

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 6/1/2020-6/5/2020

The following content is based on the message on 5/31/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // IMAGE OF GOD IN EVERYONE

Read Genesis 1:26-31. We are God's image bearers. In all of our differences, we represent the face of God. The image of God doesn't eliminate our difference. In fact, it is because of the image of God that we are different. Whether man or woman, black or white, rich or poor, every single person has equal worth and equal dignity in the eyes of God. Therefore, every person should have equal worth and equal dignity in your eyes.

Even in our differences, we were created for communion together and community together.

- *Reflect on the many differences found in humanity. How do these differences give us a more full picture of God by reflecting His image to us?*
- *Why is it so important that you look toward others, not just people who are like you, to see a more full picture of God?*
- *In what ways can you act as one with another person of color in the struggle against racism this week?*

TUESDAY // THE EXPERIENCE OF SIN

Read Genesis 3:1-24. In God's perfect creation, it was intended that we would live in perfect communion with each other. However, the sad reality is that we now live in a sinful world. All of us have been impacted by sin. It drives us apart and isolates us so that we don't communicate with each other. Unfortunately, some people experience sin at a greater level than others. This is not how it should be, and God will provide ultimate justice. Until that ultimate justice, we should be seeking justice on earth for those who are experiencing the injustice of racism.

All are impacted by sin, but God is a god of justice.

- *Reflect on the effects of sin that you see. Tell God how these things have been painful for you.*
- *Reflect on someone else's perspective. Tell God what is difficult for you about their perspective.*

WEDNESDAY // RACIAL TENSIONS ARE REAL

It's hard for black and white people to trust each other. The recent events in Georgia and Minnesota are not isolated incidents. Racism is real, and it should hurt your heart to know that people are experiencing racism. As a human, there is no room for this racial division that we see. As a Christian, each of us need to see that we play a role in

the division. We know this to be true because sin impacts each of us. In order for us to see unity, we have to see how our differences are reconciled through Christ's blood.

Read Galatians 3:26-29.

- *What are some ways that have you taken part in division (stereotypes, beliefs, silence, etc)?*
- *What are steps this week that you can take to contribute to the conversation and take action (e.g. reading educational resources, checking up on those feeling more of a direct impact, being honest about hurt, etc)?*

THURSDAY // JESUS RELATES TO YOU

Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-25. The wisdom of God isn't in the visible representation of humanity that we can see. In other words, our own wisdom is flawed. The wisdom of God is found in the cross of Christ. You may not understand what you are going through this week, but Jesus understands. In the cross of Christ, we all have a Savior to whom we can relate. If you have experienced injustice, Jesus understands and He is with you. Jesus was wrongfully accused and publicly put to death for a crime that He didn't commit.

You can rest safely in Jesus because Jesus relates to you, wherever you are today.

- *How does Jesus relate to you today?*
- *How does Jesus' experience on earth make you feel like you are not alone?*

FRIDAY // PRAY OUT YOUR FAITH

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Our faith should not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Today, we are going to ask you to spend a little more time in prayer.

The power of God is far more powerful than the wisdom of man.

- *Pray for trust between black people and white people.*
- *Pray for racism to end.*
- *Pray that the Holy Spirit would illuminate areas in your life where you need to repent.*
- *Pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort you.*
- *Pray for justice.*