



Making the Most of the Day: 6/3/20

The Criminal Indictment We Share with Derek Chauvin

You know all about the pain and mayhem unleashed by Derek Chauvin's knee on George Floyd's neck. On May 29, Minnesota prosecutors filed a 27-CR-20-12646, a chilling, legal document outlining two serious charges against the former officer. If convicted of murder, Chauvin will serve a maximum of 25 years in prison. He's now awaiting trial.

However, before WE point fingers at either the officers or the looters, WE might consider that there's a 27-CR-20-12646 written with OUR names inscribed on the line that says "Defendant." There are an innumerable number of counts and the evidence for OUR guilt is beyond all doubt (Rom. 1:29-32). WE became lawless criminals when WE dishonored our Creator by deciding that he wasn't worth the effort to love and obey ("Humankind...did not see fit to acknowledge God" — Rom. 1:18, 29-31). So, WE, the human race, lost OUR minds, becoming "debased" and determined to do the unthinkable (Rom. 1:28). Then, the stronger among US became haughty killers (in heart or hand) and the weaker among US became envious killers (in heart or hand). This is OUR criminal history, and the justification for OUR death sentence in the court of God ("those who practice such things deserve to die" — Rom. 1:32). Humankind is on trial.

^{ESV} **Psalm 14:1** *To the choirmaster. Of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. ² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. ⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD? ⁵ There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous. ⁶ You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge. ⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.*



Between 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: Let's visualize our *"record of debt...with its legal demands"* that stands against US and all our human brothers and sisters (Col. 2:14). In the ancient world it was a handwritten certificate, documenting an offender's crimes. But God intervened in the person of his Son. Now, think about when you first heard and believed that Jesus paid what you owed our Creator through the Messiah's obedient life, atoning death and victorious resurrection. Now picture your 27-CR-20-12646 hammered onto the cross. Then sing "Jesus Paid it All." You can find a compelling version on YouTube by searching for "Jesus Paid It All — Kim Walker-Smith."

Between 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: We believers of all nations and racial backgrounds are Pardoned-Criminals-Turned-Adopted-Sons-And-Daughters who form one family through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27). When did you make your guilty plea before God? When did you say, "Holy Father, you're just and I'm unjust. I plead guilty." When did you unite with Jesus, so that — attached to him — you fell into the grave of judgment and then flew out again into acceptance and life eternal? When were you immersed in water as your "I'm-in-the-wrong-and-need-the-Righteous-One" public statement? Let's abase ourselves and be amazed at our acquittal. Finally, if you claim to be a Christian but haven't been baptized like Jesus commanded each of his followers, please do so without delay (Acts 2:38). Contact one of the pastors. Then pray about how the justified who have resources must *do justice* — that is, sharing with the poor — and not just preach about it while seated around our well-provisioned dinner tables with people who look just like us.

Between 12:00 PM-3:00 PM: Read Prov. 6:16-19. What our Holy God loathes with everything in his being is happening now. Weep and plead before the Lord, acknowledging everything in you and others that's unjust and grievous to him.

Between 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: *Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.*

Between 5:00 PM—9:00 PM: Again, we must move beyond platitudes and social media posts. It's time for action. Micah 6:8 says *"do justice."* This verse can also be translated "make fair, equitable conditions," because the Hebrew idea of justice involves sharing material resources. Let's plan now. What are WE going to do as a church family? Help at City Team? Support Real Options? Serve at Food Banks? Meet with inmates at Juvenile Hall through Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy? Take in a foster child? Tutor struggling students from minority communities? Help single moms? Each believer must make time for justice because God requires this commitment from all of the justified. Read Isa. 1:17.



JAIME B. [A Scripture passage, reflection and prayer on how those who believe and are baptized have — in a sense — already experienced the final judgment. Now they must act with justice.]

ESV Colossians 2:9-14 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

MARY N. [A new friend of Valley Church will share her testimony and baptism story.]

THOMAS S. [We'll sing "Jesus Paid it All." Please mute your Zoom so we can just hear Thomas' voice.]

VERSE 1

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

REFRAIN

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

VERSE 2

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

VERSE 3

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

VERSE 4

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

Andy D. [A Scripture reading and prayer to challenge us and lift up our hurting nation.]

ESV Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): Paul’s pen and parchment must have smoked when he quoted Psalm 14 to make his indictment against the entire human race: *"None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known"* (Rom. 3:10-18). Let’s begin by pleading guilty and admitting, like the Prophet Daniel did, the many sins of our people.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): Let’s lift up law enforcement officers, first thanking God for their courage and sacrifice, and then asking that they would use force only in accordance with just laws and abundant mercy. Pray that those few who glory in inflicting pain would repent. Intercede also for all the rebellious on the streets of America, that they would turn away from their pride and violence.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): Let’s pray for our human brothers and sisters who have been subjected to racism and the heinous legacy of slavery in the United States. Our spiritual ancestors were slaves whom God raised up. Pray that black believers would lead the way in promoting peaceful change.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #4 (7 min.): We can’t keep our spiritual and material prosperity to ourselves. We must show and speak about the love (and demands) of God. Ask the Father to help us organize our church to give what disadvantaged people lack, like food, shelter, friendship, education, and — most of all — the truth about the coming judgment and the single way of escape through Jesus.

Record what God shows you in Joel Moment Part 2 — that is, time after 4:00 PM — when Kulvi M. leads our time to share Scripture, intercede and support each other.
