



# The Greensboro Sit-in

By  
Sister Yvette Watkins-Cherry

**Day 3**  
**February 24, 2023**

## Scriptures for Mediation

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

**Colossians 3:9-11**

## Critical Race Facts!

After slavery ended, instead of facilitating Black land ownership, President Johnson advocated a new practice that soon replaced slavery as a primary source of Southern agricultural labor: sharecropping. Under this system, Black laborers worked white-owned land in exchange for a share of the crop at harvest minus cost for food and lodging, often in the same slave quarters that had previously inhabited. Because Johnson's administration required that landowners pay off their debts to banks first, sharecroppers frequently received no pay and had no recourse.

### Prayer:

Lord, You said that You came that we might have life and that more abundantly. Thank You also for those who paved the way for us to enjoy entertainment and eateries based on our cash and not our color. In Jesus Name, Amen.

During the time period of the 1950's and 1960's, the order of the day, segregation, was based on customs and laws. This was especially true of the states in the South but also in many other states across the United States of America. Black people were not allowed the privilege to walk, be seated, be served, and eat where they wanted to. The freshmen students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University had begun discussing this situation about how unfair this was.

Black people were welcomed to come in, spend their money to increase the financial conditions of the business but were not permitted to eat at the lunch counter. The four A & T Freshmen students, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, David Richmond and Ezell Blair, Jr. made the bold decision that it was time to change this bad situation. David Richmond and Ezell Blair, Jr were natives of Greensboro, North Carolina.

On February 1, 1960, the four freshmen walked through the F.W. Woolworth department store and bought items from several areas of the store. Then, the four students walked over to the lunch counter to sit down and each placed an order. Sadly, the four students were not served but were asked to leave. The rest is history. A decision to sit at the lunch counter not only activated the community in Greensboro, North Carolina but across the United States.

Eventually, Blacks and all others were welcomed to eat at the dining establishments across the United States. The activity also became an eventful situation for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. activism again. Their actions received national attention for the non-violent movement. Today, people come to tour the F. W. Woolworth Museum.

There is a statue of the four students on the campus of A & T State University, and there are dormitories named after the four brave freshmen students.

## Questions to Ponder

Have you gone to a restaurant where you didn't feel comfortable or wanted? How did you respond? What was the result of that encounter? What could you have done personally, or communally to ensure that the same thing did not occur to anyone else?

