

God's Ancient Answer for Racism

By – Max Lucado



“Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature.” - Genesis 1:26 MSG

Recent racially charged incidents including the tragic death of George Floyd have stirred ensuing riots and torn open the rawest of wounds—racism. Judging a person according to skin color is an ancient sin. For that reason, God gave this ancient solution.

In the earliest words of Scripture, God spoke: *“Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth”* (Genesis 1:26 MSG).

Embedded in these words is the most wonderful of promises: God made us to reflect his image.

No one is a god except in his or her own delusion. But everyone carries some of the communicable attributes of God. Wisdom. Love. Grace. Kindness. A longing for eternity. We are made in *his image*. Sin has distorted this image, but it has not destroyed it. Our moral purity has been tainted. Our intellect is polluted by foolish ideas. We have fallen prey to the elixir of self-promotion rather than God-promotion. The image of God is sometimes difficult to discern. But do not think for a moment that God has rescinded his promise or altered his plan. He still creates people in his image to bear his likeness and reflect his glory.

Pop psychology is wrong when it tells you to look inside yourself and find your value. The magazines are wrong when they suggest you are only as good as you are thin, muscular, pimple-free, or perfumed. The movies mislead you when they imply that your value increases as your stamina, intelligence, or net worth does. Religious leaders lie when they urge you to grade your significance according to your church attendance, self-discipline, or spirituality.

According to the Bible you are good simply because God made you in his image. Period. He cherishes you because you bear a semblance to him. And you will only be satisfied when you engage in your role as an image-bearer of God. Such was the view of King David. *“As for me, I will see your face in righteousness. I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness”* (Psalm 17:15)... (cont'd on Prayer List page)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 99:1, 3-4, 6, 9

North: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
South: He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
ALL: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

North: Mighty King, you have established equity;
South: Lover of justice, you have executed justice and righteousness.

ALL: Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

North: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
South: He showed Himself to Moses.

ALL: Worship at the holy mountain of our God; Holy is he!

Lesson: Exodus 33:12-14, 18-23

Moses said to the LORD, *"See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."*

The LORD said, *"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* Moses said, *"Show me your glory, I pray."* And the LORD said, *"I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."* "But," he said, *"you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live."*

The LORD continued, *"Here is what I will do for you: See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my backside; but my face shall not be seen."*

Gospel: Matthew 20:29-34

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, *"Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, *"Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"* Jesus stopped and called them. *"What do you want me to do for you?"* he asked. *"Lord,"* they answered, *"we want our sight."* Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

SALEM FAMILY EVENTS



We think we have a volunteer to accept the job as Salem's treasurer. The name of this individual will not be divulged until they have formally accepted the job...to be continued....



Plans are made to have the annual autumn leaf cleanup on October 24th
At 10am – Volunteers are cordially invited!!



Autumn Newsletter!!

Look for an **Email Blast** sent on Friday OR pick up paper copy in entryway

Thanks to all who have helped set up the church for the NEW indoor services!!!



Please talk to Nick if you would like to serve your community by proclaiming the lesson or helping with ushering/setting up the services.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We could have Sunday School if we have teachers - any one interested?

On Thurs, Oct 22nd, Cambridge Pregnancy Resource Center/ Lex Specialty Clinics will post at 7pm a video celebrating their 35th anniversary. If you are interested in watching it that evening or at a future time, please look for it at: [Vimeo.com PRCofCambridgeMN](https://vimeo.com/PRCofCambridgeMN)
[YouTube.com PRC of Cambridge Lex Specialty Clinics](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4qMkRspB-vDDafLJSodQ/)
[Facebook.com/PRCofCambridgeMN](https://www.facebook.com/PRCofCambridgeMN) or text PRCCAMB to 22828 for a direct link to click and play.



Salem YouTube channel (where the videos from Sundays will be posted)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4qMkRspB-vDDafLJSodQ/>

New email address for Pr. Rob -- (robatsalem@gmail.com)



- Don't interrupt someone working intently on a puzzle. Chances are, you'll hear some crosswords.
- I'm a big fan of whiteboards. I find them quite re-markable.
- Q. Why was King Arthur's army too tired to fight? A. It had too many sleepless knights.
- Q. Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population? A. Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.
- Yesterday, a clown held the door open for me. It was such a nice jester!
- I was going to make myself a belt made out of watches, but then I realized it would be a waist of time.



Last Week