

For the millionth time, the tears are falling because once again, someone who looks like me has lost their life at the hands, well in this case, the knee of someone who obviously didn't care. Even as Mr. Floyd cried out in vain, "I can't breathe!", called for his mother, not once but multiple times, the one who held his life, ignored him. How callous! How merciless! How inhuman that you can hear the cries of distress and not look to help but instead continue to inflict pain, ignore compassion, and then ultimately, steal his life? Lord, have mercy upon us all! For far too long the pain, the abuse, the mistreatment has continued! For far too long Black people have been mistreated, abused, and murdered. Their life not considered to be worthy of the very breath God gave, I repeat, the breathe God gave, not the white man. And yet, the white man plays God?

I weep for my son who has to keep the tape his dad and I have instilled in his head before he left our house, "Keep your hands out of your pockets, your hoodie off your head, your ID in your wallet. If they stop you in your car, your hands stay on ten and two. Look forward, no back talk. Just simply answer the questions, yes and no. Don't give any attitude or make any sudden movements. And most of all, just pray! Ask God to keep you calm, keep you alert, and to keep you alive!"

This is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. How sad that the free are only those whose skin is white? Because they can go anywhere, do anything, and be whoever they want to be without repercussions. The brave are simply those of us whose skin is black or brown who take a chance every time we navigate the streets, the stores, the neighborhoods, the communities, in essence, the world, and hope we make it home alive.

I saw a picture of Dylan Roof, the white man who shot up a church killing nine Black men and Black women. He sat up against the police car, handcuffed but alive. When he said he was thirsty, they honored him with a cold bottle of water.

Now compare that to the picture of Mr. George Floyd. Face down on the hard pavement, handcuffed and being held down by five white officers, one on his neck and four on the rest of his body. As he cried out for air, water, his momma, he received none of the above. In return they stole his last breath.

I'm utterly exhausted. How long Lord do we have to endure such heartache, such treatment, such behavior in a country that proclaims, "In God we trust?" How long are we going to recite, "we hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal?"

The answer is we can't! While I understand the behavior of those who are protesting, I don't condone tearing up neighborhoods. We have to fight yes, but we are stronger and better than busting windows, burning down buildings, and smashing up cars. Because when the dust settles and the last flame has burned

out, the harsh reality is that the racism still exists and broken and destroyed communities become perpetual reminders that there is still a “them” and an “us.”

As a Black woman, I like many others who look like me, am so tired of having to “prove my worth” to people who are content to remain blind, deaf and dumb to their history of racism, bigotry and “convenient “ ignorance, especially for those who claim to “care” about the plight and suffering of the “underprivileged”.

But in spite of and despite it all, I will continue to pray! I will continue to weep! But I will also continue to fight the injustice that covers us like a blanket on a cold winters night. The comfortable must now be uncomfortable. Because I have a grandson and two granddaughters, and I don’t want this reality to be their reality.

And so, we must “be the change we wish to see...!” Lord, knows I’m trying but I can’t do it alone. We ALL have to fight this fight together on the same side in order for that change to happen. The saying is together we stand, and divided we fall. Well we see where being divided has led us. Let’s unite and fight together and see how far we go to true healing. #peace #justice #enoughisenough #BlackLivesMatter.(PERIOD!)

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