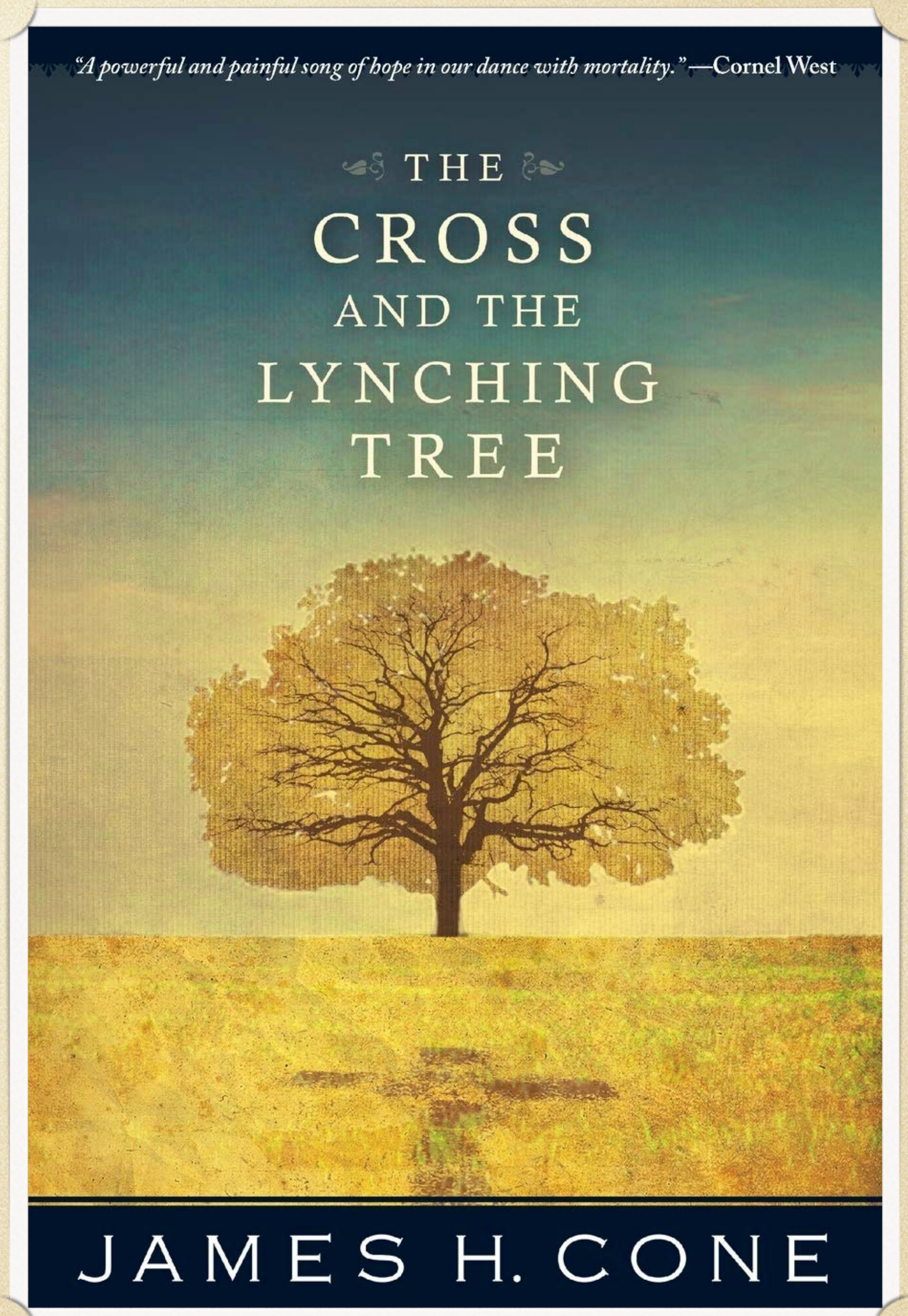


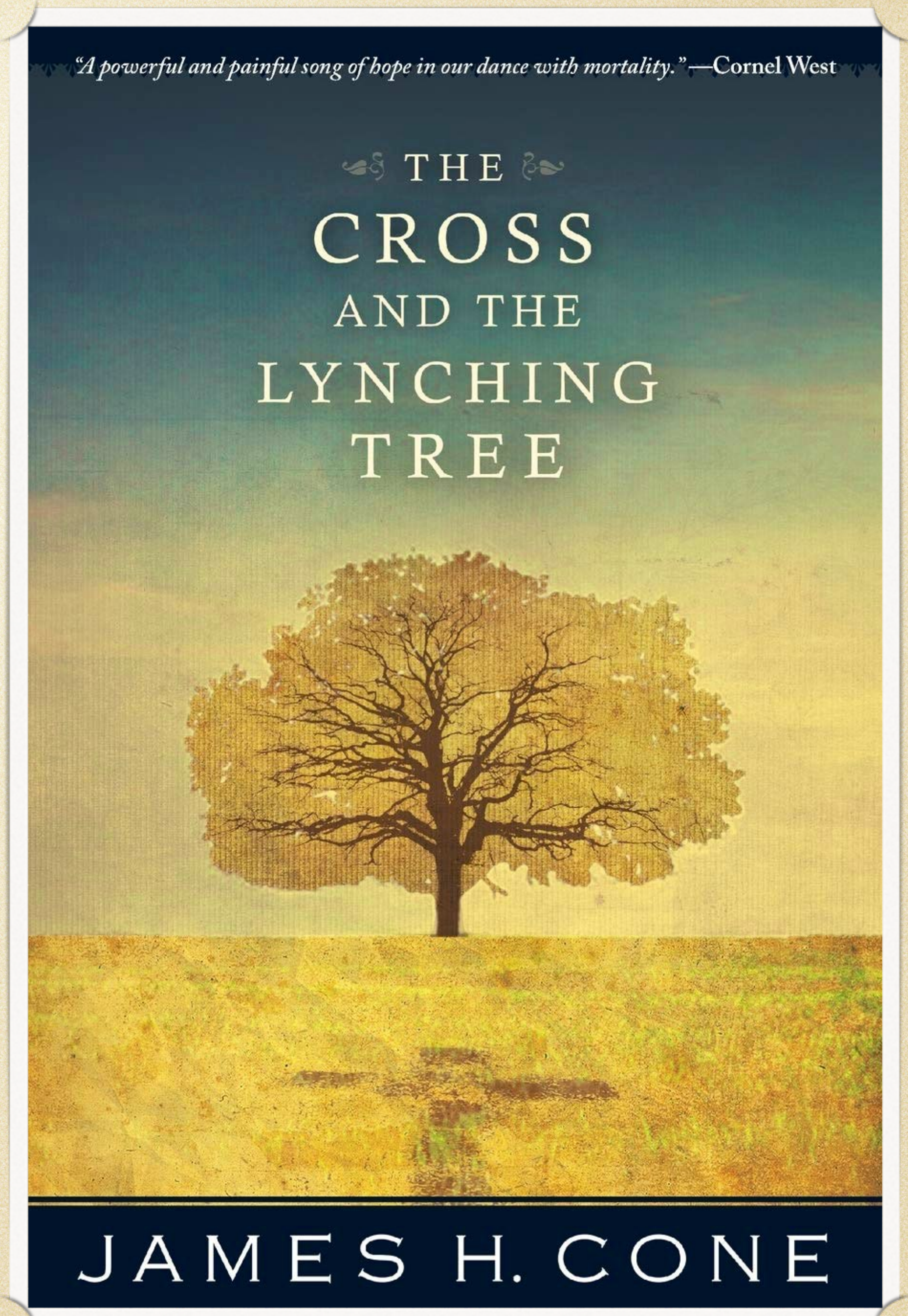
Wednesday Night Book Discussion

Facilitator: Pastor Ricky Johnson



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Happy Birthday Keona & Fee!

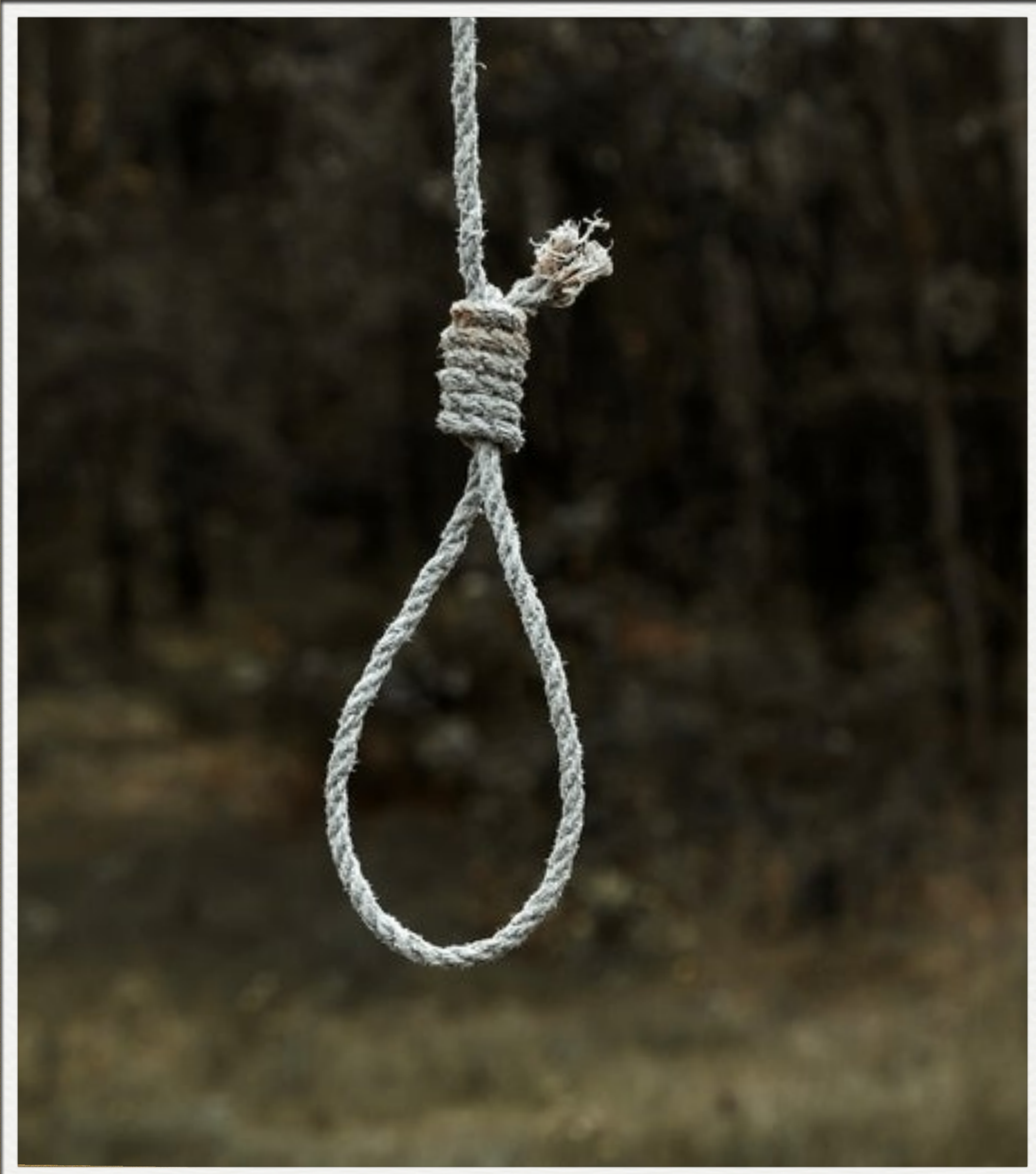


Our Purpose

- Exploring the centuries old question - How do we endure under the boot of systematic oppression and white supremacy and maintain our Christianity?
- Overall - Understanding how the Gospel of Jesus Christ addresses the black experience (“black liberation theology”).

Leftovers

- Question - Is the Cross Bad?





Leftovers

- Question - Is the Cross Bad?
- Any questions from last week's discussions?

Let's Listen Together

- Listen to this song....

Opening Exercise

- What are your feelings after listening to and watching Billie Holiday perform “Strange Fruit?”
- What emotions do you think Billie Holiday conveys in her performance?

“To ensure that it was indeed savoured, Holiday...created specific conditions for the performances. It would be the last song in the set, there would be absolute silence, no bar service and the lights would be dimmed save for a single spotlight on Holiday’s face.

‘People had to remember Strange Fruit, get their insides burned with it.’”

-Barney Josephson

Chapter 1 - "Nobody Knows de Trouble I See"

The Cross and the Lynching Tree in the Black Experience

“The paradox of a crucified savior lies at the heart of the
Christian story.

- *Cone*

“The cross is a paradoxical religious symbol because it inverts the world’s value system with the news that hope comes by way of defeat, that suffering and death do not have the last word, that the last shall be first and the first last...”

- *Cone*

Reflections

- Question - From reading Ch. 1, did you learn anything new about lynchings in America? If so, what was it?

“Although white southerners lost the Civil War, they did not lose the cultural war—the struggle to define America as a white nation and blacks as a subordinate race unfit for governing and therefore incapable of political and social equality.”

-Cone, 6

Pre-Emancipation Era



Reconstruction Era





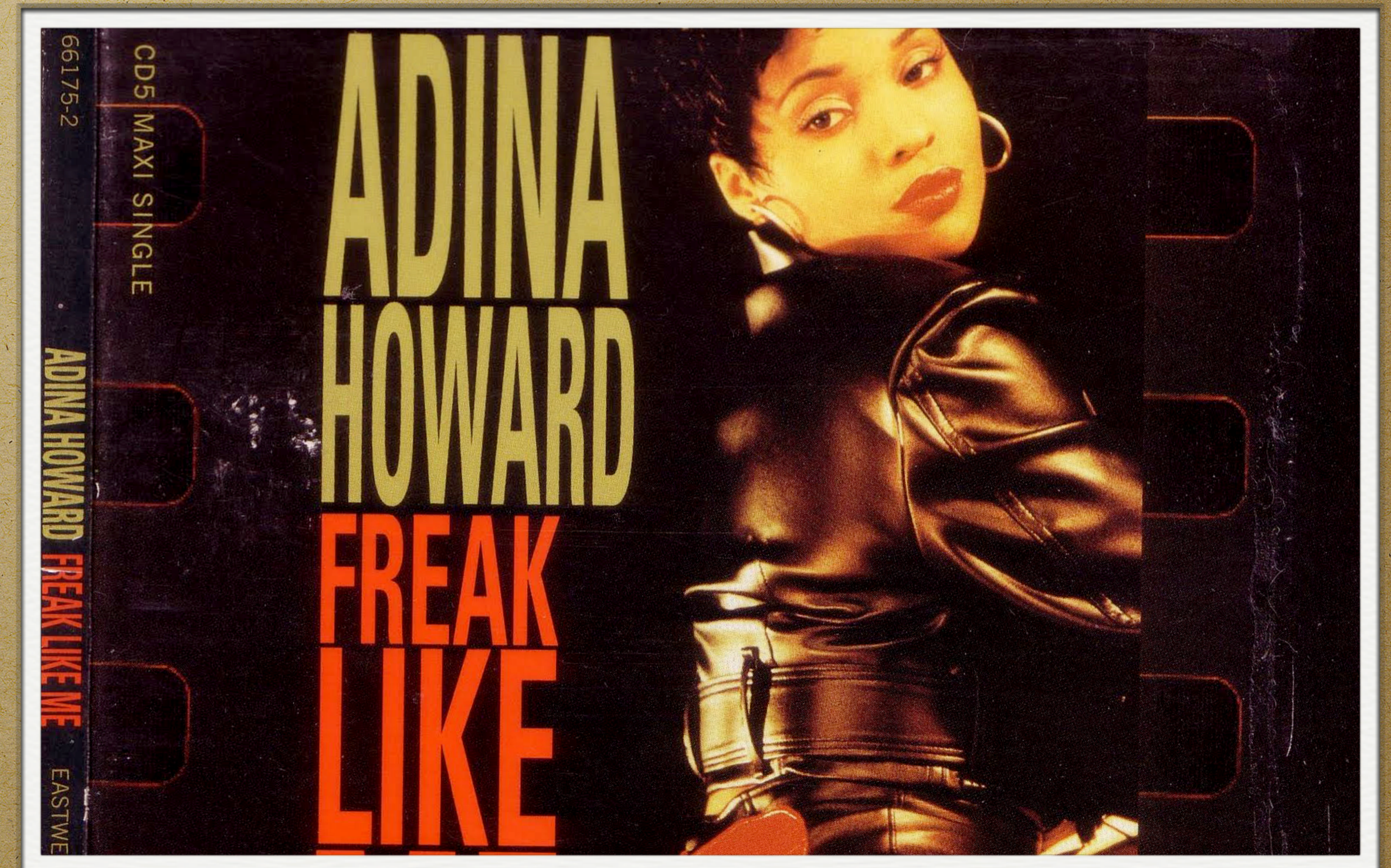
The Vampire That Hovers Over North Carolina.



Pre-Emancipation Era



Reconstruction Era



“Lynching was not regarded as an evil thing but as a necessity - the only way a community could protect itself from bad people out of the reach of the law.”

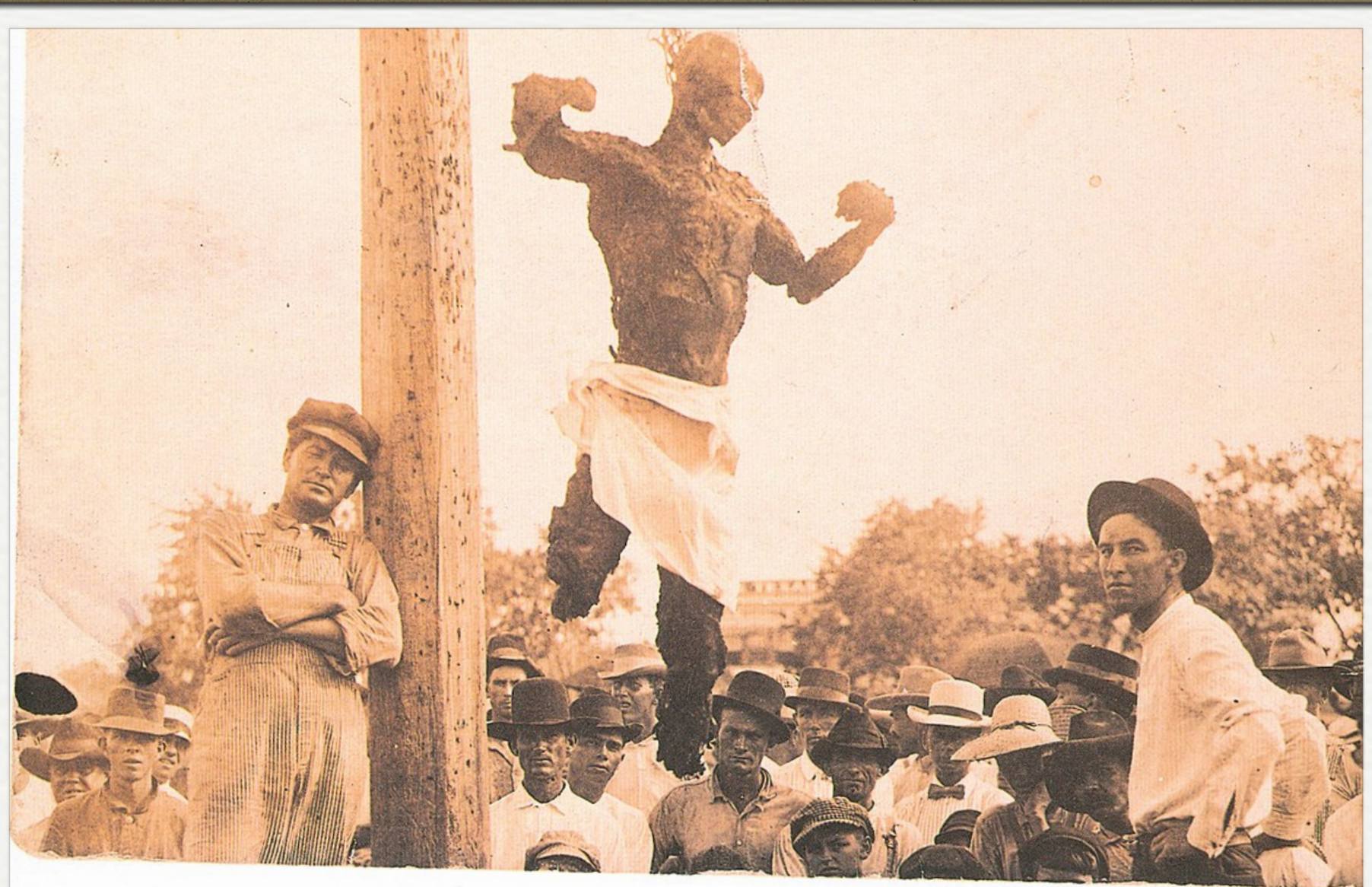
- *Cone, 4*

Charges of the Lynched

- Acting suspiciously
- Gambling
- Quarreling
- Adultery
- Grave robbing
- Race hatred; Race troubles
- Aiding murderer
- Improper with white woman
- Rape
- Arguing with white man
- Incest
- Rape-murders
- Arson Inciting to riot
- Resisting mob Assassination
- Inciting trouble
- Robbery
- Attempted murder
- Indolence
- Running a bordello
- Banditry
- Inflammatory language
- Sedition
- Being disreputable
- Informing
- Slander
- Being obnoxious
- Injuring livestock
- Spreading disease
- Boasting about riot
- Insulting white man
- Burglary/Stealing
- Insulting white woman
- Suing white man
- Child abuse
- Insurrection
- Swindling
- Poisoning well
- Kidnapping
- Terrorism
- Courting white woman
- Killing livestock
- Testifying against white man
- Criminal assault
- Living with white woman
- Throwing stones
- Cutting levee
- Looting
- Train wrecking
- Defending rapist
- Making threats
- Trying to colonize blacks
- Demanding respect
- Miscegenation
- Trying to vote
- Disorderly conduct
- Mistaken identity
- Unpopularity
- Eloping with white woman
- Molestation
- Unruly remarks
- Entered white woman's room
- Murder
- Using obscene language
- Enticement
- Non-sexual assault
- Vagrancy
- Extortion
- Peeping Tom
- Violated quarantine
- Fraud
- Pillage
- Conjuring/Voodooism
- Plotting to kill
- Voting for wrong party
- Frightening white woman

““Hundreds of Kodaks clicked all morning at the scene of the lynching. People in automobiles and carriages came from miles around to view the corpse dangling from the end of a rope...Picture cards photographers installed a portable printing plant at the bridge and reaped a harvest in selling the postcard showing a photograph of the lynched Negro. Women and children were there by the score. At a number of country schools the day's routine was delayed until boy and girl pupils could get back from viewing the lynched man.” ”

-Cone, 1



POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE HERE

NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
 A PLACE A
 = STAMP =
 O HERF O
 ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲

KATY ELECTRIC STUDIO
 TEMPLE, TEXAS.
 H. LIPPE, PROP.

This is the
 Barbecue we
 had last night
 my picture is to
 the left with a
 cross over it your
 son's job.

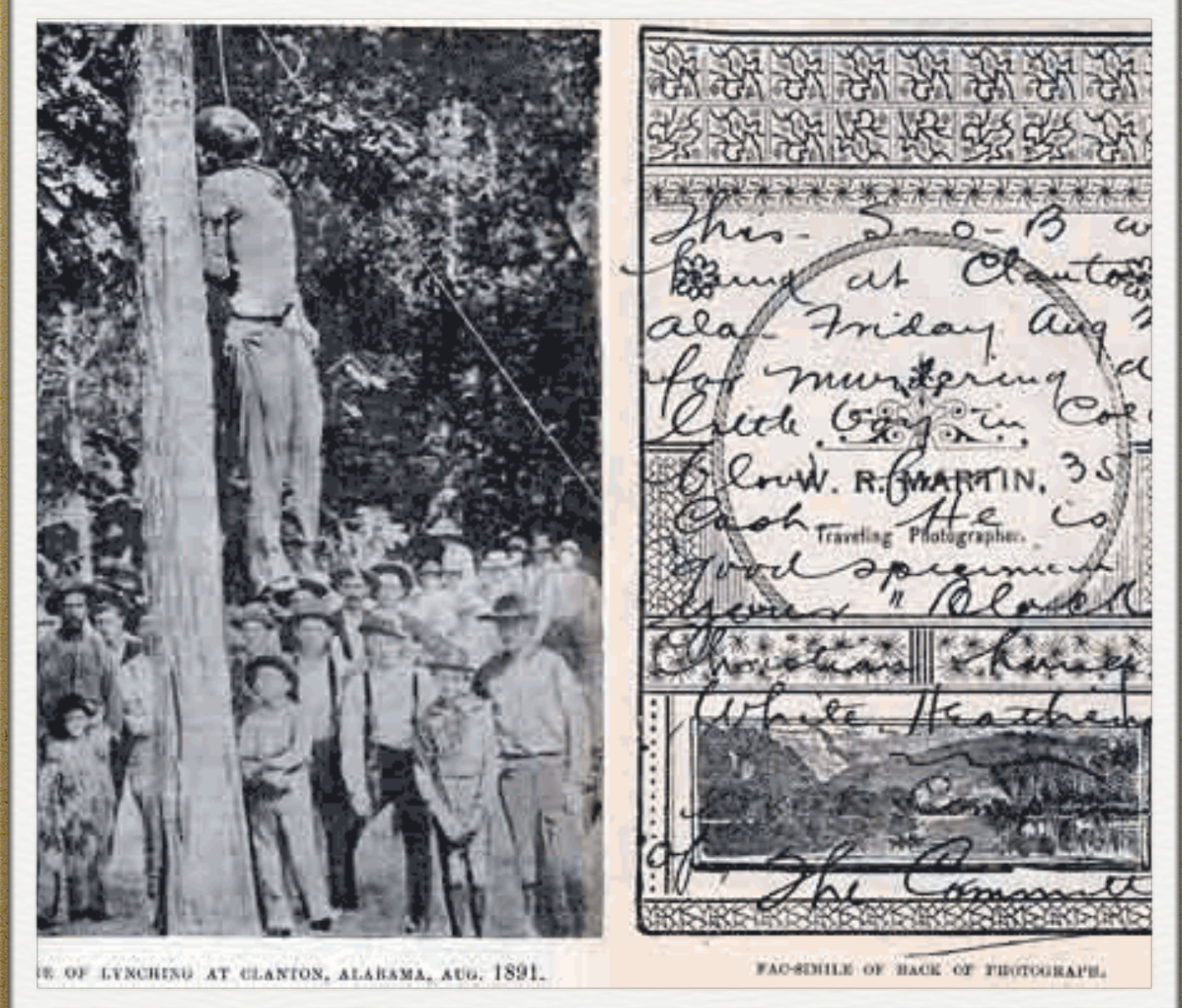


POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

This is where
 they lynched a
 negro the other
 day they don't
 know who done
 it I guess they
 don't care much.
 Don't do you?



RE OF LYNCHING AT CLANTON, ALABAMA, AUG. 1891.

FAC-SIMILE OF BACK OF PHOTOGRAPH.

This is a
 copy at Clanton
 Ala Friday Aug
 for murdering a
 Creek boy in Ala
 Blount R. MARTIN, 35
 Cash. He is
 a good specimen
 of a "Black
 Christian" who
 White Heaters
 of the Committee

“How did southern rural blacks survive the terrors of this
era? ”

-Cone

Juke Joints



Churches



“Nothing speaks to the black experience in its tragic joy like
the spirituals and the blues.”

- Cone - 2015 MLK Lecture at Duke Divinity School

Music to Soothe My Soul

- What secular songs do you listen to now to help you deal with life, or affirms your humanity as a black man or woman? (Or has helped the black community)
- What spiritual songs give you or the black community hope?

“The blues prepared people to fight for justice by giving them a cultural identity that made them human and thus ready to struggle...But it was Jesus’ cross that sent people protesting in the streets seeking to change the social structures of racial oppression”

-Cone, 28

For Next Week

- Read Chapter 2 and keep journaling your thoughts