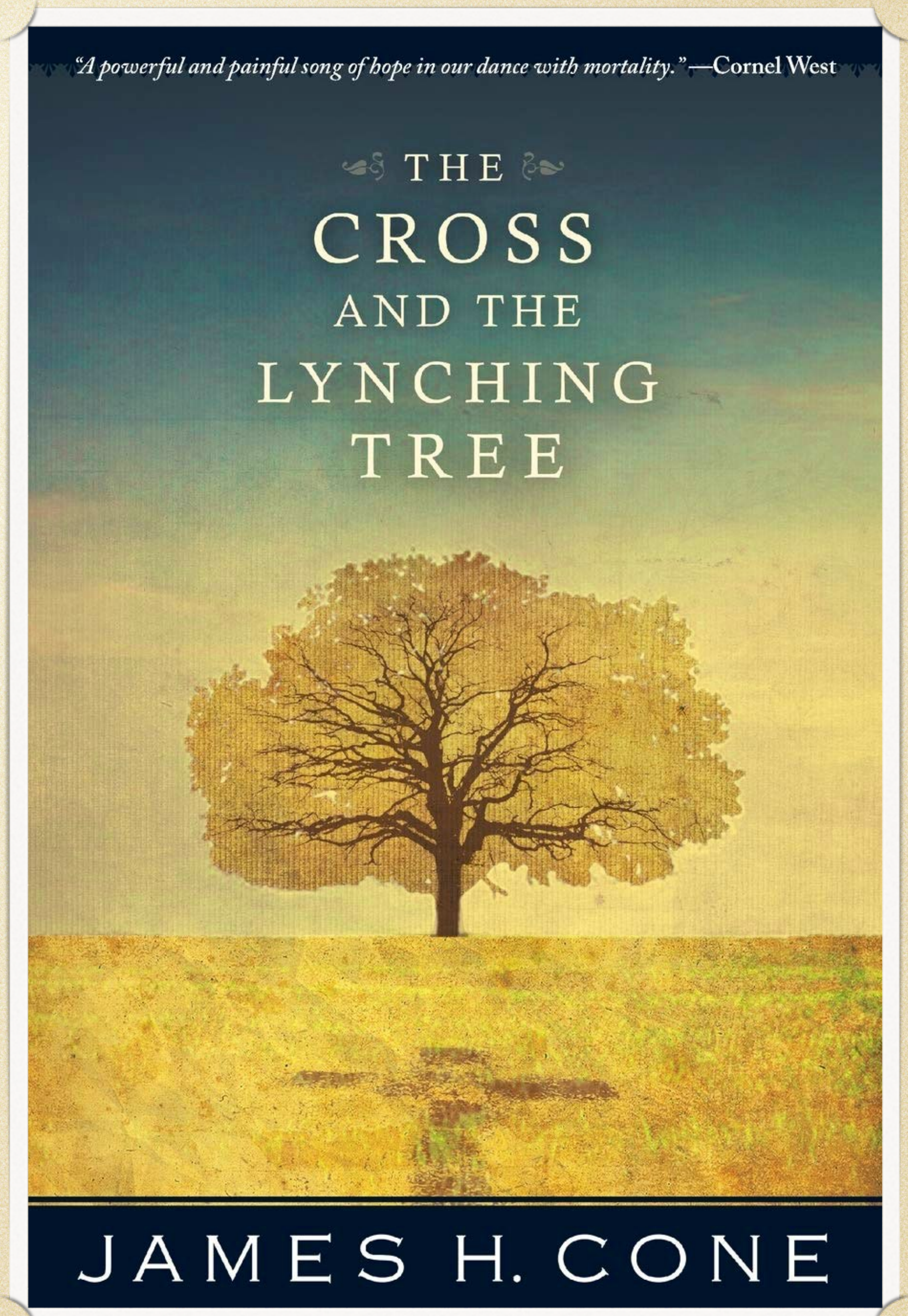


# Wednesday Night Book Discussion

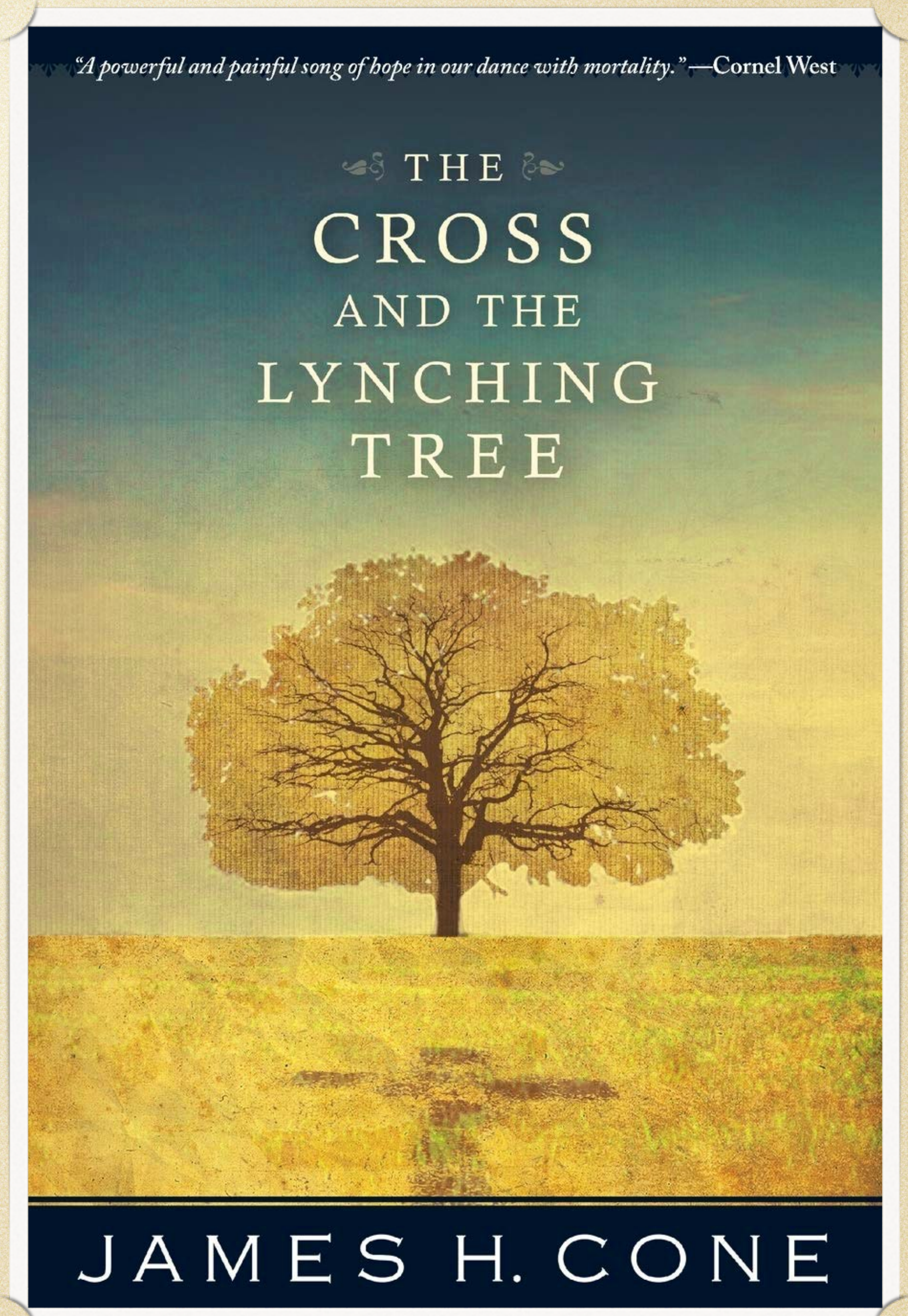
Facilitator: Pastor Ricky Johnson





# Wednesday Night Book Discussion

Facilitator: Pastor Ricky Johnson



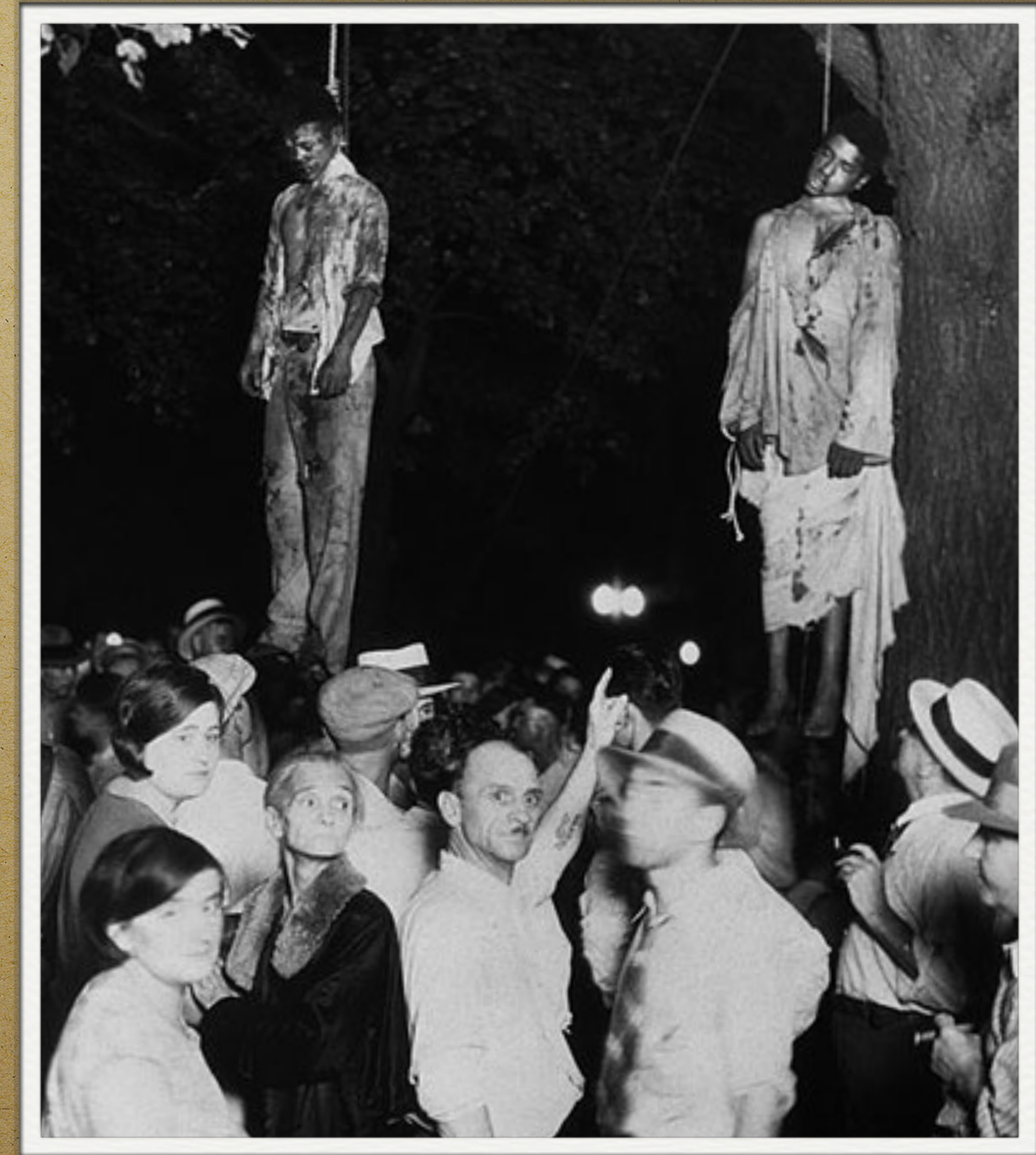
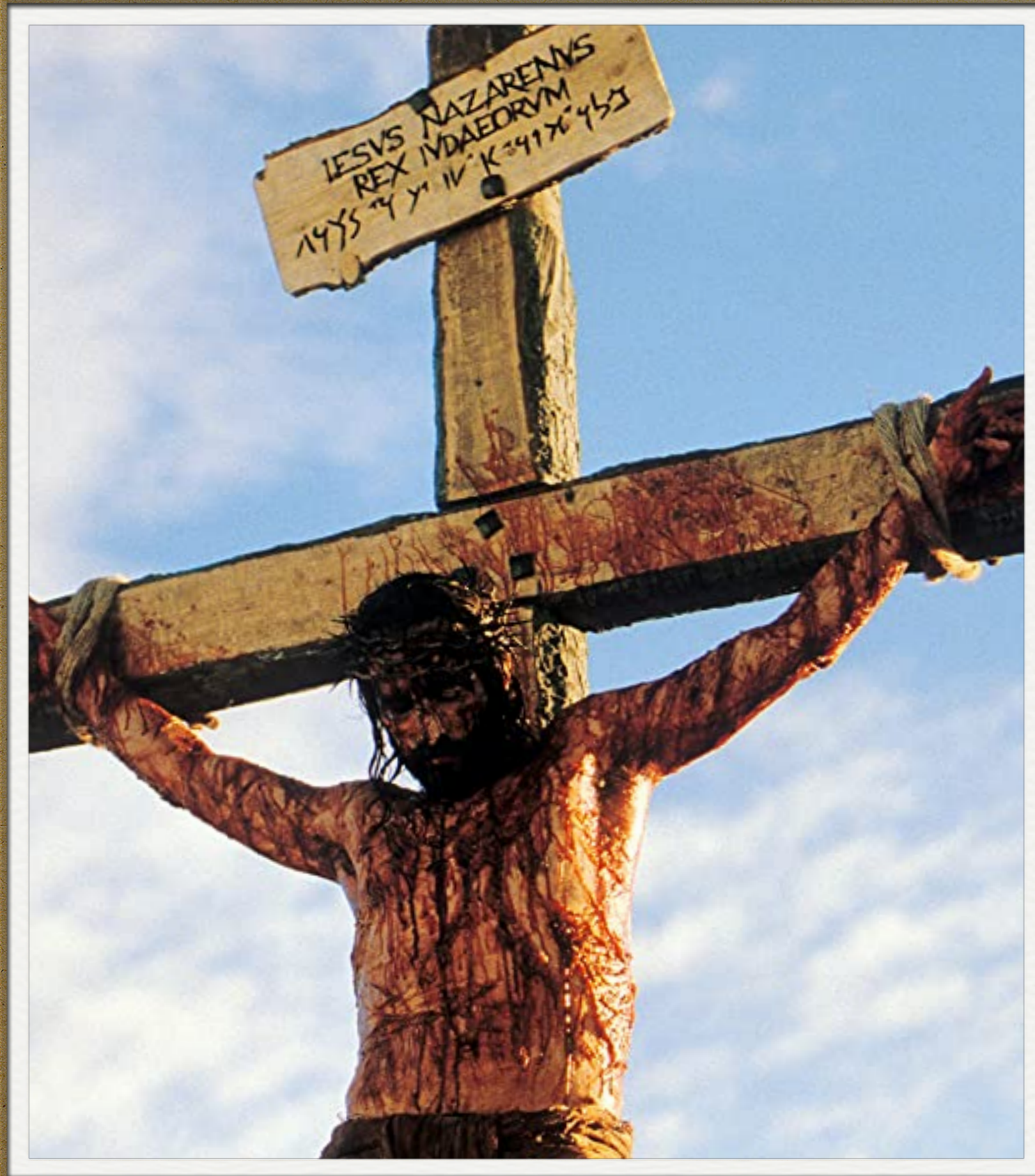


Where We've Been



# Introduction

Seeing The Cross and the Lynching Tree Together





Ch. 1 - Nobody  
Knows de Trouble  
I see”

The Cross and the Lynching Tree in  
the Black Experience





# Pre-Emancipation Era



# Reconstruction Era





# 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



# Juke Joints



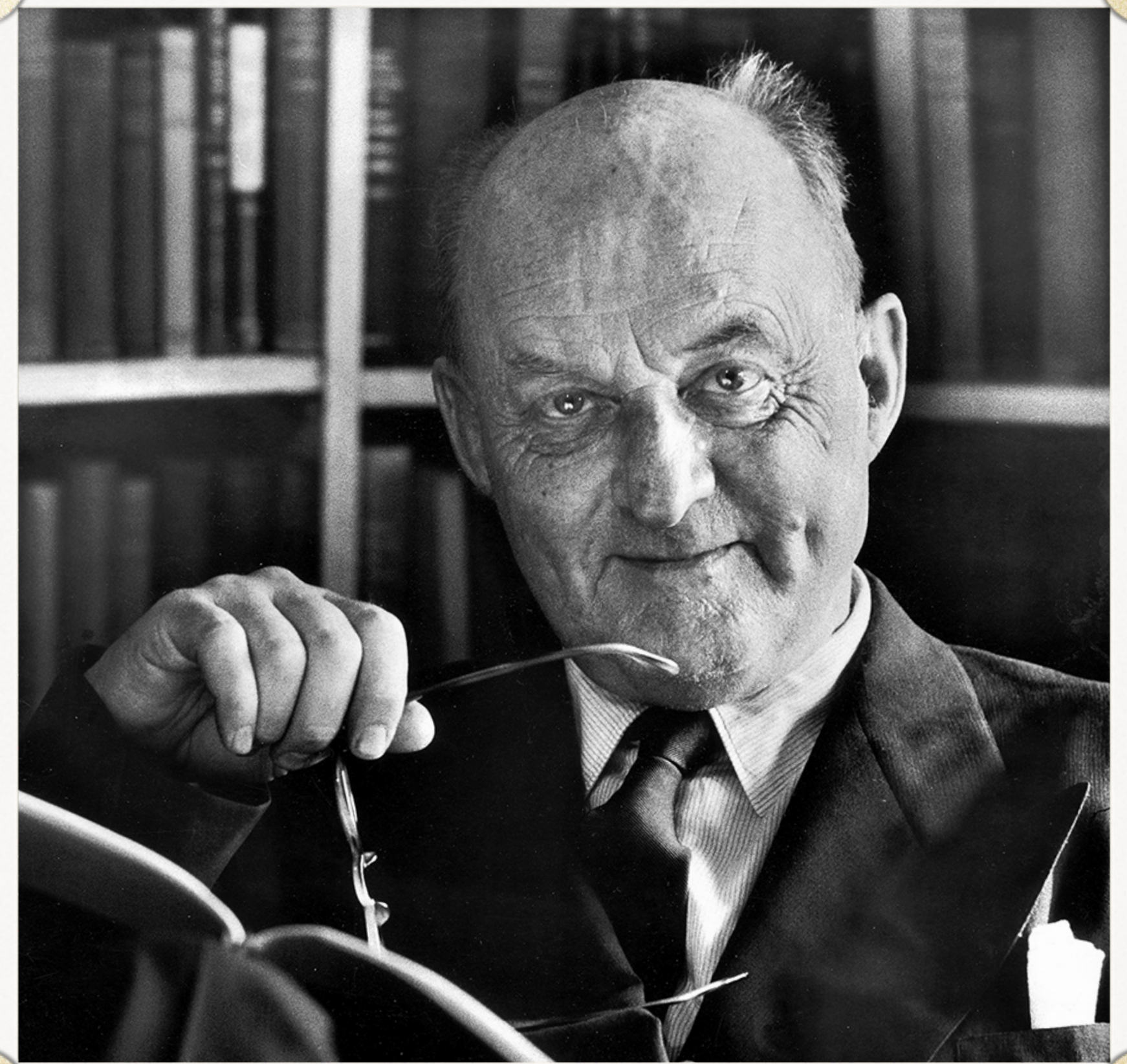
# Churches





Ch. 2 - "The Terrible  
Beauty of the Cross  
and the Tragedy of the  
Lynch Tree

A Reflection on Reinhold Niebuhr



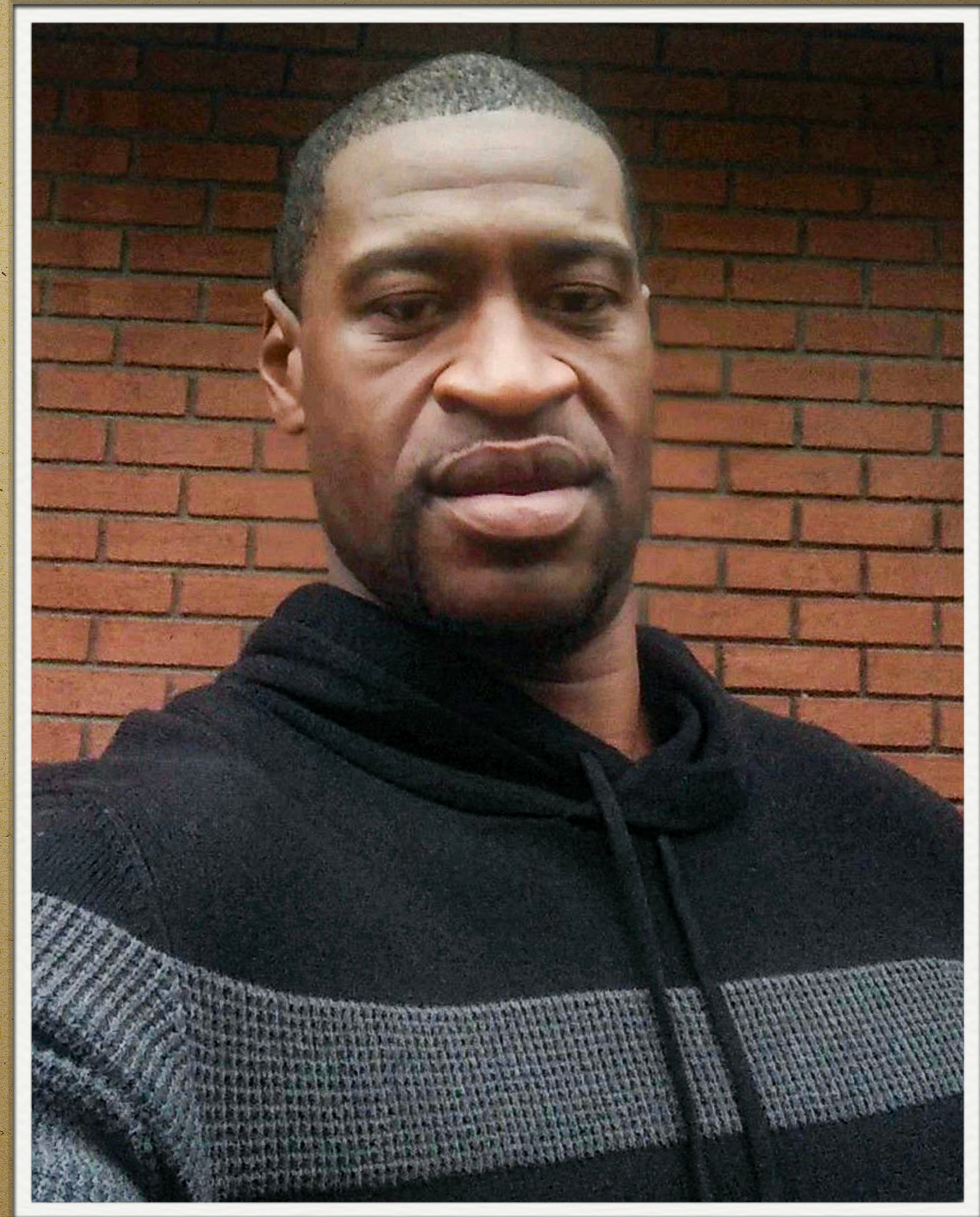
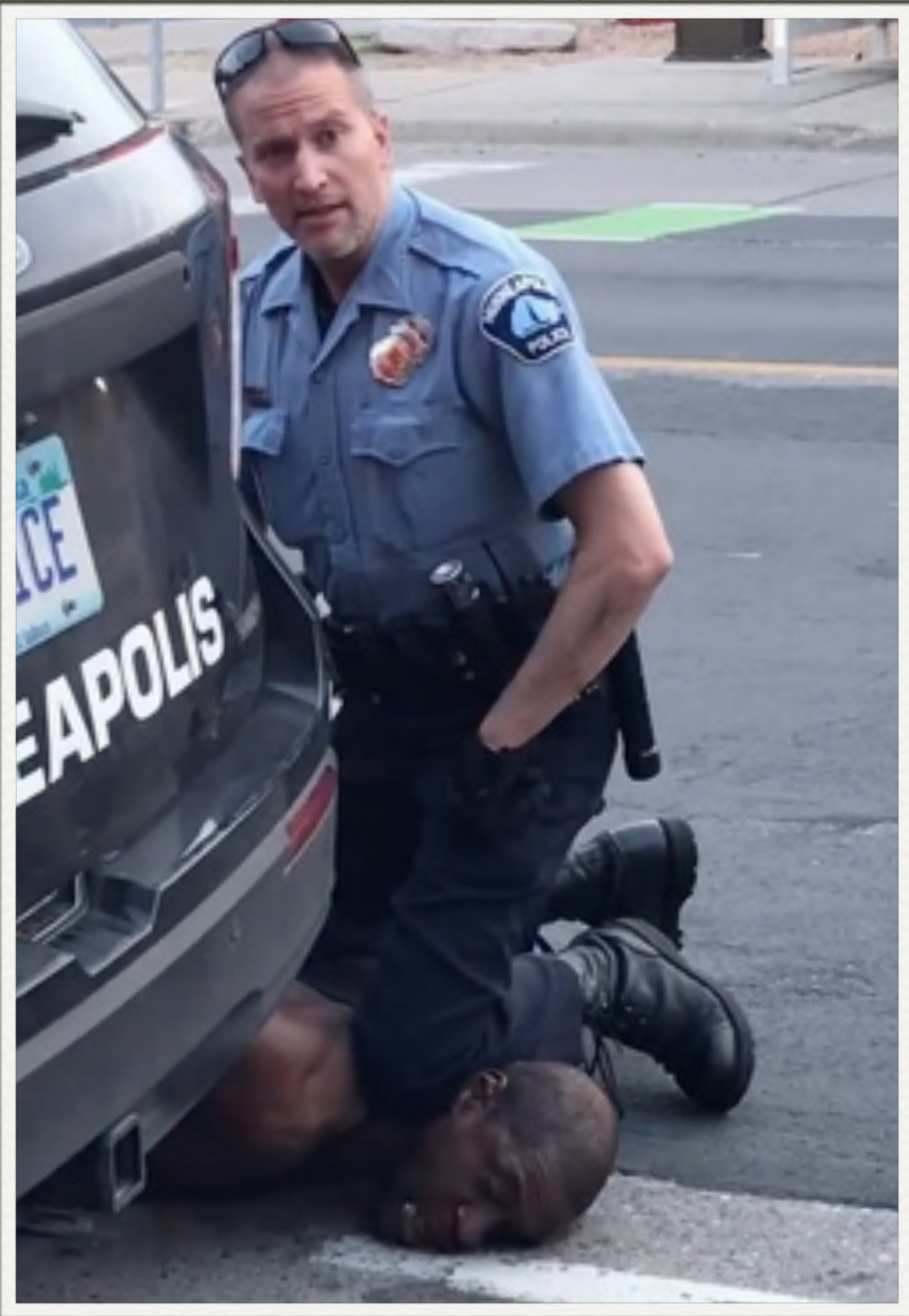


Ch. 3 - "Bearing the  
Cross and  
Staring Down the  
Lynching Tree"

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

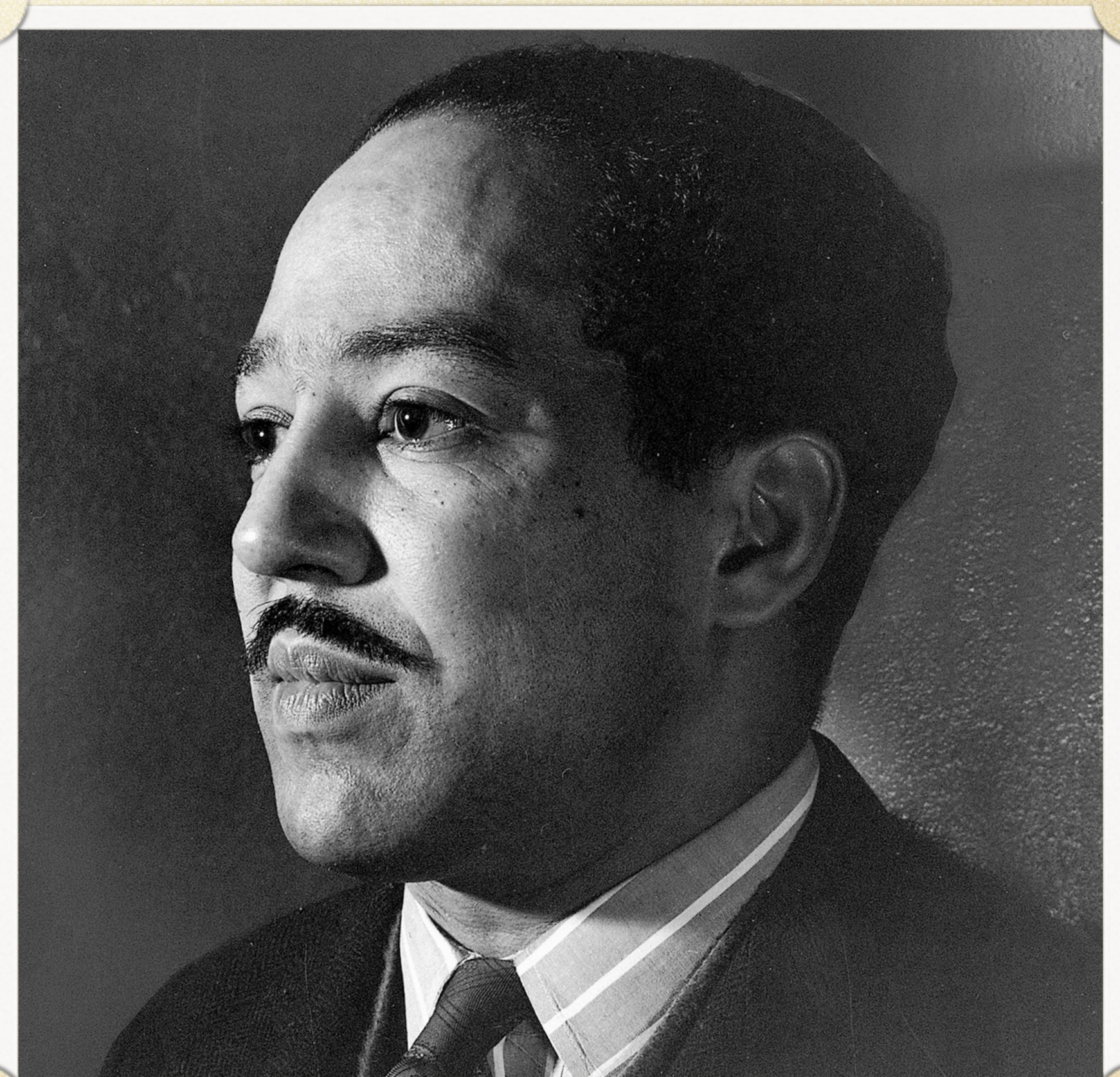








Chapter 4 - "The  
Recrucified Christ in  
Black Literary  
Imagination"





Ch. 5 - "Oh Mary,  
Don't You Weep"





“Black women are STILL enduring and conquering. We are STILL transforming America through our suffering.”

*-Elder Tiara Colbert*



# Conclusion

Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree



“The cross and the lynching tree interpret each other. Both were public spectacles, shameful events, instruments of punishment reserved for the most despised people in society.”

*-Cone, 161*



# Society as Jesus Knew It

- "The Roman Empire that killed Jesus at Calvary was similar to the American Empire that lynched blacks in the U.S."
- Rome ruled the Jewish homeland through collaboration with the elite / temple priest class.
- "The religious authorities of Jesus' time were threatened by his teachings about the reign of God's justice and love, and the state authorities executed him as an insurrectionist-one who 'perverts the nation' and 'stirs up the people'" - Cone





“...he [Jesus] died like a [lynched black victim] or a common [black] criminal in torment, on the tree of shame.” The crowd’s shout “Crucify him!” (Mk 15: 14) anticipated the white mob’s shout “Lynch him!” Jesus’ agonizing final cry of abandonment from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mk 15: 34), was similar to the lynched victim Sam Hose’s awful scream as he drew his last breath, “Oh, my God! Oh, Jesus.” In each case, it was a cruel, agonizing, and contemptible death.”

*-Cone, 161*



# The Cross and the Lynching Tree

- The cross needs the lynching tree to remind Americans of the reality of suffering—to keep the cross from becoming a symbol of abstract, sentimental piety.
- The lynching tree also needs the cross, without which it becomes simply an abomination. It is the cross that points in the direction of hope, the confidence that there is a dimension to life beyond the reach of the oppressor.

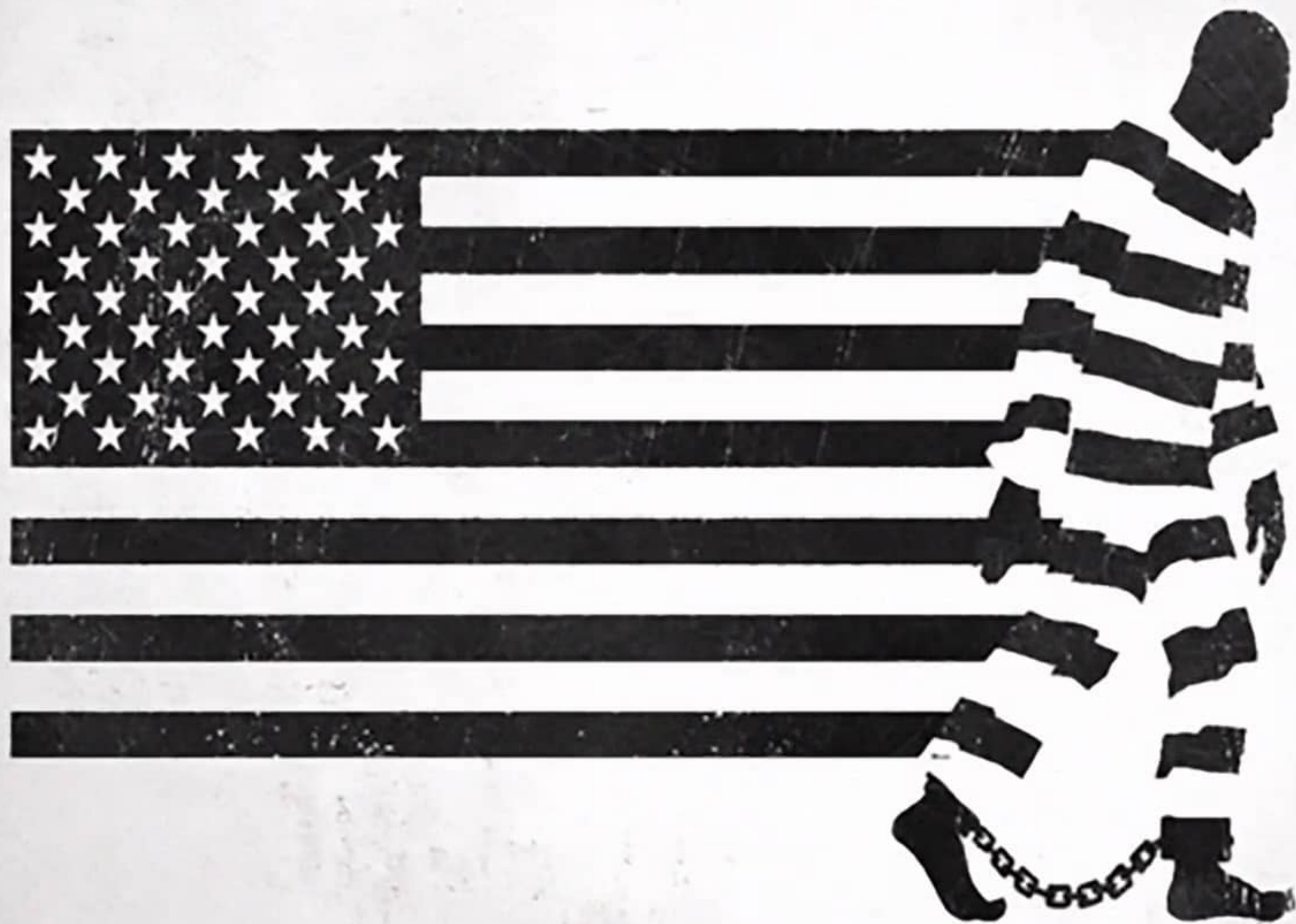


“Where is the gospel of Jesus' cross revealed today?

The lynching of black America is taking place in the criminal justice system where nearly one-third of black men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-eight are in prisons, jails, on parole, or waiting for their day in court.”

*-Cone, 163*





FROM **AVA DUVERNAY**  
DIRECTOR OF SELMA

# 13<sup>TH</sup>

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY



# Reflections



“For ‘if racial healing is ever to come to our society, it will mean remembering and retelling our story of racial injustice and honoring the voices and the actions of those who stood against it.’”

*-Cone*



“What is redemptive is the faith that God snatches victory out of defeat, life out of death, and hope out of despair...”

*-Cone*