



TACKLING RACISM THROUGH PRAYER

God of our fathers, known of old, Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold. Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!
(The first stanza of Recessional by Rudyard Kipling 1897)

1. We remember slavery (16-19 century) was used by white Europeans to gain wealth. We also remember the numerous deaths of black people during slavery, the middle passage and currently, including George Floyd.

Matthew 6:24 (NLT) "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

2. We remember the atrocities carried out during slavery, a time in history where the bible and Christianity were used to keep black people bound.

Galatians 5:1,13-15 (The Voice) So stand strong for our freedom! The Anointed One freed us so we wouldn't spend one more day under the yoke of slavery, *trapped under the law*.

Brothers and sisters, God has called you to freedom! *Hear the call*, and do not *spoil this gift* by using your liberty to engage in what your flesh desires; instead, use it to serve each other *as Jesus taught* through love. For the whole law comes down to this one instruction: "Love your neighbour as yourself,"^[a] so why all this vicious gnawing on each other? If you are not careful, you will find you've eaten each other alive!

3. We remember the many men and women who were taken to the Americas by forced immigration, to work without pay in the cane and cotton fields. They were stripped of their identity, language and names.

Psalms 143:5-12 (ESV) I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah

Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

4. We remember people from the Caribbean (the Windrush) who were invited to come to the UK to rebuild the nation after the second world war. Many had served in the war only to arrive to a cold reception. They were unwelcomed, deskilled and faced a life of economic hardship.

Isaiah 61:8-9 (NIV) "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

5. We remember black and ethnic minority children born in the UK after 1st January 1983 of non-British parents not given the automatic right to become British citizens.

Numbers 15:15-16 (NLT) Native-born Israelites (British) and foreigners are equal before the Lord and are subject to the same decrees. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. The same instructions and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigners living among you."

6. We remember the over-representation of black men in prison

Matthew 25:43 (GNT) I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.'

7. We remember the high percentage of black people with mental health illness in the UK as a result of the mental and emotional traumas they face every day in this society.

Matthew 11:28-30 The Message (MSG) "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

8. We remember the systematic and institutional racism the Windrush generation experienced since their arrival and subsequently the scandal which highlighted the detainment, the denial of legal rights, and threats of deportation by the Home Office.

Luke 18:1-8 The Passion Translation (TPT) One day Jesus taught the apostles to keep praying and never stop or lose hope. He shared with them this illustration: "In a certain town there was a civil judge, a thick-skinned and godless man who had no fear of others' opinions. And there was a poor widow in that town who kept pleading with the judge, 'Grant me justice and protect me against my oppressor!'

"He ignored her pleas for quite some time, but she kept asking. Eventually he said to himself, 'This widow keeps annoying me, demanding her rights, and I'm tired of listening to her. Even though I'm not a religious man and don't care about the opinions of others, I'll just get her off my back by answering her claims for justice and I'll rule in her favour. Then she'll leave me alone.'"

The Lord continued, "Did you hear what the ungodly judge said—that he would answer her persistent request? Don't you know that God, the true judge, will grant justice to all of his chosen ones who cry out to him night and day? He will pour out his Spirit upon them. He will not delay to answer you and give you what you ask for. God will give swift justice to those who don't give up. So be ever praying, ever expecting, just like the widow was with the judge. Yet when the Son of Man comes back, will he find this kind of persistent faithfulness in his people?"

9. We remember the disadvantage in education of African Caribbean children which led to underperformance and disproportionate numbers of exclusion.

Ecclesiastes 7:12 (The Voice) For together wisdom and money are alike in this: both offer protection from life's misfortunes, But the real advantage of knowledge is this: wisdom alone preserves the lives of those who have it.

10. We remember the high percentage of stop and search young black men are subjected to in Britain

Micah 6:8 (NIV) He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

11. We remember the disproportionate number of black and ethnic minorities who died of Covid-19 which is asymptomatic of their experience of deprivation in British society.

Leviticus 19:15 The Message (MSG) "Don't pervert justice. Don't show favouritism to either the poor or the great. Judge on the basis of what is right.

12. We remember the poor housing, such as Grenfell Tower, that black residents have lived in which caused numerous deaths

Proverbs 21:15 (NIV) When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

God gave Moses clear instructions to follow when they came out of captivity.

Exodus 13:1-10 (LB) The Lord instructed Moses, "Dedicate to me all of the firstborn sons[a] of Israel, and every firstborn male animal; they are mine!" Then Moses said to the people, "This is a day to remember forever—the day of leaving Egypt and your slavery; for the Lord has brought you out with mighty miracles. Now remember, during the annual celebration of this event you are to use no yeast; don't even have any in your homes. Celebrate this day of your exodus, at the end of March[b] each year, when Jehovah brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites—the land he promised your fathers, a land 'flowing with milk and honey.' For seven days you shall eat only bread without yeast, and there must be no yeast in your homes or anywhere within the borders of your land! Then, on the seventh day, a great feast to the Lord shall be held. "During those celebration days each year you must explain to your children why you are celebrating—it is a celebration of what the Lord did for you when you left Egypt. This annual memorial week will brand you as his own unique people, just as though he had branded his mark of ownership upon your hands or your forehead. "So celebrate the event annually in late March.