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Bible Study

PEACE DURING TRYING TIMES

“Can we just get along?”



Proverbs 16

Better is a little with righteousness
than great revenues with injustice.

To long have we lived under this understanding

So now the just what to rebel again the unjust

Our world is full of violence, and our daily lives can be marred by conflict and turmoil. But God promises His people a **peace that surpasses all understanding.**

False witness shall be punished

Proverbs 19:9 – A false witness **shall be punished**, and a **liar** shall be caught. Proverbs 21:6 & 8 – A fortune made by people who tell lies amounts to nothing and leads to death. ... But the conduct of those who are not **guilty is honest.**

Lips are an abomination **“Lies, Pride”**

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,
But those who **deal faithfully** are His delight.

I want to talk about two Version of Jesus

- White Jesus VS Black Jesus
- We made him about our cultures

“The Church say it Color Blinded”

Who do people say the Son of Man Is?

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”**

¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**"

¹⁷Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you**, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by **flesh and blood**, but by **my Father in heaven**. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The way you see Jesus makes a world of Difference

- We look at an image and associate it with rightness
- Rather than realizing the image is based around our Prejudices

Jesus wasn't white: he was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew. Here's why that matters



A Little Girl Said

I grew up in a Christian home, where a photo of Jesus hung on my bedroom wall. I still have it. It is schmaltzy and rather tacky in that 1970s kind of way, but as a little girl I loved it but as a little girl I loved it. In this picture, Jesus looks **kind** and **gentle**, he gazes down at me lovingly. He is also **light-haired, blue-eyed, and very white**.

The problem is, Jesus was not white. You'd be forgiven for thinking otherwise if you've ever entered a Western church or visited an art gallery. But while there is no physical description of him in the Bible, there is also no doubt that the historical Jesus, the man who was executed by the Roman State in the first century CE, was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew.

This is not controversial from a scholarly point of view, but somehow it is a forgotten detail for many of the millions of Christians who will gather to celebrate Easter this week.

The depiction of Jesus

Many churches and cultures do depict **Jesus as a brown or black man**. Orthodox Christians usually have a very different iconography to that of European art – if you enter a church in Africa, you'll likely see an African Jesus on display.

But these are rarely the images we see in Australian Protestant and Catholic churches, and it is our loss. It allows the mainstream Christian community to separate their devotion to Jesus from compassionate regard for those who look different.

I would even go so far as to say it creates a cognitive disconnect, where one can feel deep affection for Jesus but little empathy for a Middle Eastern person. It likewise has implications for the theological claim that humans are made in God's image. If God is always imaged as white, then the default human becomes white and such thinking undergirds racism.

- Contracts to deceive “Read the Small Print”

Government entered into treaties

The US government entered into treaties with the different tribal groups depending on the **land interests of the settlers** at the time. Through Treaties, Natives have given up large sections of their land for their safety, (because of **rampant attacks from the settlers**), recognition or to receive service delivery.

Exodus 14:14-16 (KJV)

¹⁴The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

¹⁵And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

¹⁶But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

Jesus Entered the Temple “Jesus Got Mad”

Matthew 21:12

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were **buying** and **selling** there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

Rebuked the wind “Peace, be still”

Mark 4:39 (KJV)

³⁹And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Isaiah 32:17

“The **work of righteousness will be peace**, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.”

Isaiah 26:3

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God**; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard your hearts** and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Numbers 6:26

“My The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

My Reflections

The injustices against black people.

The killing of black men, women and children by the hands of the police has to come to an end and churches across the country can no longer afford to stay silence. People need to know that we are aware and we hear the demands and cries for justice. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood up for peace, particularly for those who were being oppressed and mistreated. Unfortunately, his life too was take away too soon by violence. We must remember that justice is not only for those who look a certain way or have a particular status in society, but it is for all. We must stand up for those whose voices are being stripped away.

The Bible says in the book of John, chapter 4 versus 4- "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." During these tumultuous and violent times, we should be reminded that God we are more than conquerors, and together, with Him, we can work toward peace and justice. Luke chapter 10, verse 19 says "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Again, God is on the side of the just, so we must make our choice, church. Let's come together as one body under Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and stand up for what is right...make a stand for peace and justice.

There cannot be true peace if the law refuses to hear the outcries of citizens about the injustices that are going in our nation. So continue to pray that justice prevails and that God helps us to hold on to our faith. Let all Gods people stand together as one voice and say "This. Must. Stop."

Black Lives Do Matter!

[Ezekiel 8:2; Ezekiel 1:4; Ezekiel 1:26–27; Daniel 7:9–10; Revelation 1:14–15](#)

Warner Sallman

The Head of Christ, also called the Sallman Head, is a 1940 portrait **painting of Jesus** of Nazareth by American artist Warner Sallman (1892–1968). As an extraordinarily successful work of Christian popular devotional art, it had been reproduced over half a billion times worldwide by the end of the 20th century.

The Book of Revelation includes John's vision of the Son of Man: The **hair** on his head **was** white **like wool**, as white as snow, and his eyes were **like** blazing fire. His feet were **like** bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice **was like** the sound of rushing waters.