



#FERGUSONTHEOLOGY



“For God says,
‘At an acceptable time
I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation
I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable
time; see, now is the day of
salvation!” (2 Cor. 6:2)

kairos καιρός

(n.) the perfect, delicate, crucial moment;
the fleeting rightness of time and place
that creates the opportune atmosphere for
action, words, or movement; also, weather



















© <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-vGmHnRO5c>

Creation - Genesis 1:26-27, 31

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in God's image,
in the image of God they were created;
male and female God created them.

... God saw everything that God had made,
and indeed, it was very good.

Remember and Feel

Remember a time when you felt loved. What was it like? Other than “loved” how did it make you feel? Feel that feeling in your body.

“and they were naked ... and not ashamed.

- ⦿ Guilt = I have done something bad
- ⦿ Shame = I am bad
- ⦿ Before fall – naked and unashamed
- ⦿ After fall – clothed because “I was ashamed.”

Oppression – Exodus 3:7-8

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Yada, Yada, Yada

There is a difference between knowing *about* something and knowing it in this intimate sense. Think of something that you knew about in the *intellectual* sense but then knew about in an *intimate* sense. How did that change your desire to act? How did that change how you feel?

Family. Solidarity. Love.

- ⦿ Who are “our people”
- ⦿ Fictive Kinship - a term used by anthropologists and ethnographers to describe forms of **kinship** or social ties that are based on neither consanguinal (blood ties) nor affinal (“by marriage”) ties, in contrast to true **kinship** ties.

Incarnation – Philippians 2:5-8

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Privilege

Advantages or immunities that people benefit beyond those common to all others. Because we are so accustomed to our own lives, we are often unaware of our privilege.

Reconciliation – 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Godself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making God's appeal through us.

Radical Reconciliation

Katallasso – “to change or exchange; to effect a change.”

“When we are reconciled, we exchange places with ‘the other’ and are in solidarity with rather than against ‘the other.’ Reconciliation is a process that causes us to overcome alienation with identification and in solidarity with ‘the other,’ thus making peace and restoring relationships.” – John de Gruchy

Consummation – Revelation 22: 1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Wait for it...

Black Lives Matter

or

All Lives Matter

Biblical Wisdom for The Work

- ◉ God loves us without bounds. We need not fear, be defensive or be ashamed.
- ◉ God always hears the cries of the oppressed, knows them intimately and is about deliverance. We can look at all life on the spectrum of God and Pharaoh.
- ◉ Life in Christ is kenotic -- self-emptying. Not exploiting privilege but recognizing it and dismantling it.
- ◉ We embody Christ when we are reconciled – in intimate solidarity with “the other.” We are ambassadors of *katalasso*.
- ◉ The end of the story has already been written. We know that we will win. Hold onto that – but don’t pretend we’re there yet.

Exodus 3

What Kind of Year Has it Been?

- ◎ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elq89ESp6rA>
- ◎ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-vGmHnRO5c>

Table Group Questions

- ⦿ What is your reaction to the videos?
- ⦿ What did you notice? Anything new/challenging to what you had thought about Ferguson/the protests?
- ⦿ Did you feel yourself wanting to get defensive about anything or push back against anything.
- ⦿ What has the last year been like for you – Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray. What has it been like in Memphis?
- ⦿ -list feeling words, what has been hardest, what have you learned, what, if anything, has changed you?