

Day 14 Devotion

"He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22: 37-40

"He has told you, O mortal, 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?"

Micah 6:8

I am an avid reader. Friends of mine, from Bible study and book clubs, would say that is an understatement! Several years ago, my son gifted me with the book, *Nobody* by Marc Lamont Hill. Through the author's lens, I read about the painful, caustic, and often deadly life experiences of other Americans brought on by indifferent, often uncaring attitudes, policies and economic conditions that were "the work of both liberal and conservative, Republican and Democrat, black and white, racist and humanist" as stated by Todd Brewster in the book's introduction. I was filled with sadness and empathy and a mustard seed began to grow inside me.

As I continued reading and listening to a growing number of varied voices sharing their experiences, I began to ask myself, "What is my role, as a follower of Jesus, in response to the social justice concerns in this day and time?" Jesus commanded us to love. In my understanding of scripture, followers are called to *AGAPE* love- not the emotion- but love that is demonstrated in action. Our role as Jesus followers is a call for action to love our neighbors as ourselves. How do we begin? I began by listening for understanding and by opening myself up to thoughts and experiences outside of my own. I prayed for discernment on what my actions should be "For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function." (Rom 12:4) I remind myself daily that my call to Christ is not only for my personal salvation but also as an invitation to help bring God's kingdom to this earth at this time by seeking to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Marty Susie, Wilmington Island Presbyterian

Holy and Gracious Creator help us to see your face in all your creation, especially in those with whom we may disagree or who may be invisible to us. Open our eyes to see them and our ears to hear you call us to action to demonstrate our love for you and our world of neighbors. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen

Resources: *Books of course!*

Be the Bridge; Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation by Latasha Morrison

[Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation \(Paperback\) | 44th & 3rd Bookseller \(indielite.org\)](#)

Black and Presbyterian: The Heritage and the Hope by Gayraud S. Gilmore

[Black and Presbyterian: The Heritage and the Hope \(Paperback\) | 44th & 3rd Bookseller \(indielite.org\)](#)

Unsettling Truths; The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery by Marc Charles and Soon-Chan Rah

[Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery \(Paperback\) | 44th & 3rd Bookseller \(indielite.org\)](#)