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Response to Recent Killings
Exodus Chapter 2 (Selected Verses)
July 10, 2016

There arose a king in Egypt that knew not Joseph and all he did for the people of Egypt. The Israelites began to multiply making them a large nation; this brought fear in the heart of the new king. Because the new king did not know Joseph, he ordered all male Hebrew boys to be killed.

This action from the king caused all male children to be dehumanized and criminalized just because of who they were. All over the country, African Americans and in particular African American males have been criminalized.

See the post "Who's Afraid of the Big Black Male," in the Huffington Post Blog dated July 7, 2016. It's a poignant portrayal of the realities of Black men in America. Part of the post says,

America as a whole has been conditioned to believe that black males are dangerous, threatening, and irresponsible predators with ill intentions. America has also been raised to believe that when you encounter a well-intentioned, well-educated, caring, responsible, and productive black male, that he is an exception to the rule. I have experienced this first hand throughout my life and continue to experience it every day.

Negative videos go viral when the videos should be a virus that makes us sick. The reality of Black men in America is that of being a criminal. Since this is true, what does this say to young Black men when they are forced to live by two sets of rules? Not only are Black men forced to live by two sets of rules, they are also required to know how to successfully negotiate both sets of rules at the same time in order to survive.

It's a shame that African American men have to be schooled just to be able to get home safe. The reality of African American men in America is that we are presumed guilty just because of whom we are. And it does not matter what your socio-economic status in life is; if you are a Black man, you are guilty for just being yourself.

Just to be clear, retaliation to crime with crime is not the answer. Justice cannot be achieved through violent retaliation. In quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, "Darkness cannot drive our darkness, only light can. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can." The flame of hope is that God can redeem all of mankind regardless of who they are or what they may have done.

What you did for evil, God turned it into good.

Today's message also highlighted an interview clip with Bryan Gumble, a video clip of the 10 Rules To Get Home Safe and excerpts of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech "I Have A Dream."