

“Black Lives Matter”—Seeking an Answer to an Age Old Problem

Luke 10:29-37; John 4:3-9, 27

The account of the good Samaritan is a story about Jewish prejudice. After Jesus states the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, a lawyer asks, “*Who is my neighbor?*” Jesus answers by recounting the story of the “good Samaritan” (Luke 10:30-35). Jesus then asks, “*Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?*” The answer is obvious—The Samaritan is the neighbor. The people the lawyer was commanded to love as himself were Samaritans, a race of people the Jews despised!

This Jewish prejudice is illustrated again in Jesus’ dealing with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:3-9, 27).

There is a lot of prejudice in America today. The word “prejudice” means to “pre-judge” someone without any evidence to make a judgment. Someone is judged unfairly. Pre-Judging occurs on both sides—black and white.

This morning I want to speak on the subject “Black Lives Matter” under three headings: (1) The FRUSTRATED slogan. (2) The FAULTY reply. (3) A FINER response.

I. The FRUSTRATED slogan

The “Black Lives Matter” movement began out of a perceived prejudice, or the unfair treatment of black people. Black people in America have felt like their lives don’t matter—That their lives are not as valuable as other people’s lives. Hence, frustrated blacks capsulized their feelings in the three word slogan—“Black Lives Matter.”

“Black Lives Matter” has become an emotionally charged political movement. To be clear, I do NOT support the BLM organization. If you read the BLM statement of beliefs, no Bible believing Christian could support it. The BLM organization affirms globalism, transgenders, and the gay life-style—All are unbiblical issues.

But, we must make a distinction between the BLM as an *organization* and the *individual* black person who is hurting and feeling he does not matter.

II. The FAULTY reply.

The chant “Black Lives Matter” is often answered by saying, “All Lives Matter.” Nothing is made better by answering back with another simplistic slogan. It only tends to stoke the fire that is already burning.

No one is going to debate the truth that “all lives matter.” Blue lives matter... Yellow lives matter... Young lives matter... Old lives matter... Rich lives matter... poor lives matter. Amen—They all matter. I’ll even take it another step further and say, “UNBORN LIVES MATTER!”

All human life is precious to God, “*seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth*” (Acts 17:25-26).

I believe the *average* black person who says, “Black Lives Matter,” would also agree that “all lives matter.” He is not saying that his life is the only life that matters. All he is trying to do is draw attention to the injustice he senses is being directed at him because of his skin color.

III. A FINER response.

There is a real issue that needs to be dealt with. Just saying “All Lives Matter” doesn’t answer the specific and unique issues facing many black Americans.

When we say, “All lives matter,” we send a message that we don’t understand or we don’t care about the problems facing black lives.

“All Lives Matter” may be true, but it answers the wrong question. The real question is how do we show the black community that THEY *do* matter and they *are* valuable?

Personally, I’ve never felt that my life did not matter. Probably because I’m white. The truth is, there are many who feel their life does not matter or worth anything.

A **BETTER response** is to AGREE that “Black Lives DO matter,” instead of trying to defend yourself by shouting back—“All Lives Matter.” Jesus said to AGREE with your adversary quickly while you are in the way (Mt. 5:25). What the black man wants is for you and I to *recognize* and *affirm* that **he does matter!** Respond saying, “Yes, you do matter! Let me tell you how you matter!”

The **challenge** we face as a church is how do we demonstrate to all people that they DO MATTER and are infinitely valuable.

- **They matter to God.** God is no respecter of persons, and neither should we. One soul is worth all the world to God.
- **They matter to us** as a church. And we must show they matter!
 1. By listening to them, without getting defensive.
 2. By empathizing with them—Try to see things as they see them.
 3. By building relationships.
 4. By Evangelism.

SUMMATION: The answer is not in politics or catchy slogans. It is an age-old problem, that can only be answered in Christ who makes no racial distinctions. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Galatians 3:28 says, *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one IN CHRIST.”* The answer is to bring people to salvation in Christ.

We must go into all the world and preach the gospel to EVERY CREATURE because Jesus died for ALL—Jew, Gentile, Black, White, Red, Blue, ALL! ALL lives matter to God. **SONG:** #242— “Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow; black and white. They are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

As long as people remain unsaved and outside of Christ, there will always be racial prejudice. Our hope is when Jesus comes and all believers, regardless of color, will be together with Him.

In the meantime, may we do all we can to reach EVERY person with the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).