



“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

June 13, 2021

THIS IS EXACTLY WHO WE ARE

Since the viewing of the video of the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer as Mr. Floyd lay handcuffed, face down in the street over a year ago, many who were filled a myriad of emotions from outrage to pain to sadness sought to soften and resolve their emotion by sharing the phrase, “This is not who we are.” Nevertheless, the killing of unarmed black and brown people by law enforcement in this country continues to occur.

Many are aware that this is not a recent phenomenon. Those who are native to Milwaukee well remember the Milwaukee Police Department under the leadership of Police Chief Harold Brier. We well remember the allegations often reported, however, the charges never filed against police abuse and police misconduct. We well remember the abuses taking place in the back of the paddy wagon being different from the reports filed by the police officers.

Even when the police beating of unarmed Rodney King was recorded and viewed by the world in 1991, the police officers were acquitted. What everyone saw with their own eyes – they did not see.

Additionally, closer observation will reveal that police abuse of unarmed black and brown people goes further back to the era of slavery and the slave patrols who were commissioned with the responsibility and authority to check for passes of enslaved persons, capture runaway enslaved persons and return them, enforce Black Codes and in every other way invade and brutalize the lives of enslaved as well as freed Blacks.

The slave patrols consisted of citizens who regulated the activity of slaves as their civic obligation for pay, rewards, or exemption from other duties. Unlike the watches, constables, and sheriffs who had some nonpolicing duties, the slave patrols operated solely for the enforcement of colonial and State laws. The existence of these patrols shows that important events occurred in the rural South before and concurrently with events in the urban North that are more typically cited in examples of the evolution of policing in the United States. (Reichel, P. L. “Southern Slave Patrols as a Transitional Police Type” *American Journal of Police*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 1988, pp. 51-77.)

Policing in southern slave-holding states followed a different trajectory—one that has roots in slave patrols of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and police enforcement of Jim Crow laws in the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries...After the Civil War ended, the slave patrols developed into southern police departments. Part of the early police’s post-Civil War duties was to monitor the behavior of newly freed slaves, many of whom, if not given their own land, ended up working on plantations owned by whites and to enforce segregation policies as per the era’s new Black Codes and Jim Crow laws. (Hassett-Walker, Connie. “How You Start is How You Finish? The Slave Patrol and Jim Crow Origins of Policing” *American Bar Association Human Rights Magazine*, Vol. 46, No. 2)

As much as the United States would like to believe that “This is not who we are,” perhaps it is.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

"²¹ The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

Proverbs 19:21 (NRSV)

JUNE MEDITATION QUOTE

"If all seeds that fall were to grow, then no one could follow the path under the trees."

Ghanaian Proverb

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What am I going through now that I need God to help me flip? _____

Even though I may be the one killing my dream, God will yet fulfill it _____

FOR THE YOUTH

What am I possibly doing to kill my own dream? _____

Let God help you flip it _____
