



Bloody Sunday

By Deacon Patricia Hines

Day 36
April 4, 2023

Read Jeremiah 22:3

“Jeremiah 22:3 (NIV) This is what the LORD says: “Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

Critical Race Facts!

With fading voting power and few allies in either national political party, African Americans undertook their own efforts to combat the terror of lynching through grassroots activism. Black people targeted member of the white lynch mobs for economic retaliation by boycotting their businesses, refusing to work for them, and setting fire to their property. To thwart lynching attempts, Black people risked serious harm to hide fugitives, organized sentinel to guard prisoners against lynch mobs, and engaged in armed self-defense.

Today's Prayer Concerns:

Lord, thank You for the spirit to fight discrimination and injustice. Help us to focus less on the agony of defeat and more on the thrill of victory. In Jesus name, amen.

On Sunday morning, March 7, 1965, about 600 people met after church in Selma, Alabama, to begin a 54-mile march to Montgomery, Alabama. On the night of February 18, 1965, Alabama state troopers joined local police breaking up an evening march in Marion, Alabama. In the ensuing violence, a state trooper shot Jimmie Lee Jackson, a 26-year-old church deacon from Marion, as he attempted to protect his mother from the trooper's nightstick. Jackson died eight days later in a Selma hospital.

The marchers were protesting continued violence and civil rights discrimination — and to bring attention to the need for Federal voting rights legislation that would ensure African-Americans couldn't be denied the right to vote in any state. News and images of the violent response from Alabama State Troopers spread in newspapers, magazines, and television. The day came to be known as “Bloody Sunday”; Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

President Lyndon B. Johnson stated, “Americans everywhere join in, deploring the brutality with which a number of Negro citizens of Alabama were treated for their deep and sincere desire to attain the precious right to vote.” Principled racism has not disappeared and is currently enjoying a partial resurgence, with the brutality of Black men and women at the hands of police, states enacting laws restricting Blacks voting power and censoring Black history from American history.

Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. John Lewis said it best for our times: “speak up, speak out, get in the way. Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”

Questions to Ponder

- When have you been guilty of getting into good trouble?
- How have you been guilty of getting in the way?
- How are you helping to redeem the soul of America?

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