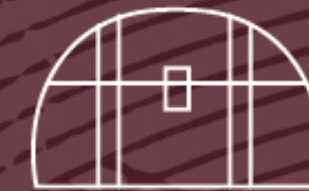


MATTHEW



JAMES MARTIN, AGE 15

INTRODUCING

the person



**JAMES MARTIN,
AGE 15**

Lost on January 2, 2023

MICHAEL MASON JR.,

AGE 16

INTRODUCING

the person



**MICHAEL MASON JR.,
AGE 16**

Lost on January 3, 2023

INTRODUCING

the person

**BILLY RAY "BABY BINK"
MACK, II, AGE 6**



**BILLY MACK, II,
AGE 6**

Lost on April 16, 2023

Traditional Righteousness: Equal Retribution

If there is an injury, then you must give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, bruise for bruise, wound for wound.

Exodus 21:24

If any man inflicts a permanent injury on his neighbor, whatever he has done is to be done to him: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. Whatever injury he inflicted on the person, the same is to be inflicted on him.

Leviticus 24:19-20

Do not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, and foot for foot.

Deuteronomy 19:21

The only way to overcome the unpredictability of your future is the power of promising. If forgiving is the only remedy for your painful past, promising is the only remedy for your uncertain future....All human community, from the ghetto to the global village, depends on the power of promising. Where people no longer have the inner daring to make serious promises or the grit to keep them, human community becomes a combat zone of competing self-maximizers. We are at sea; life is all open-ended, loose-jointed, tossed around in the backwash of unpredictability. Where others cannot assume that I will be there with them as promised, I have helped abolish community.

Lewis Smedes

Offer a thanksgiving sacrifice to God, and pay your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

When you make a vow to God, don't delay fulfilling it, because he does not delight in fools. Fulfill what you vow. Better that you do not vow than that you vow and not fulfill it.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Vicious Cycle: Violent Retaliation

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



How do we respond to violence?

- Don't respond to violence with violence

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



How do we respond to violence?

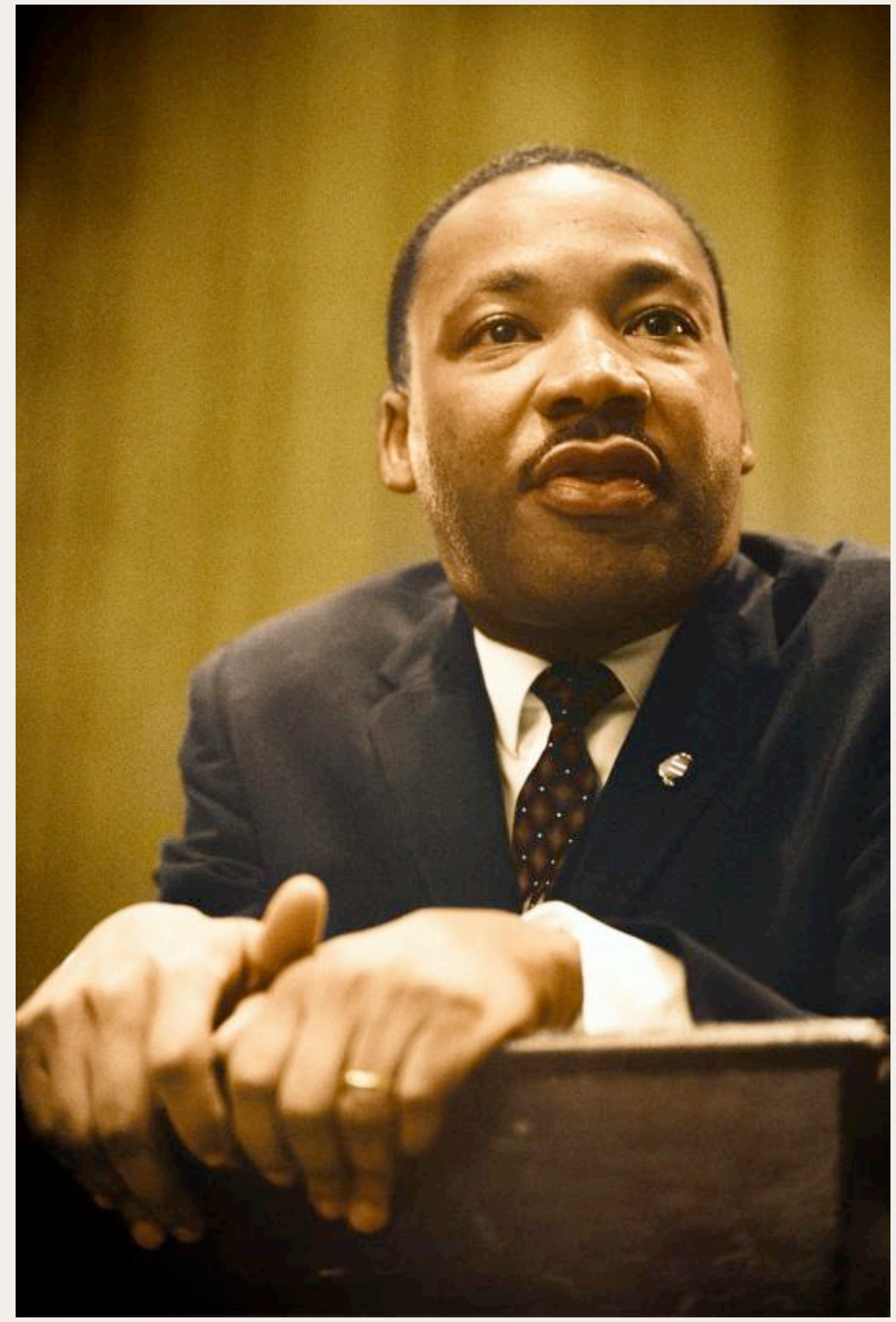
- Don't respond to violence with violence
- Do respond creatively with nonviolence

In such situations Jesus commands neither “fight nor flight” but a “third way”: stay right there and do something surprising...There must be creative ways to respond nonviolently to social injustices.

Dale Bruner

Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me each morning; he awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn back. I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard. I did not hide my face from scorn and spitting. The Lord GOD will help me; therefore I have not been humiliated; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

Isaiah 50:4-7

When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined, to journey to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of himself, and on the way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make preparations for him. But they did not welcome him, because he determined to journey to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

Luke 9:51-54

At that moment one of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword. He struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear. Then Jesus told him, "Put your sword back in its place because all who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and he will provide me here and now with more than twelve legions of angels? How, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

Matthew 26:51-54

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

Romans 12:14-21

For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God. For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:19-24

Transforming Initiative: Nonviolent Resistance

The very term pacifism is often thought to mean passiveness. It's assumed that pacifists just sit around and let wicked people wreak havoc on the world.

Preston Sprinkle

Christocentric nonviolence says that we should fight against evil, we should wage war against injustice, and we should defend the orphan, the widow, the marginalized, and oppressed. And we should do so aggressively. But we should do so nonviolently. In other words, Christocentric nonviolence does not dispute whether Christians should fight against evil. It only disputes the means by which we do fight.

Preston Sprinkle

The Ancient Voice of Church History

A Christian should pour forth one's own blood rather than to stain
our hands and conscience with the blood of another.

Arnobius

How will a Christian man participate in war? It is true that soldiers came to John [the Baptist] and received the instructions for conduct. It is true also that a centurion believed. Nevertheless, the Lord afterward, in disarming Peter, disarmed every soldier.

Tertullian

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests had a meeting with the elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin. After tying Jesus up, they led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate. So Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You have said it.”

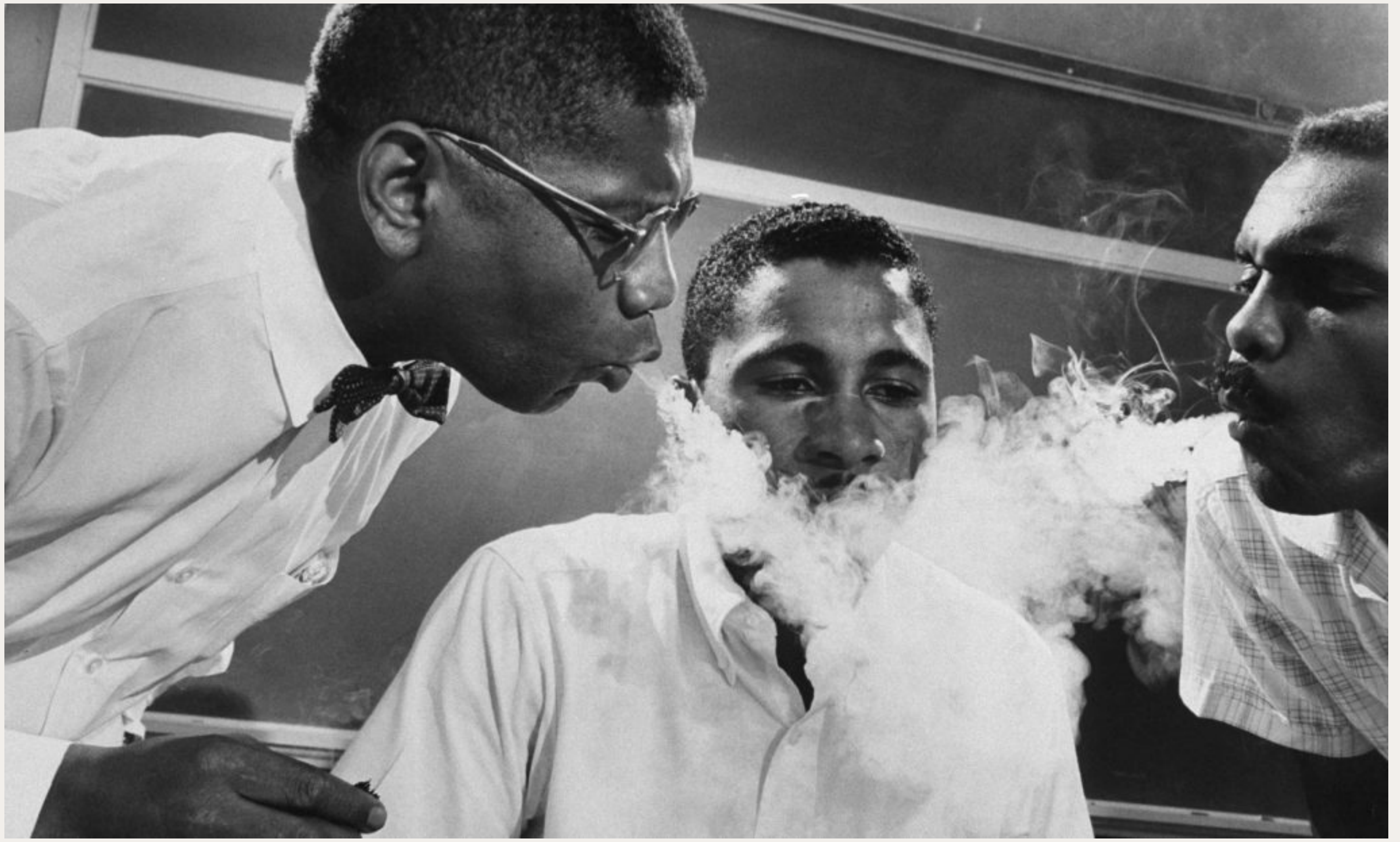
And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many things. Then Pilate questioned Him again, “Are You not answering anything? Look how many things they are accusing You of!” But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Mark 15:1-5

20th Century Nonviolence

King's Six Principles of Nonviolence

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. It is active nonviolent resistance to evil. It is aggressive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.
2. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding. The result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation. The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.
3. Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people. Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.
4. Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform. Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation. Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.
5. Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate. Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body. Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unmotivated, unselfish and creative.
6. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice. The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win. Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice.



WAKE-UP!
Jim Crow
IS DEAD!

CAN'T
EAT
DON
BI



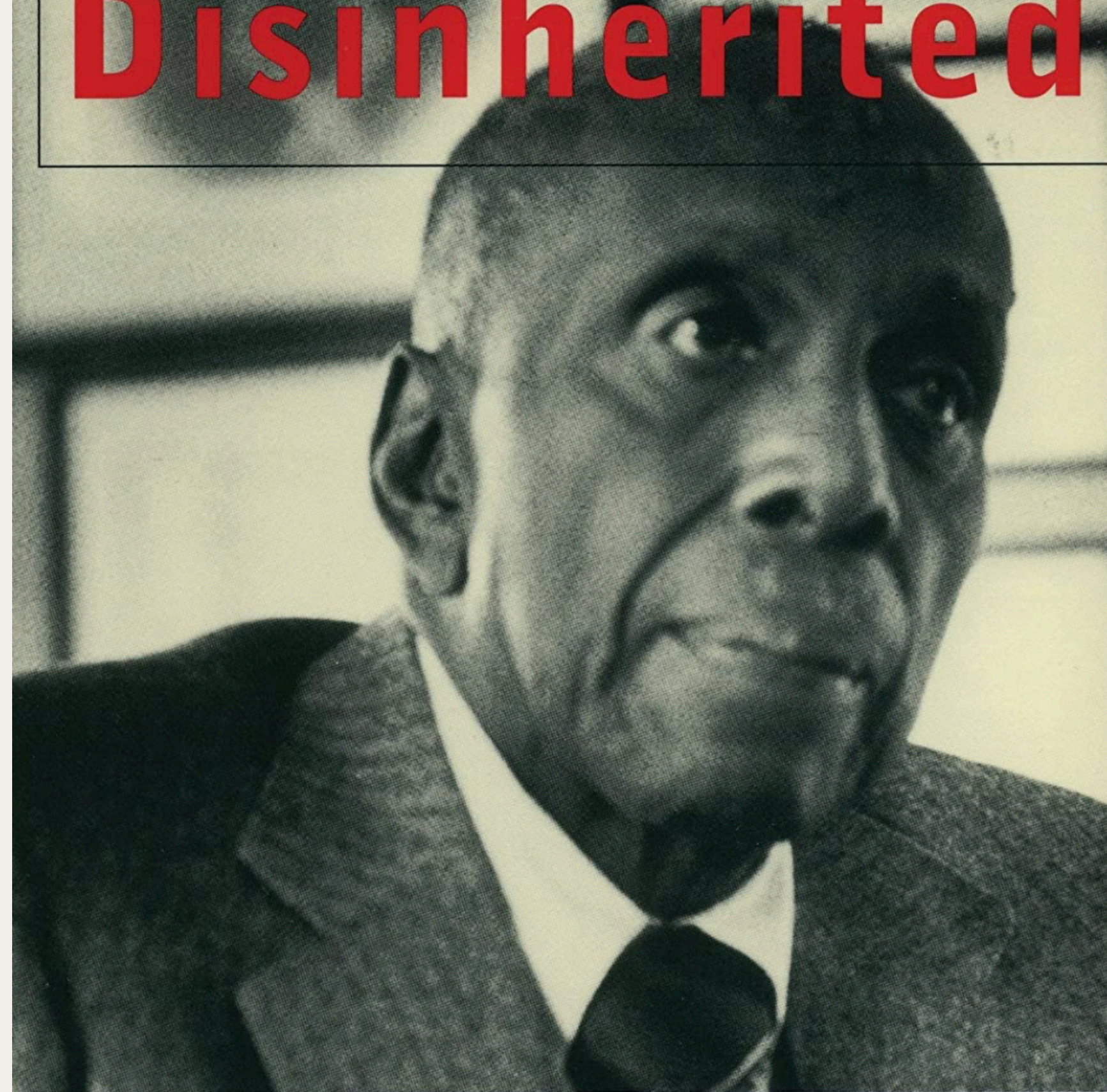


INVITATION

Jesus

and the

Disinherited

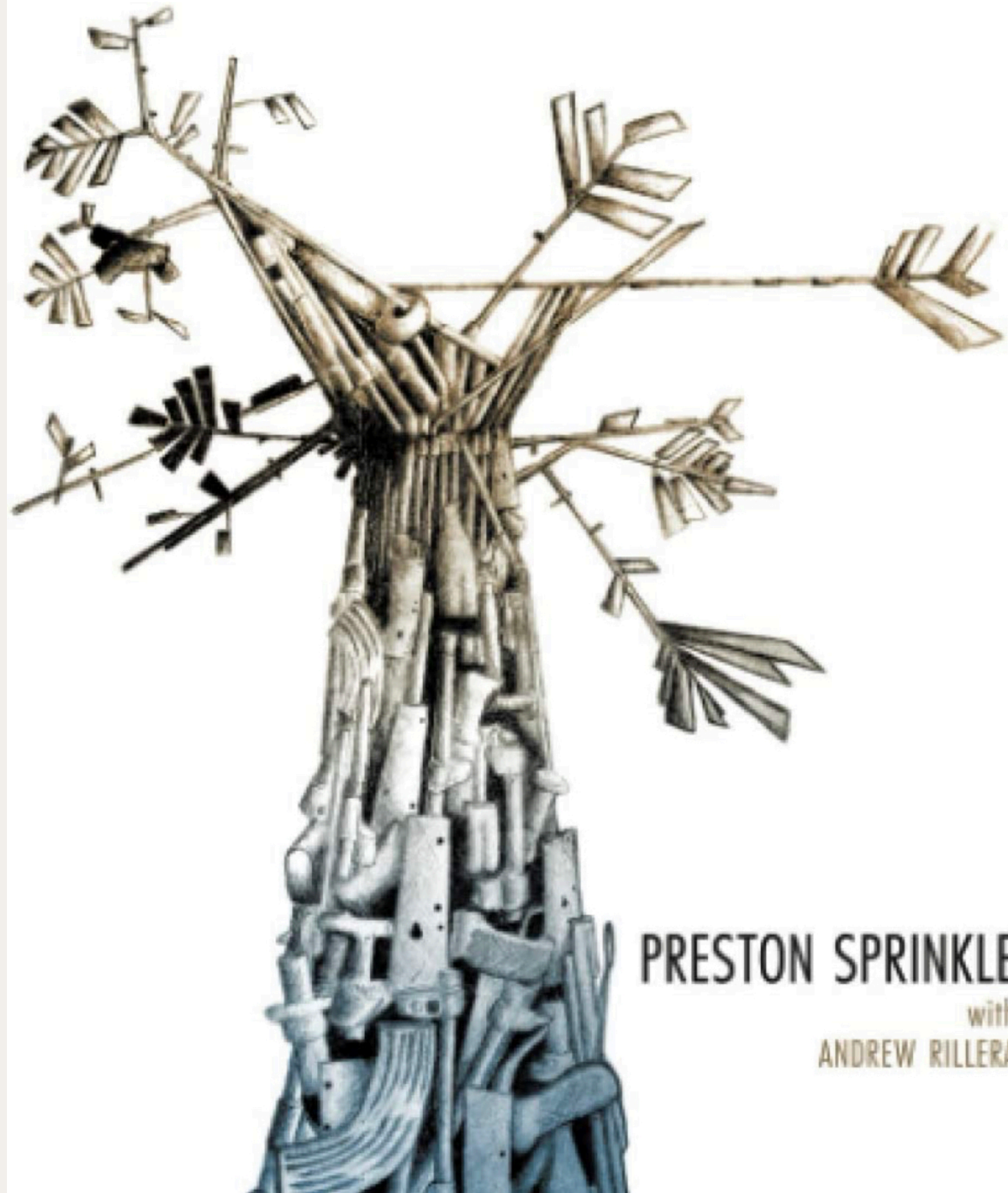


HOWARD THURMAN

Foreword by Vincent Harding

NONVIOLENCE

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAY OF JESUS



PRESTON SPRINKLE
with
ANDREW RILLERA



02/03/2022 · S9 E943 · 1 hr 12 min

Christian Nonviolence: Drs. Myles Werntz and David Cramer

Theology in the Raw >

[▶ Play](#)

Jesus sought to establish a counter-cultural, counter-Maccabean, non-Roman, anti-Canaanite kingdom whose citizens would embody a not-of-this-world reign over the earth. Jesus' Sermon is more than a personal ethic - a way in which individuals can be better people. Rather, the Sermon is intended to reconfigure God's new community, to mold his people into a visibly different kingdom in the face of all other imposter kingdoms...The Sermon...is the definitive charter for the life of the new covenant community, and through it Jesus seeks to sculpt counter-cultural masterpieces - citizens of the great King - to embody a different society and disclose a different God. We should expect these instructions to jar our thinking, challenge our desires, and contradict normality - the way we usually do things around here. If you're "of the world," the Sermon will seem outlandish and impractical.

Preston Sprinkle

**Be With Jesus
Become Like Jesus
Do What Jesus Did**

Jesus