



The Fair Housing Act of 1968

By Deacon Kathie Moore

Day 10

March 4, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:23-24

Critical Race Facts!

The era of "second slavery" officially began with convict leasing, the practice of selling the labor of state and local prisoners to private interest for state profit, utilized the criminal justice system to effectuate the economic exploitation and political disempowerment of Black people. State legislatures passed discriminatory criminal laws of "Black Codes," which created new criminal offenses such as "vagrancy" and "loitering." This led to the mass arrest and incarceration of Black people, and for lawmakers to empower white-controlled governments to extract Black labor in private lease contracts or on state-owned farms.

with integrity is not easy. And sometimes the outcome may be harder than it was for Daniel and his friends. Yet you have called us to live as your children. Help us to work with integrity. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for a good night's rest. Thank You for the peace that we can have living in whatever homes or neighborhoods we desire and can afford. In Jesus Name, Amen.

The Fair Housing Act, a Federal act in the United States, was passed on April 11, 1968, with a 250 to 172 vote signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. This law makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability in housing. This law passed less than a week after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Black Americans were systemically deprived of sufficient, quality of housing because we were routinely and openly excluded from living in certain areas. Discrimination, intimidation, exclusion and even violence segregated and relegated us to low-income areas with poor quality housing. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his role as Civil Rights leader, recognized that this reality was a core component of racial injustice in the United States and decided to take action.

From 1965 -1966 Dr. King co-led the Chicago Freedom Movement which sought to challenge discrimination in employment, education, and housing in Chicago. At that time Chicago was one of the most residentially segregated cities in the county. We were barred from middle-class, predominantly white neighborhoods and were prevented from seeking housing freely. Dr. King organized a tenants' union and shared their demands with the city government leaders and marched through majority white neighborhoods. The Chicago Freedom Movement advocated for "open housing" with the rights to buy homes anywhere they wished.

It has been over 50 years since the assassination of Dr. King and the passage of the Fair Housing Act and there is still a lot left to achieve. We have made strides because of the efforts of our civil rights activists, but the need for such advocacy has far from disappeared. Be inspired to continue to fight for equality and justice in fair housing.

Questions to Ponder

How have you noticed discrimination in housing? What are you called to do about it personally? What are we called to do about it communally?