

Racism and the Solidarity Mindset


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The background consists of a teal upper section and a black lower section, separated by a jagged horizontal line. The teal section has a fine, diagonal hatching pattern.

What's our motivation for being here today?



“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time.
But if **you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.**”

– Lilla Watson, Indigenous Murri Activist speaking in Australia

Gut check - Pay Attention to your DISCOMFORT

Pay attention to when an issue of race or racism happens in your daily life that causes you discomfort

STOP - take a breath - Pay attention to your thoughts!

What made you uncomfortable? How are you thinking about it?

Try to discover how you have come to see it this way. Can you imagine alternative perspectives?

Your thoughts shape your experience of the world. What is real and true for you is not the same for everyone. That's why when you catch yourself thinking, "I have the best solution, the valuable knowledge, I know what to do"... Ask yourself, from whose perspective am I speaking? What has worked for me in my life, is not a universal truth.

Self-determination means trusting one another to make the best decisions for their own lives, even if it is radically different than what you would do. Pay attention to that discomfort and pay attention to how you are thinking at that moment.



"I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people."

- Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan writer



“I don’t need you to help. I just need you to recognize that this sh&% is killing you too, however much more softly.”

- Fred Moton

Picture in your mind what it would look like for you to engage in anti-racist work:

- What is your motivation for the work?
- Are you picturing someone that needs your help?
- Are you picturing someone that is an integral part of the community of Northfield?
- Is your interaction based on you helping them or with them helping you?
- Who will benefit? Is it only them? Only you? Is it the entire community?

Parable of the Good Samaritan: Jesus is asked, “And who is my neighbor?”



The real difference between the priest and the Levite from the Samaritan is the question that each must have asked.

The priest and the Levite likely asked, “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?”. (Doing nothing)

The Samaritan likely asked a very different question - “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” (Charity mindset)

The Beloved Community asks - “If I don’t stop and address racism that causes suffering in Northfield, what will happen to our beloved community?” (Solidarity mindset)

- *Martin Luther King Jr.*

On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

Wrap-up

- Pay attention to your thoughts
- Pay attention to your motivations
- Consider if you are coming from a mindset of charity or solidarity
- Be courageous!!!!
- Boost your reading list

Check out these incredible authors:

- Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Toni Morrison
- Louise Erdrich
- Gabriel García Márquez
- Zora Neale Hurston
- Catrice M. Jackson
- Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Jhumpa Lahiri
- Isabel Allende
- Kao Kalia Yang
- Winona LaDuke
- Wangari Maathai

