



Emmett Till

By Sister Dorothy Caldwell

Day 7
March 1, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God

Leviticus 19:33-34

Critical Race Facts!

Finally, many African Americans were lynched not because they committed a crime or social infraction, and not even because they were accused of doing so, but simply because they were Black and present when the preferred party could not be located. In 1901, Ballie Crutchfield's brother allegedly found a lost wallet containing \$120.00 and kept the money. He was arrested and about to be lynched by a mob in Smith County, Tennessee, when at the last moment he broke free and escaped. Thwarted in their attempt to kill the suspect, the mob turned its attention to his sister and lynched Mrs. Crutchfield in her brother's stead though she was not accused of any involvement in the theft.

Prayer:

Lord, teach us how to show our love to You by how we treat the least, the lost, the left out, the looked-over and the lonely. In Jesus Name Amen.

I was moved by the Emmett Till's exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African History and Culture during my visit there in 2017 and the docuseries that depicted the events leading to his murder.

Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old black teenager from Chicago, where my husband was also born and raised, took a trip to rural Mississippi to spend the summer with his great uncle, Moses Wright. Little did his mother know that her son would return home in a casket, his body disfigured and unrecognizable.

Emmett was known as a fun-loving boy. So, his mother warned him that he had to behave subserviently around whites in the south because of the extreme racism there. Fourteen-year-old Emmett was falsely accused of flirting with a grown white woman. As a result, he was kidnapped from his great uncle's home, brutally beaten and had one of his eyes gouged out. This young teen was then taken to the Tallahatchie River where he was shot in the back of his head.

The two men who committed these gruesome acts tied Emmett's body to a large metal fan with a length of barbed wire and dumped Emmett into the river. At the age of 7, my husband, his mother and brothers visited his relatives in Mississippi. The following year, Emmett Till was murdered. My husband did not return to Mississippi until the 1980s to attend his maternal grandmother's funeral.

Today, we are witnesses to brutality and murder of our black brothers and sisters by those who swore to protect and serve, mass shootings of adults and children, and a high rate of black-on-black killings. We are engaged in spiritual warfare. The Apostle Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 6:10-12, to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Question to Ponder

Can others see the Christ in you based on how you treat your family, friends and those outside of your community?