
146:6-9**

blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Jeremiah
22:13-16

“Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

He says, ‘I will build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.’ So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red.

Jeremiah
22:13-16

“Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah
9:23-24

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

Luke
4:16-21

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim

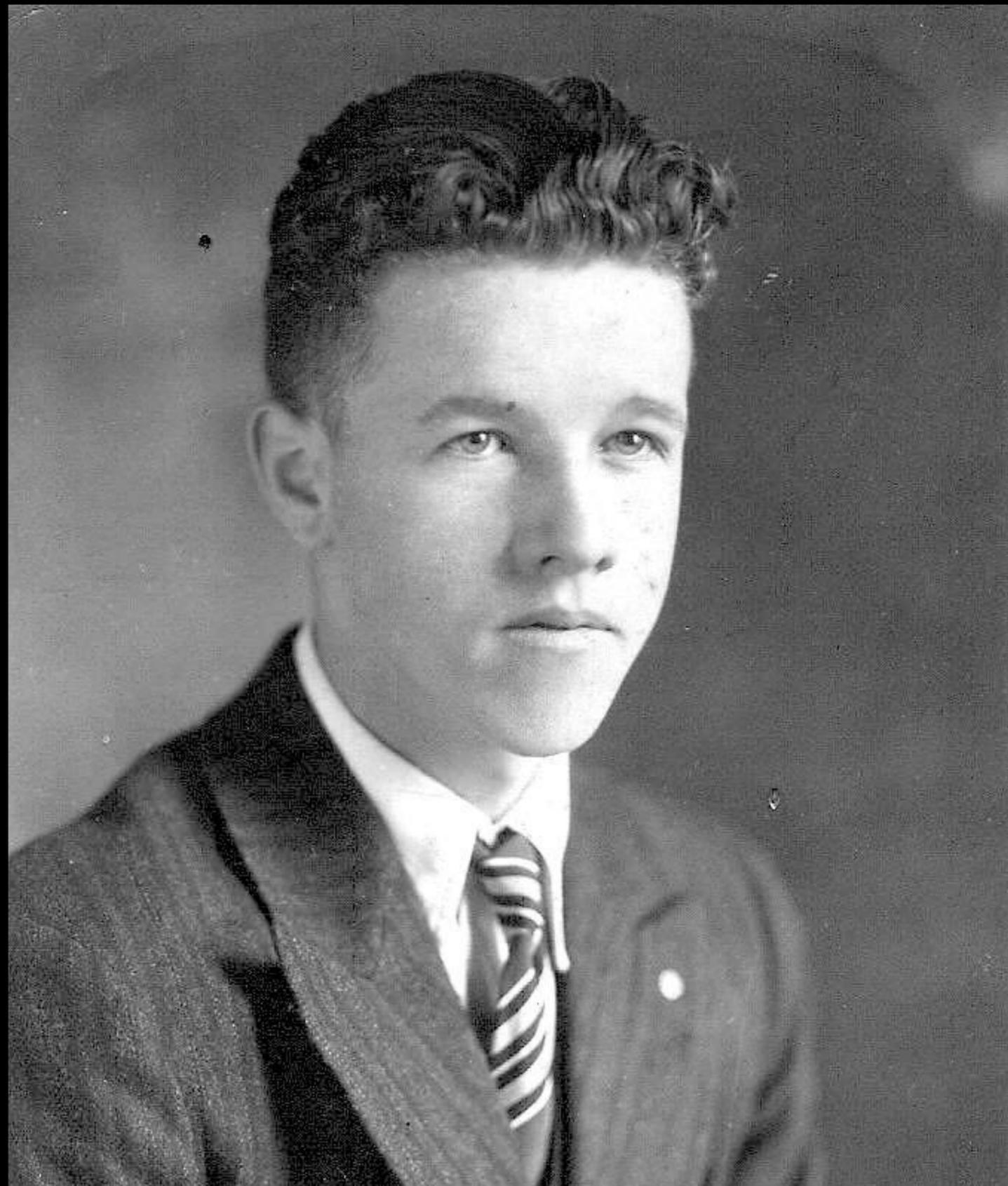
Luke 4:16-21

freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."









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Wyttsma**

*(Pursuing
Justice)*

How could they both—the German woman and the American soldier—be so blind to the injustices surrounding them? From our perspective, their ignorance would be laughable if it didn't have such painful, real-world consequences. How is it possible to be a faithful Christian while turning a blind eye to the Holocaust or to



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Wytmsa**

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Jim Crow laws? Same war, same religion . . . and same basic failure to see the tatters of goodness and justice being ripped apart each day right in front of them.

When was the last time we considered –seriously considered–our own moral blindness?

Isaiah

58:2-10

For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.

'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.

Isaiah
58:2-10

Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Isaiah **58:2-10**

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

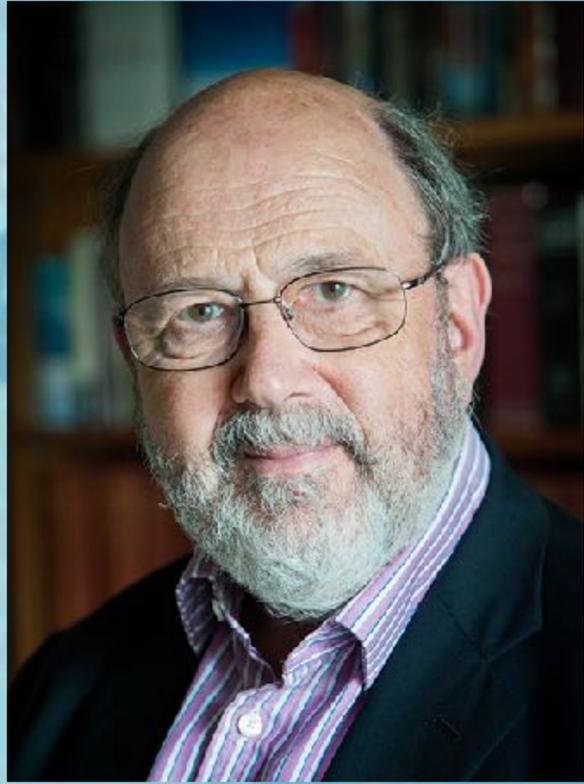
Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your

Isaiah 58:2-10

righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."



N.T. Wright

*(The Day the
Revolution
Began)*

... the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Israel's Messiah and with the powerful gift of the Spirit, God's world has been renewed, the kingdom has been inaugurated, and those who believe in Jesus and who are indwelt by the Spirit are now formed as a royal priesthood,



**N.T.
Wright**

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who in their worship and their witness
are carrying forward the work of the
kingdom. The decisive victory against
the powers has already been won.
The revolution has already begun.

Isaiah
51:4-5

“Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.

SUMMARY

God calls us to practice justice,
seeking the good of those who are
most oppressed and disenfranchised
in society.