



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

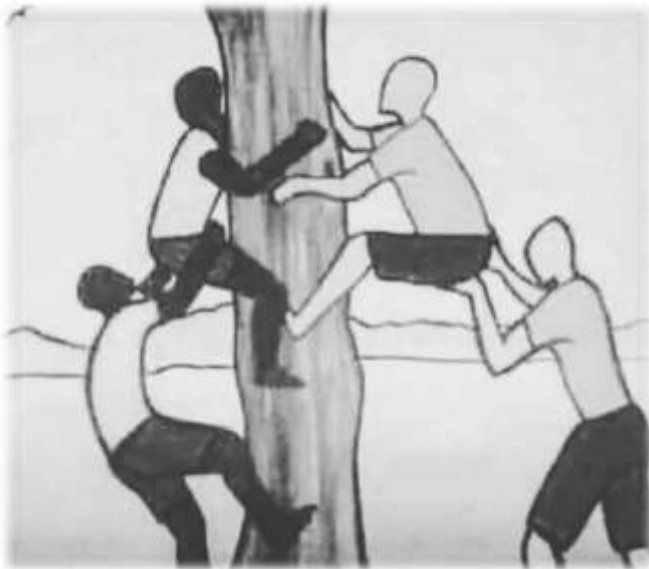
THE PASTOR’S PEN



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WHO I AM – WHY I AM – WHAT I DO - - Part 3



There was a time when “Produced by Blacks” meant quality and excellence. There was a time when Black businesses were the standard of excellence. Our history reflects that although whites in the community would despise and degrade Blacks individually and personally, they frequented Black businesses because they knew that they would receive superior quality and workmanship. It is most interesting to note that although whites did not respect nor honor the humanity Black people, they did honor and respect the workmanship of Black people and thereby gave them their business.

As others outside of our community saw, and continue to see, the benefit of supporting Black businesses, we, unfortunately, reverted back to our slave teachings. We were taught, “Do not support each other. Do not trust each other. Do not help each other. Only trust those who are not like you.” Many of us are well aware of the old belief: The white man’s ice is colder; the white man’s sugar is sweeter and the white man’s salt is saltier.

Through generations of conditioning, we have reinforced these distorted beliefs and currently consider many of them to be facts. Additionally, if we do not break the cycle of blind adherence to these self-destructive beliefs, and these self-deprecating ideas, we will unconsciously, and unfortunately pass them on to future generations.

Pause for a moment to consider this personally: If I believe that white people (categorically and across the board) perform every task with more quality and excellence than Black people (categorically and across the board), then I believe that every white person (categorically and across the board) performs with more quality and excellence than I do. Even more, I believe that every white child and grandchild (categorically and across the board) performs with more quality and excellence than my children and grandchildren.

If this is not true, then why do we make statements that claim, “Black people cannot do business.”? If this is not true, then why do some of us internally believe, “If I want this done right, I need to hire a white person.”? For those of us who are ashamed to acknowledge making these statements verbally, are the truths of these statements lived out in our actions?

One Black business owner does not complete the project as we expected, and we vow never to use a Black business owner again. However, white business owners have mistreated us in business, as well as every other aspect of our lives, since we came here in chains in 1619, and we continue to use white businesses. Think about it...

WORK FOR THE WEEK

MARCH MEMORY VERSE

⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brothers [and sisters], you did *it* to Me.'

Matthew 25:40

MARCH MEDITATION QUOTE

"We have to improve life, not just for those who have the most skills and those who know how to manipulate the system. But also for and with those who often have so much to give but never get the opportunity."

"If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time"

Dorothy Height

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I giving God my best? _____

The best I give to God is not the amount I give to God _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Am I giving God my best in everything that I do? (my school work, my chores, my job, with my family, with my friends, with God) _____

I can give God much with giving God a lot _____
