

## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

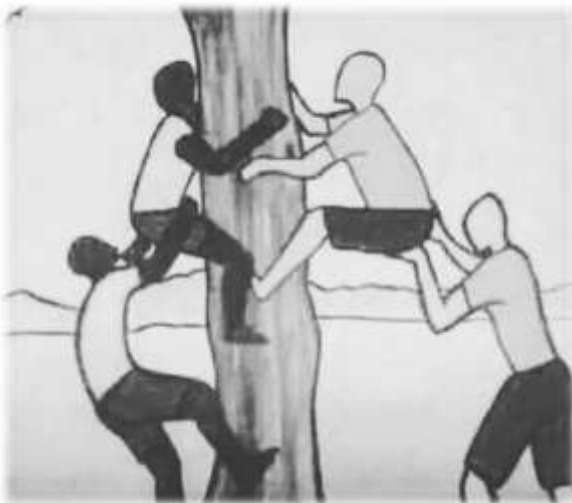
Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

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## WHO I AM – WHY I AM – WHAT I DO - - Part 4



*We must rethink how we think about who we are as Black people. What do you think? Do you agree?*

Yes, we must rethink how we think about who we are as Black people. We have been taught and conditioned to hate ourselves and everything about ourselves.

It is for that reason that many of us have rejected a primary resource for creating and establishing a solid foundation upon which to build love and respect for ourselves. That resource is the acknowledgment that Jesus was Black – literally a person of color.

Some of you will remember the picture that hung in many homes in the 60’s and 70’s of a white Jesus with Martin Luther King, John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. Some of you will also remember the arguments that many churches had (and continue to have) around the images of the white Jesus. The arguments generally went as follows:

- **“What color is God?”**
- “God does not have a color. God is a spirit”
- **“Ok. What color is Jesus?”**
- “Jesus does not have a color...”
- **“Wait... since Jesus had a human body, Jesus had to have a color.”**
- “Well, it does not matter what color Jesus is... Jesus is every color.”
- **“Wait again... Jesus cannot be every color because Jesus had a human body. Jesus had to have a color.”**
- “Well again, it does not matter what color Jesus was... Jesus is Jesus.”
- **“Ok. Then, Jesus is Black.”**
- “No! Absolutely not!”
- **“Oh, so Jesus is every color, and it does not matter what color Jesus is as long as Jesus is not Black?”**

For those who have and continue to passionately argue against Jesus being Black, I understand why. First, they are stuck in tradition based upon miseducation. We have been so overwhelmed for so long with images of a white Jesus, we have come to believe that Jesus, therefore, must be white. Notwithstanding, no one has ever painted a portrait of Jesus while He was on the earth, therefore the white images cannot be proven accurate or appropriate representations.

Second, they are stained by internalized oppression. Sushmitha Hegde defines Internalized Oppression: *When people are oppressed in an ongoing manner for a long time, they come to believe the stereotypes and myths about their own group that are communicated by the dominant group. They accept and inculcate the negative image of themselves and absorb their subordinate status as being deserved, normal and inevitable. When the oppressed begin to believe that the inferiority imposed on them is a natural way of life, they have internalized that oppression.*

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### MARCH MEMORY VERSE

<sup>40</sup> 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 by giving my best to others? \_\_\_\_\_

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Will I be on Jesus' right hand or Jesus' left hand? \_\_\_\_\_

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### FOR THE YOUTH

What am I doing to help and assist those who do not have as much as I do? \_\_\_\_\_

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What am I doing to show others who Jesus is? \_\_\_\_\_

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