



# Council of Bishops

## The United Methodist Church



### "Surrendering to Christ"

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series  
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Episcopal Area  
February 24, 2021

#### Scripture: Mark 8:34-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

#### Key points

- The Gospel of Mark highlights Jesus offering an understanding of what discipleship requires: denying ourselves, picking up our crosses and following him.
- There is a tension between our desires the desires God has for God's people.
- Our baptism and our baptismal vows call us into lived transformation against the evils and sin of the world.
- There is hope for our continued transformation by surrendering ourselves to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

#### Three questions

1. Why is 11am on Sunday morning still the most segregated hour in America? Does that fact reveal our resistance to the gospel of reconciliation?
2. Does your identity as a follower of Christ shape your worldview on racial justice, or is racism shaping the way you read the gospel?
3. How much of your time, talent and treasure are you willing to commit to the work of antiracism?

What is God saying to you through this week's devotion?

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