



PART 5: A Wish For Us All

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2014, when the grand jury decision about the shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer was announced in Ferguson, Missouri, Benjamin Watson had just finished playing a game on Monday Night Football. He watched the riots on the news and processed what he was feeling. When he posted his thoughts on Facebook, he had no idea it would lead to calls from CNN, Fox News, and other media outlets. Eventually, his Facebook post was liked almost 900,000 times and shared by over 400,000 people. In this message, Benjamin talks about a wish that God has for all of us . . . for our local communities and beyond.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you faced a mess so big or so complex that you didn't know where to begin cleaning it up. What did you do?
2. Benjamin Watson described his emotional response to the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown shooting as angry, frustrated, fearful, embarrassed, sad, sympathetic, offended, confused, introspective, hopeless, hopeful, and encouraged. Which of those emotions did you experience? Do you think your emotional response was healthy or unhealthy? Explain.
3. In his Facebook post, Benjamin Watson wrote, *"We don't have a skin problem, We have a sin problem."* Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Read Galatians 3:26-28. In what ways does this verse challenge some of our cultural assumptions about identity? How does it challenge you personally?
5. What are some ways sin divides your community? What would it look like for your community to be united in Christ?
6. What is one thing you can do, as a group, to promote unity in your community? What step can you take this week?

MOVING FORWARD

While sin divides, Jesus unites. Everyone is welcome in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is invited. Everyone gets in the same way. This inclusiveness and invitation unites us no matter our skin color. Martin Luther King Jr. called this "the Beloved Community." It is a picture of eternity.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28