



The Million Man March

Rev. George W. Thompson

Day 20
March 16, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

Read Matthew 18:19-20

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Critical Race Facts!

Beginning during World War I and continuing through the end of the 1940's massive numbers of African Americans fled the South's racial caste system to seek opportunity and security in the Northeast, West, and Midwest. Within a single decade, the Black populations of Georgia and South Carolina declined by 22 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Investigating these relocation trends, the United States department of Labor observed the one of the “more effective cause of the exodus ... is the Negroes' insecurity from mob violence and lynchings.

Today's Prayer Concerns:

Lord, help us to acknowledge that every battle is not ours to fight. Give us the wisdom and courage to fight the battles that you set before us. Help us to fight only just wars. In Jesus name, amen.

I was privileged to attend the Million March with a co-worker on October 16, 1995, which was called by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam. Various civil rights organizations assisted in organizing the event. The march was in response to a conservative leaning Congress, who were spearheading efforts to lower taxes and cut government spending on education, housing, and social programs. It is reminiscent of what is going on today.

We left early in the morning on a bus, leaving from First Baptist Bute Street in Norfolk. There were doubts expressed in the media whether African Americans from all faiths and backgrounds could unite despite philosophical differences. There was a spirit of brotherhood from the moment we stepped on the bus and greeted each other as Brother.

Upon arriving there were masses of Black men and some whites united behind the cause of social justice and to counter negative images of Black Men often portrayed by the media as such. There were tremendous speakers from various faith backgrounds and other organizations with a common theme - government is supposed to help the least in our communities. It was heartwarming to see so many brothers united to stand in the gap for the underclass of our communities.

The overarching theme for me was “United we stand and divided we fall.” We still must stand and march against the forces of greed, racism, and economic injustices. The Lord has brought us from a mighty long way, and we cannot stop now.

Questions to Ponder

What was the largest gathering that you have been a part of? What was the largest rally or protest that you attended? What do you remember most about it? How has it impacted your life?