



Listening and Reflection Guide

Aisha Brooks-Lytle (Atlanta 2016)

Insights

“Jesus started a conversation that was hard, awkward and at times, really tense. He started a conversation that exposed racial tension, class division, and polarizing religious views. When we think about the societal crossroads in the church today, we need to take our cues from Jesus - and we must be ready to talk about the intersection of class and race... because it isn’t going anywhere.”

What do you notice about the intersection of classism and racism in America? In your community?

bell hooks says, “Breaking the silence and coming to terms with where we stand is a necessary step if we are to live in a world where prosperity and plenty can be shared, where justice can be realized in our public and private lives. The time to talk about class, to know where we stand is now, before it is too late. Before we are all trapped in a place and unable to change our class or our nation’s fate.”

Where have we been silent?

Where have you been silent?

Wonderings

This sermon was preached in March of 2016. What strikes you hearing it so many years later?

Rev. Brooks-Lytle asks the church if we will hide and retreat. What do you think makes your church hide and retreat from hard conversations?

While your story might be different from Wayne Presbyterian and the Black church in Southwest Philly. What did you learn from how they engaged?

Action

Rev. Brooks-Lytle makes several suggestions for action steps.

- Make sure you have some friends and colleagues that do not look like you, who are not having the same experience as you.
- Churches, stay engaged in the conversation with education and mission.
- Foster authentic conversations around race and class.
- Be a voice of advocacy on the community level.
- Pray. Pray a lot. Pray alone. Pray together. Pray as if your life depends on it. Because these are spiritual matters with profoundly earthly implication.

How will you stay engaged in the difficult conversations around class and race?