

Years ago, while walking to my predominately white middle school, I witnessed something that has been preserved in my memory for decades. Several yards ahead of me was Josette; a girl I barely knew. Although her skin color was the same as the majority of the students, her appearance was drastically different from other female classmates. She wore long dark skirts, sweaters, heavy black brogans, and often kept a scarf tied around her head (not a burka or hijab). As we approached the schoolyard, I could hear a few boys yelling at her. As I got closer, I heard these words: "Go back to where you came from you nasty Jew!", "You're ugly!", "Nobody wants you here!" There were other unkind statements. Even though I didn't know what a Jew was, I knew that their actions were wrong. I looked ahead, pretending to not hear or see anything, and went straight to my class.

The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, "Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed." Frequently, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that "The time is always ripe to do what is right". The message is clear: We are to do what is right with the time God has given us. It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. How I wish I had the courage to take time to do what was right on Josette's behalf.

The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to "do what is right". Your giving supports diversity & inclusion through leadership development in our colleges, provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. It creates opportunities to heal our brokenness by promoting relationship-building through our One Bag of Tea program, and by equipping congregations to be advocates for racial justice in their communities.

Yes! The time is always ripe to reveal God's justice. Thank you in advance for your generosity to Reconciliation Ministry!

Gracefully Submitted by

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