

OVERCOMING TURMOIL

For the week of June 7, 2020

James 1:19-27

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

Goal:

To become advocates for biblical righteousness and racial justice as we live, speak, and empower change in a way that would honor Jesus.

GET GOING:

- Each growth group study provides a stated “goal.” Read the goal on the top of this study. What feelings are stirred within you as you engage in the topic of biblical righteousness and racial justice?
- The term “white privilege” brings about a range of emotions. If you are a part of the majority culture (white), read the list below. Consider how many of these examples apply to you, as a way to better understand what “white privilege” means on a systemic and practical level (of course, this list is not exhaustive; these are only examples). If you are a part of the minority culture (person of color: non-white), and engaging in this study with a group, consider sharing how many of these examples apply to you. Of course, no pressure. We simply want to give you space to share your story.
 - I’ve never had to worry about going for a quick jog *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about getting pulled over by the police *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about taking a walk in my neighborhood *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about driving my car with the windows open and the music blaring *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about starting out on the first day of a new job *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about moving into a new neighborhood *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*
 - I’ve never had to worry about not being served at a restaurant *because of the color of my skin and the perception of those around me.*

KEEP GROWING

- Read James 1:19. Which of these three: be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger is the hardest for you to practice when it comes racial reconciliation? What do you think your response reveals about the attitude of your heart?
- Read James 1:22. “The American church talks a lot about salvation and righteousness at the expense of mercy and justice *for all*.” How have you seen this to be true or not true? (Tim Keller defines it simply as, “*Justice is Care for the Vulnerable*.”)
- In which biblical characteristic listed in Micah 6:8 and James 1:23-25, do you think you have grown the most this past year, and in which area do you think you have the most space to grow?
- How does Jesus’ statements in Matthew 23:23 echo the following statement from this weekend? “If we’re truly going to persist in biblical justice, it’s not just enough to NOT contribute to racism. We need to be anti-racist, meaning we’re actively working toward and pointing our energies at eliminating injustice. It’s not enough to try to be neutral, as neutrality is apathy when it comes to Justice.” Ron Zappia.
- Which of these “5 Ways to Proactively Pursue Justice” do you need to work on the most?
 1. **Seek Relationships:** Pursue genuine friendships with people who view this topic differently than you do.
 2. **Increase Proximity:** Change your proximity to injustices.
 3. **Celebrate Diversity:** Proactively grow in your cultural intelligence and awareness.
 4. **Deepen Sensitivity:** Believe and trust your brothers and sisters of color in the Church.
 5. **Act Intentionally:** Lovingly call out injustices.

What additional questions come to mind as we continue on this conversation? Who are some trusted advisors you might engage to further the conversation?

Bonus Challenge

Be intentionally engaged in this conversation by reading: Insider/Outsider by Byran Loritts, One Blood by John M Perkins, The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby, and Woke Church by Eric Mason, or viewing: “Just Mercy” which is currently free on YouTube.

Memory Verse

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord REQUIRE of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Mic. 6:8)

