

Notes: June 20, 2020

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Speck and Log

Since Memorial Day weekend, some four weeks ago all of the upheaval, chaos, protests have been triggered by one moment, the egregious murder of George Floyd by the knee of an officer who utilised excessive force. At this point we don't know the motive behind his intent, but all images that captured the moments

The response, across the board by all was one of outrage and anger. Unfortunately, what transpired shortly after the initial response was not related to the death of George Floyd, but was infiltrated by agenda driven organisations such as Antifa and Black Lives Matter with the intent of sowing division and discord among the masses.

In the last four weeks you have been told...

Apologise for being white and benefiting from white privilege
You were to bow before them, taking a knee in subjection and renouncing your white privilege.

Last night I even heard it conveyed that “racism is a public health issue”.

Yet, these are not what is the basis for this sermon. It is another domino that fell on June 10th when Christianity Today published the article entitled “*Justice Too Long Delayed*” with the subheading - *It's time for the church to make restitution for racial sin.*”

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/june-web-only/justice-too-long-delayed.html>

Timothy Dalrymple is the president and CEO of Christianity Today who authored this article. Here is his opening paragraph...

“We at Christianity Today deeply love the church. Serving the bride of Christ, growing her love for God, and telling the story of her redemptive and transformative work in the world is the heart of what we do. We do not revel in the history of her sin. But we cannot love our brothers and sisters well if we cannot tell their story in truth. And we cannot tell their story in truth if we cannot confess our participation in it. The Bible is honest about the flaws of even the most remarkable people. We should follow its example.”

“...we cannot love our brothers and sisters well if we cannot tell their story in truth.”

I want these words to be with you throughout what I am about to share because they need to resonate as you learn more about the truth of what Mr. Dalrymple is conveying.

Now he proceeds to tell their story in truth...*“Two original sins have plagued this nation from its inception: the destruction of its native inhabitants and the institution of slavery.”*

“There was a virus present in the very environment that nurtured the development of our country, our culture, and our people. The virus of racism infected our church, our Constitution and laws, our attitudes and ideologies. We have never fully defeated it.”

Our nation does have a history of racism that is not pretty to admit, slavery is part of that history. But it is there to ultimately learn from. We as a nation have made our mistakes in attempting to correct these errors. At times there was significant resistance toward implementing these changes. The struggle of enacting the 1964 Civil Rights Act was no small task.

*The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** ([Pub.L. 88–352](#), 78 [Stat. 241](#), enacted July 2, 1964) is a landmark [civil rights](#) and [labor law](#) in the [United States](#) that outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, [\[a\]](#) or national origin. [\[4\]](#) It prohibits unequal application of voter registration requirements, and [racial segregation](#) in schools, employment, and [public accommodations](#).*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964

Yet what the author does not recount in his article are the numerous actions that occurred with the **Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The **proclamation** declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free." On June 19th 1865 (“Juneteenth”) the last slaves were set free from their bondage.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>

Since 1865 there have been civil rights legislation passed by congress in...

1866 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1866
1875 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1875
1957 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1957
1960 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1960
1965 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_Rights_Act_of_1965
1968 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1968
1991 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1991

These actions by congress do not even include the countless landmark cases that reached the United States Supreme Court.

- *Brown v. Board of Education*, [347 U.S. 483 \(1954\)](#) [Segregated schools](#) in the states are unconstitutional because they violate the [Equal Protection Clause](#) of the [Fourteenth Amendment](#). The Court found that the [separate but equal](#) doctrine adopted in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) "has no place in the field of public education".

- *Boynton v. Virginia*, 364 U.S. 454 (1960) [Racial segregation](#) in all forms of public transportation is illegal under the [Interstate Commerce Act of 1887](#).
- *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1 (1967) Laws that prohibit interracial marriage ([anti-miscegenation laws](#)) are unconstitutional.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_landmark_court_decisions_in_the_United_States

Yet, Mr. Dalrymple is convinced this has not been enough. Truly, righting the wrongs that had been committed did take time, yet much has transpired in favor of the African American community to where there are countless success stories.

Clarence Thomas
 Oprah Winfrey
 Michael Jordan
 Robert Johnson
 Barack Obama
 Dr. Ben Carson
 General Colin Powell
 Condoleezza Rice

Barbara Jordan - *She won a seat in the Texas Senate in 1966, becoming the first African-American state senator since 1883 and the first black woman to serve in that body. Re-elected to a full term in the Texas Senate in 1968, she served until 1972. In 1972, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first woman elected in her own right to represent Texas in the House.* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Jordan

I could go on. Yet, Mr. Dalrymple believes that the church should lead the move towards reparations for the sin of racism. In order to support his position he utilises two passages in Scripture.

He asks: *How then should we respond?*

Two biblical narratives have been on our minds. The first (from Acts 10) concerns the apostle Peter, who believes that as a Jew he should not associate with people of other nations. Jew and Gentile, he thinks, should remain divided. Yet God shows him in a vision that he should not call unclean what God has made clean. He goes into the home of a Gentile named Cornelius, preaches the gospel, and the Holy Spirit is unleashed. This is a watershed moment in the spread of the gospel to non-Jews, when Peter recognized that what he thought was righteous was actually unrighteous.

Regarding his use of Acts 10 and the position of Kefa he ignores the context of the culture and what Adonai has said about Israel intermingling with the nations. It isn't what Kefa believed, it is what He knew through Torah...

Deu 18:9 "When you enter the land Adonai your God is giving you, you are not to learn how to follow the abominable practices of those nations.

Deu 18:10 There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through fire, a diviner, a soothsayer, an enchanter, a sorcerer,

Deu 18:11 a spell-caster, a consulter of ghosts or spirits, or a necromancer.

Deu 18:12 For whoever does these things is detestable to Adonai, and because of these abominations Adonai your God is driving them out ahead of you.

Deu 18:13 You must be wholehearted with Adonai your God.

Deu 18:14 For these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to soothsayers and diviners; but you, Adonai your God does not allow you to do this.

Num 25:1 Isra'el stayed at Sheetim, and there the people began whoring with the women of Mo'av.

Num 25:2 These women invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, where the people ate and bowed down to

their gods.

Num 25:3 With Isra'el thus joined to Ba'al-P'or, the anger of Adonai blazed up against Isra'el.

Num 25:4 Adonai said to Moshe, "Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them facing the sun before Adonai, so that the raging fury of Adonai will turn away from Isra'el."

Num 25:5 Moshe said to the judges of Isra'el, "Each of you is to put to death those in his tribe who have joined themselves to Ba'al-P'or."

Kefa was likely quite familiar with these passages, hence his response to Adonai in the vision. There was a foundation established through Torah that brought forth the reasons why the Jewish people didn't associate with the other nations and that it would be Adonai who would make what appeared to be radical become acceptable.

The Second Scripture Mr. Dalrymple uses is...Luke 19:8 - 9

The other biblical narrative that comes to mind is the story of a tax collector in Jericho. Zacchaeus was a collaborator with the occupying Roman authority, and by adding his own extortionary fees, he plundered the wealth of his neighbors and enriched himself. Jesus encountered him and shocked the crowd by going to his home. Salvation came to the house of Zacchaeus on that day. He proclaimed, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will give back four times the amount" (Luke 19:8).

Zacchaeus had not personally designed the unjust system of Roman taxation. But he had not denounced it either; he had participated in it and profited from it. So Zacchaeus did not merely repent of his ways; he made restitution. He set up what we might call a "Zacchaeus fund" in order to restore what belonged to his neighbors. Are we willing to do the same? Black lives matter. They matter so much that Jesus sacrificed everything for them. Are we willing to sacrifice as well?

What Mr. Dalrymple doesn't understand about this passage regarding Zakkai was that his actions were founded in Torah and thus Yeshua's words affirmed Zakkai's actions in restoration.

When a person confessed to fraud and made voluntary restitution the Torah required him to return the amount stolen plus twenty percent ([Lev 5:20-24](#) ([Lev 6:1-5](#)), [Num 5:5-7](#)). An apprehended thief had to pay the victim double ([Exo 22:3](#), [Exo 22:6](#) ([Exo 22:4](#), [Exo 22:7](#))). But a man stealing what is essential and showing no pity was required to pay back fourfold ([Exo 21:37](#) ([Exo 22:1](#)), [2Sa 12:6](#)). Zakkai, fully repentant, not only acknowledged the heartlessness and cruelty of his behavior but voluntarily imposed upon himself the whole restitution required by the Torah for such acts.

Mr. Dalrymple goes on to ask the question...

What role did the church play?

Of course, some white Christians strove at great length and great risk to abolish slavery, and many shed their blood in the war that emancipated slaves in the Southern states. Rightly interpreted, the Bible at the center of the church has been an enormous force not only for the redemption of sinners but for the advancement of justice and charity. But the exceptions were far too few. A multitude of Christian communities, including evangelical communities, were silent in the face of slavery or even complicit in it.

A harsh reality that exists to this day. Yet how far must one go back in time to make restitution for the transgressions of their ancestors?

Then there is this statement...

Likewise, it's time for white evangelicals to confess that we have not taken the sin of racism with the gravity and seriousness it deserves. The deep grief and anger over the death of George Floyd is about more than police brutality. It's about a society and culture that allowed for the abuse and oppression of African Americans over and over and over again.

Here, Mr. Dalrymple is now conveying the exact narrative being promoted by the groups that have infiltrated protests against Mr. Floyd's death.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/june-web-only/justice-too-long-delayed.html>

Is Mr. Dalrymple's assessment accurate? Is this about more than police brutality. The term being used to identify the last four weeks is "systemic racism"

I reiterate, racism is a stain on this nation and still exists, yet is not as it is being portrayed.

Racism most certainly is a transgression against Adonai's Torah and Leviticus 19:18, yet they, Christianity Today and the protesters are ignoring the entirety of the verse...

Lev 19:18 Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am Adonai.

The response to refraining from vengeance is to love your neighbor. Yet, violence, rioting is in essence seeking vengeance.

Racism in America today is not systemic...this is a lie that is being promoted by the media, anarchists and marxists.

Could the people that I had listed earlier have succeeded in a society that was systemically racist?

Are there people who are racist?

Yes.

Are there organisations who are racist?

Yes

Is the country systemically racist?

No.

In medicine, **systemic means** affecting the whole body, or at least multiple organ systems. It is in contrast with topical or local. **Systemic** administration, a route of administration of medication so that the entire body is affected.

Therefore, utilising this definition, I ask, Is our entire culture, our entire system racist?

The facts do not support such a position.

There are currently 36 mayors who are African American representing 11.1 million people. This includes both cities with a majority African American population and those that are a minority of the population You have heard names recently of Keisha Lance Bottoms mayor of Atlanta and Muriel Bowser, mayor of Washington D.C. Both African American, both female. Could they have been elected if there were systemic racism?

<https://blackdemographics.com/culture/black-politics/black-mayors/>

I am also providing a link to wikipedia that lists cities and when they first elected an African American to the highest office of the city.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_first_African-American_mayors

Is there systemic racism when 58% of the Atlanta Police force is African American?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Police_Department

Systemic Racism is not possible when you have mayors, district attorneys, aldermen and city council members of African American descent.

They want you to believe this, but the facts don't support it.

The challenges confronting the African American community is not systemic racism, but rather failed Democratic policy and the lies and broken promises they have been told for decades.

There is another issue that is greatly impacting the African American community that also is not systemic racism.

What is this problem?

The breakdown, the destruction, the cancer that is so impacting the African American community is the breakdown of the family unit.

Children being raised by a single parent in America is 33%. That is one in every three children in America has only one parent. The majority are being raised by their mother. In many cases, the father is not even in the picture. How does this number break down within specific communities?

Asian Americans – 23%

Hispanic Americans – 41%

African Americans – 66% Double the national average.

African Americans are confronted with the challenge of growing up without the influence of both parents, in many cases the father. In addition, they have had to endure terrible governmental policies that have hampered their path to being successful. These factors, not systemic racism are the real constraints preventing this community from fully partaking in the fullness of what the constitution affords – Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

<https://actrochester.org/children-youth/single-parent-families-by-race-ethnicity>

Mr. Dalrymple's article is focused towards white evangelicals impressing upon them to remove the speck of racism from the church's eye and alleviate its guilt through reparations. Yet, there are logs far greater in the church's eye today that require attention. Trying to make amends for past transgression to those who are not here today, to do so posthumously is more for those who are living than for those who have been harmed. We are to move forward, not repeating the errors of those who came before us, but learning from those errors and thus not treating the current generation as the past generations had been treated.

Mat 7:4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when you have the log in your own eye?

Mat 7:5 You hypocrite! First, take the log out of your own eye; then you will see clearly, so that you can remove the splinter from your brother's eye!

Let me share with you those stains requiring attention.

Overall, 57% of Americans support abortion as being legal. This is a very general observation because there are varying degrees that depending how it is framed can change those who support it. For instance you could ask...”do you support abortion under any condition? Or you could ask do you support abortion based on rape, incest or the mother's life being in danger?

In this poll, it was asked “in all or most cases” So, closer to the first example. A more broad and generic question than being specific.

Then responses to this question were categorised by denominations. Here are those who support legal abortion...

Unitarian Universalist – 90% (Not a surprise), yet some will most certainly surprise you.

Episcopal Church – 79%

United Church of Christ – 72%

Presbyterian Church (USA) – 65%

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America – 65%

AME – 64%

United Methodist Church - 58%

National Baptist Convention – 57%

Orthodox Christian - 53%

Others where it is not a majority belief:

Catholic – 48%

American Baptist – 47%

SDA – 42%

Church of God in Christ – 41%

Southern Baptist – 30%

Assemblies of God – 26%

Church of God – 20%

Yet I am grieved, yet not surprised by the survey when it comes to the Jewish community. There were only three who polled higher – UU, Atheist and Agnostic.

83% of the Jewish community supports legal abortion.

Guttmacher, through surveying those who perform abortions that since 1973, the passing of Roe v. Wade, over 61.6 million abortions have been performed. The trend is improving, from a peak in 1990 of 1.6 million abortions in America alone, to today's 860K, there have been countless children today whom 30 years ago would have likely been aborted. Yet today, I believe technology has been instrumental in changing minds and transforming hearts. Through high definition ultrasound you don't just see a somewhat distinguishable image but you see a high resolution image of life growing. I have also been told that another transforming moment is when the heartbeat is heard for the first time. There are also those, who rather than condemn are there to intercede, to pray, to love. These are the factors I believe are transforming the actions of others. If some is good, more of this, prayer, love and intercession must be better.

[https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiBgOfvpI7qAhXVknIEHfKuDE4QFjAMegQIBhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnrlc.org%2Fuploads%2Ffactsheets%2FFFS01AbortionintheUS.pdf&usg=AOvVaw04EmuUAqzjWd5OIJuv2gpl)

[sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiBgOfvpI7qAhXVknIEHfKuDE4QFjAMegQIBhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnrlc.org%2Fuploads%2Ffactsheets%2FFFS01AbortionintheUS.pdf&usg=AOvVaw04EmuUAqzjWd5OIJuv2gpl](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiBgOfvpI7qAhXVknIEHfKuDE4QFjAMegQIBhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnrlc.org%2Fuploads%2Ffactsheets%2FFFS01AbortionintheUS.pdf&usg=AOvVaw04EmuUAqzjWd5OIJuv2gpl)

Does Adonai's Word mean nothing when it comes to life in the womb?

[Psa 139:13](#) For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well.

Psa 139:15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

I have no words that in any way can reconcile the disconnect.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/22/american-religious-groups-vary-widely-in-their-views-of-abortion/>

In relating this narrative to the impact on the African American community - According to that report, black women make up 14 percent of the childbearing population. Yet, 36 percent of all abortions were obtained by black women. At a ratio of 474 abortions per 1,000 live births, black women have the highest ratio of any group in the country. For every two pregnancies, one is aborted in the African American community.

<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2020/02/25/abortion-the-overlooked-tragedy-for-black-americans/>

Abortion is the first log. The second log has been around much longer and is a racism itself, that being anti semitism.

This Shabbat we will be talking about Parsha Shelach where those that went to the land in order to bring back a report, ten of them brought back bad reports. It is this day, Tisha B'av, the 9th of Av, is forever remembered as Israel's day of calamity that forever lives in infamy, where one catastrophic event after another shakes the nation. In many cases, these occurred at the hands of other nations and their hatred towards the Jewish people.

The church's hands are far from clean of any wrongdoing. Though not systemic today, there are still remnants of it. There are most certainly influences that still exist in theology that act as a self inflicted stumbling block for Jewish people to truly embrace Messiah. In many ways, He is unrecognisable.

Has this ever really been addressed? I am not talking about alieving guilt for the past, but rather transforming the present by denouncing errors in theology. The sins of the past still reside in the teaching of today. Replacement theology has not been denounced by those who lead. Replacement theology is systemic. It is seen throughout the church in varying levels, yet is most certainly system wide. This is what systemic looks like.

Where is this action commanded for presenting the Gospel?

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through trust — as the Tanakh puts it, "But the person who is righteous will live his life by trust."

Whereas the mindset today is still to convert Jewish people into Christians. Again, another false narrative being promoted for which I have addressed repeatedly. This position impacts the Jewish community today, as we speak. Fear of assimilation, loss of identity obscures the reality of the message of Messiah.

Two logs that are very real and very large in the church's eye today and have yet to be addressed.

Be aware of what is being said. Don't just take their word for it. As I have told you many times with me, do your own due diligence as well. Confirm what is said. Confirm what I say. Facts matter.

If I were on Twitter and started a new hashtag it would simply be Life Matters. If life matters then the giver of life matters also. A point that seems to get lost when we are so focused on distinguishing between others, we lose sight of the giver of all life. He has been left out of this narrative.