

Conversations Around Race Video May 2020

We Need to Talk About Injustice. TED talk by Bryan Stevenson

In an engaging and personal talk, human rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives. These issues, which are wrapped up in America's unexamined history, are rarely talked about with this level of candor, insight and persuasiveness.

Bryan Stevenson is a public-interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He's the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based group that has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent prisoners on death row, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice

Questions for thought and discussion.

Were you surprised by the scope of mass incarceration in America, and the size of the racial disparities in incarceration?

Bryan Stevenson says that we should judge the character of a society by how it treats the poor, condemned, and marginalized. How does America meet and fall short of that standard? How does the Christian church in America meet and fall short of that standard?

How does his message connect with the Gospel messages of Jesus?

Should we engage in Truth and Reconciliation on racial injustice in America?