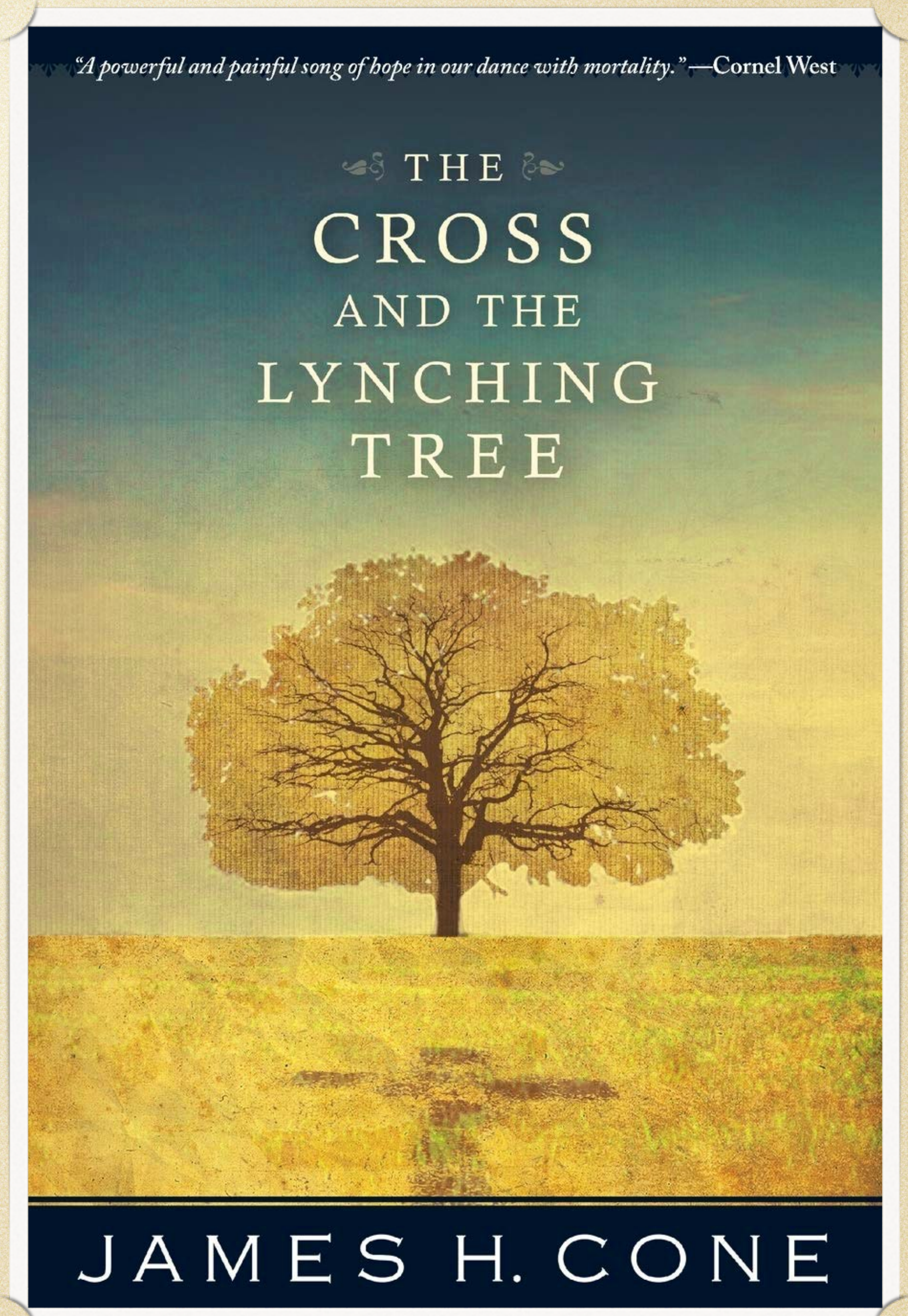


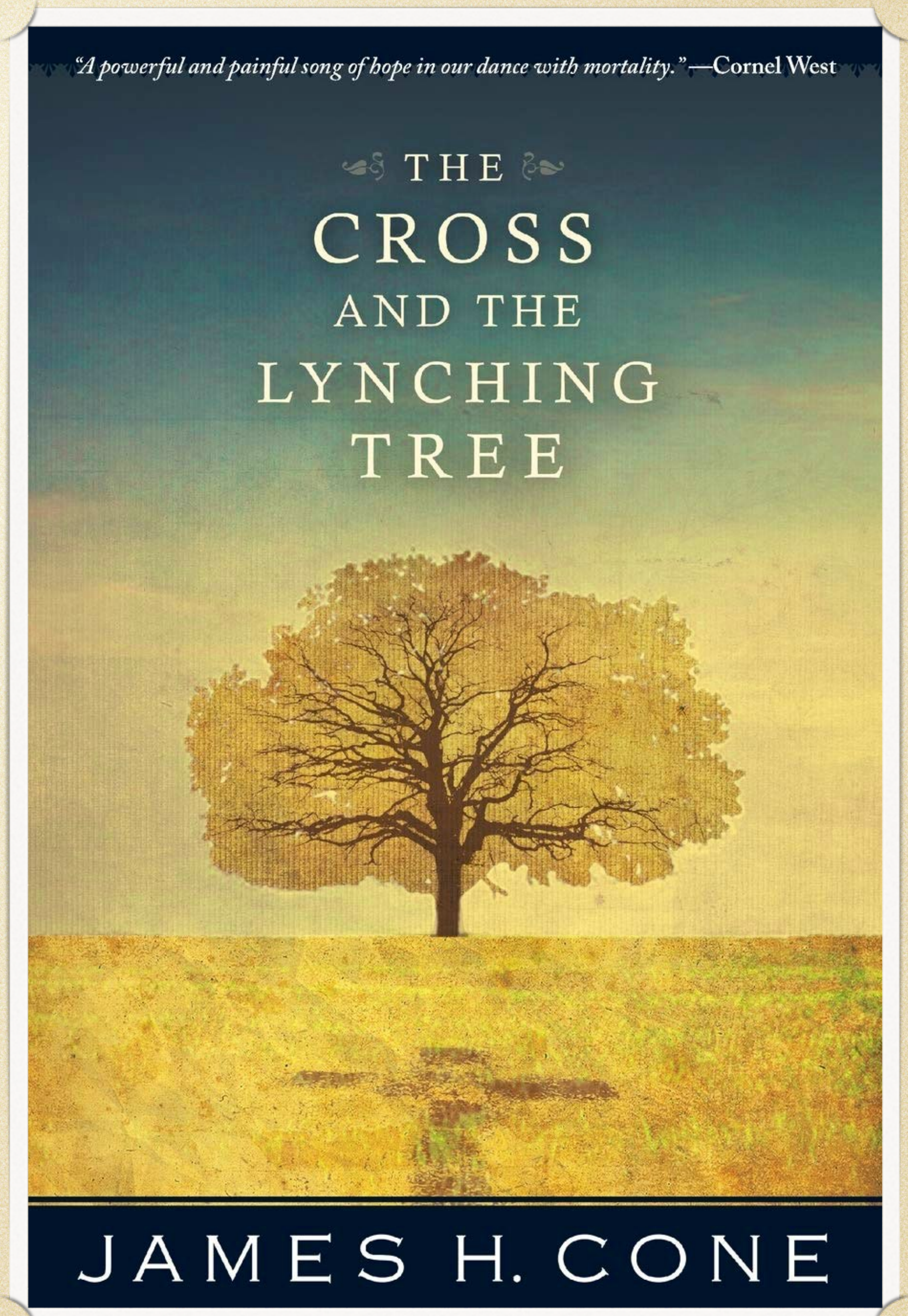
# Wednesday Night Book Discussion

Facilitator: Pastor Ricky Johnson



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Happy Birthday  
Deacon Darvacio!



# Leftovers

- Comment - "I understand how Cone describes Jesus' death as a lynching, but what did Jesus' world look like during his time?"
- Any questions from last week's session?

# Where we been? Where we goin'?

- Introduction - Cone has viewed the death (lynching) of Jesus through the lynchings of African-Americans.
- Ch 1 - The roots an reasons for lynching
- Ch 2 - White Christian responses (or lack thereof) to the suffering of African-Americans
- Ch. 3 - Blacks as cross bearers for the redemption of the US



# Chapter 3 - "Bearing the Cross and Staring Down the Lynching Tree"

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Struggle  
to Redeem the Soul of America

# Opening Exercise

- Give your feelings on these pictures







“If lynching was intended to instill silence and passivity, this event had the opposite effect, inspiring blacks to rise in defiance, to cast off centuries of paralyzing fear. The signal of this change was marked by the actions of Mamie Till Bradley, Emmett’s mother, who refused to allow this heinous act, like so many similar cases, to remain in the shadows or to fade from public memory.”

*-Cone, 66*

Video

<https://youtu.be/4V6ffUUEvaM>

“Lord you gave your son to remedy a condition,” she cried out, “but who knows, but what the death of my only son might bring an end to lynching.”

*-Cone, 67*

# Follow Ups

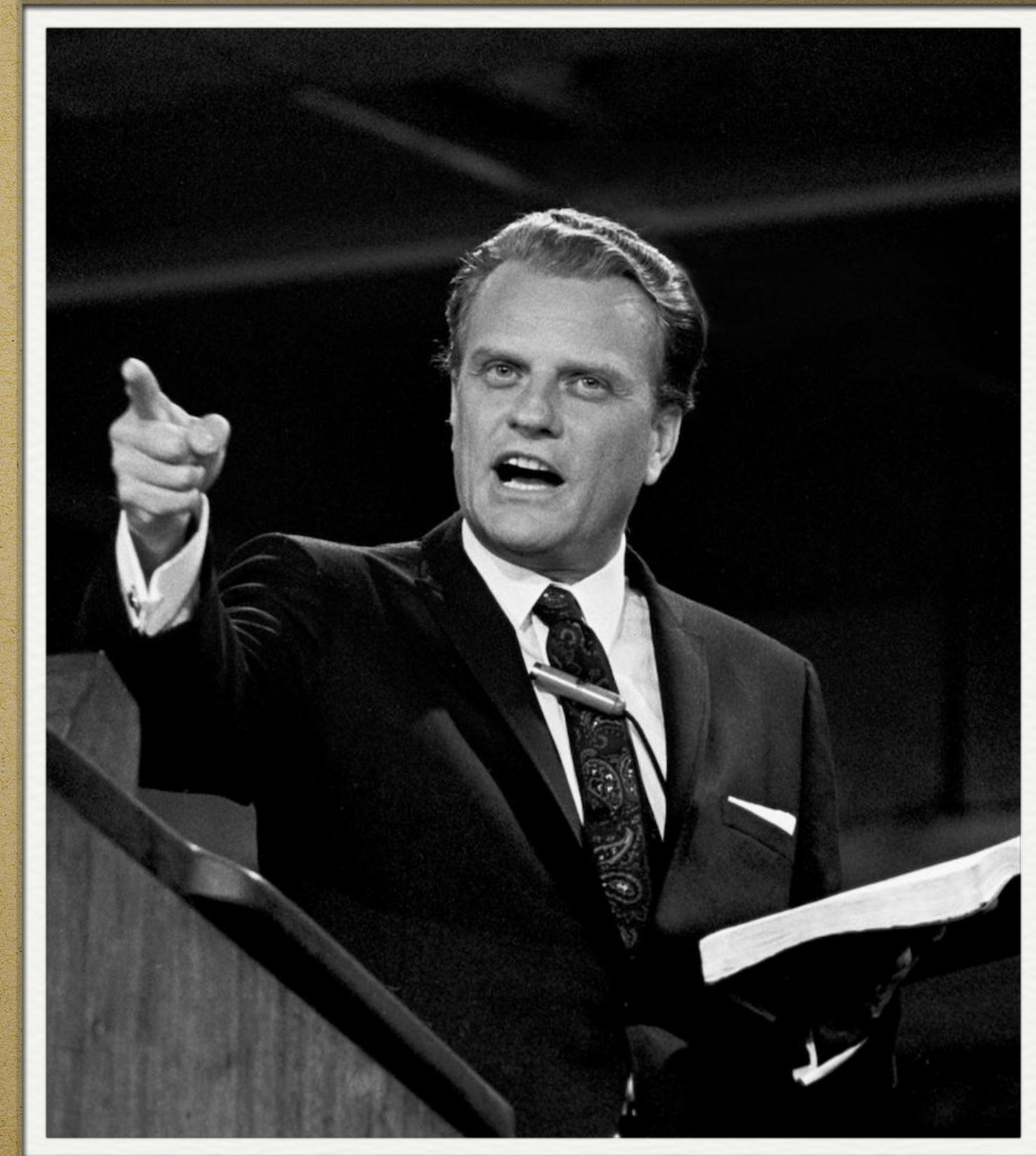
- What is your reaction to Mamie Till Bradley's choice to use her son's lynching as a rallying cry?
- What were some of your observations from this chapter?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



“one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.”

Rev. Billy Graham



“Only when Christ comes again will the little white children of Alabama walk hand in hand with little black children.”

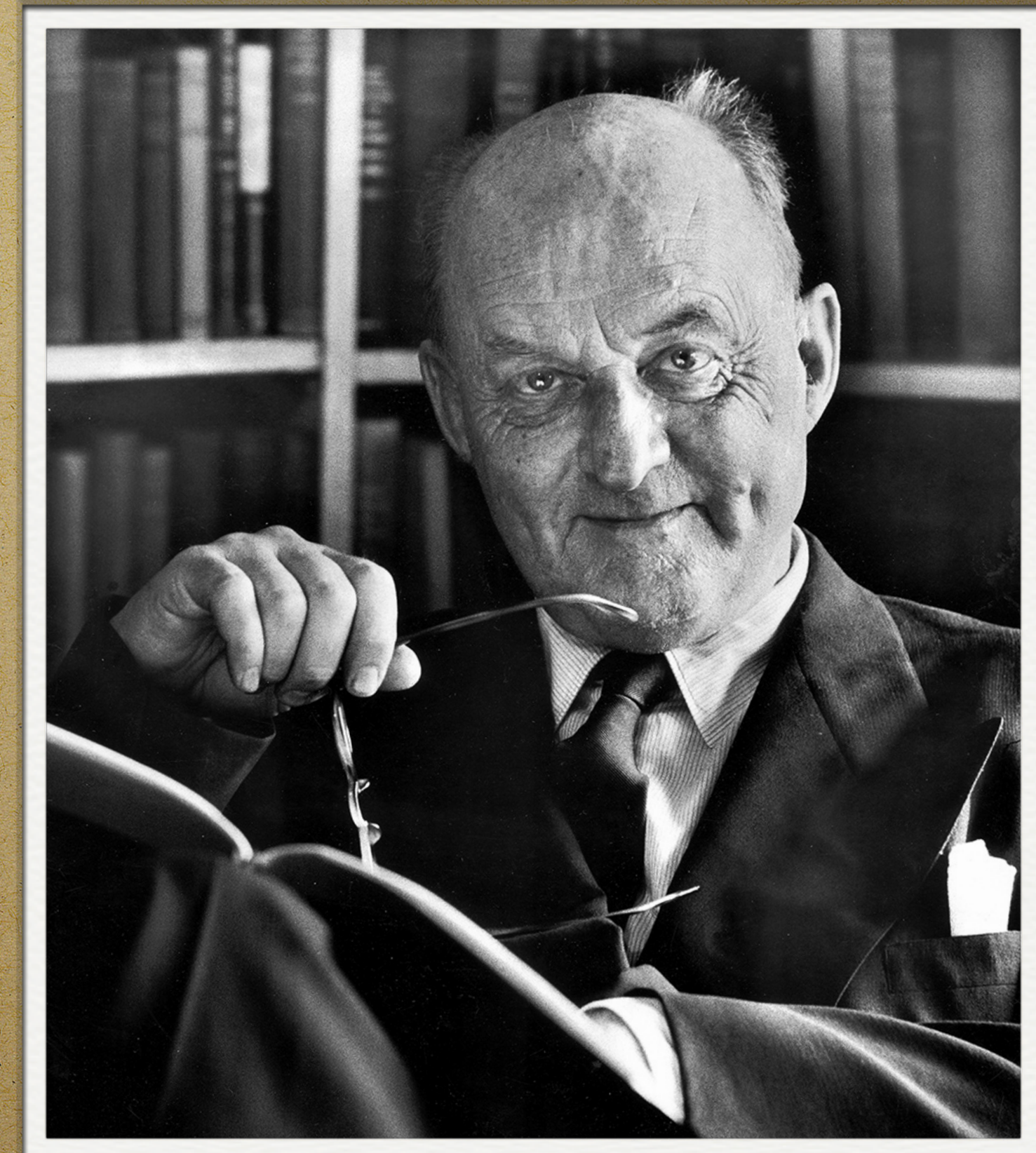
# We Believe in Justice and Agape Love but....

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



“...became a martyr in the civil rights movement...”

Reinhold Niebuhr



“remained safely confined in his office at Union Seminary...”

“Martin King lived the meaning of the cross and thereby gave an even more profound interpretation of it with his life.”

*-Cone, 73*



# Wrestling as Martin Did

“The assertion that Jesus' cross is the answer to the lynching tree...is a stunning claim.

- "How could Jesus' death in Jerusalem save blacks from mob violence nearly two thousand years later in America?"
- "What did salvation mean for African Americans who had to 'walk through the valley of the shadow of death,' or those forced to swing from a lynching tree?"

“King told how fear drove him from bed to the kitchen where he prayed, 'out loud,' pleading, "Lord, I'm down here trying to do what's right...But Lord, I must confess that I'm weak now, I'm faulting, I'm losing my courage.”

*-Cone, 78*

# The Weight of it All

- Do we ever consider the weight that MLK bore as the face of the Civil Rights movement?
- How would you imagine it feels to know that at any moment your life can be taken?
- "He knew he was going to be killed, but that did not stop him from fighting for justice."



"Loving whites who hated and killed them was not easy for African Americans. Only God could empower black Christians to love hateful whites, and even God could not guarantee that they would return love for hate, nonviolence for violence. But King believed that God was the only hope for a minority to achieve justice."

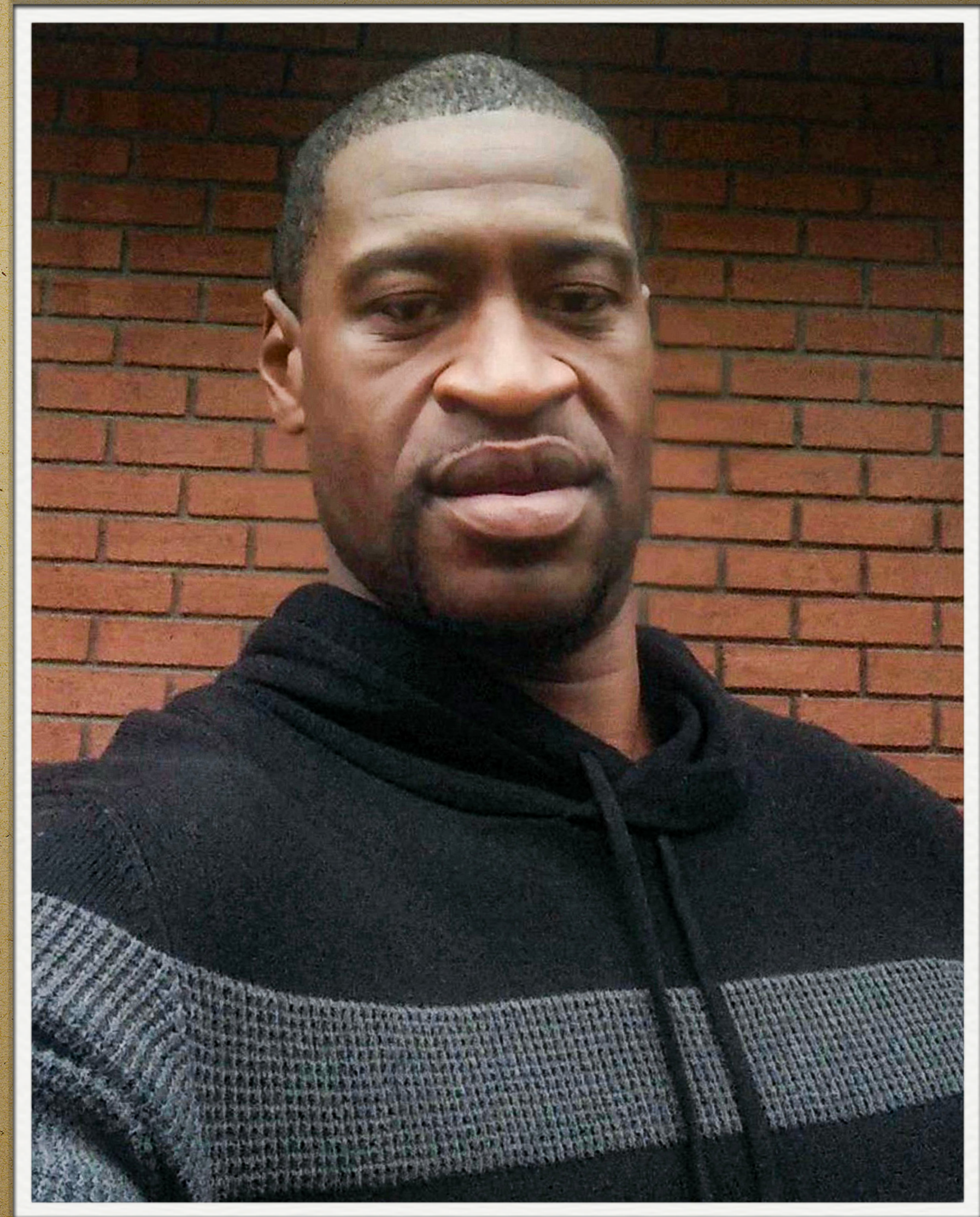
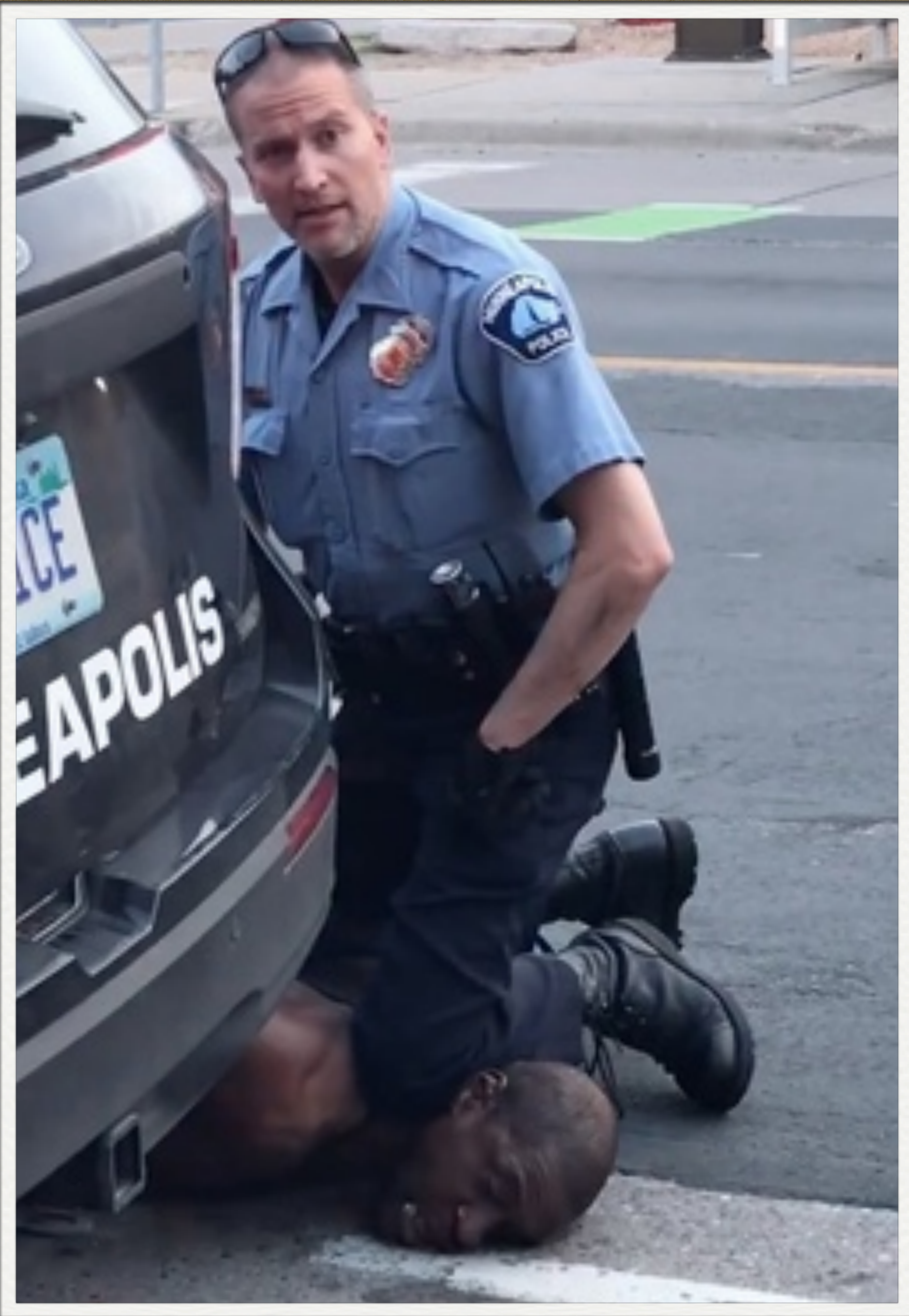
*-Cone*

"God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. History has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive."

*-Cone, 88*

“God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. History has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive.”

*-Cone*



# For Next Week

- Dave Chappelle on Emmett Till - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IWhSspDQC8>
- Dave Chappelle on George Floyd - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tR6mKcBbT4>
- Caution - VULGAR Language is used!
- Read Chapter 4 and keep journaling your thoughts