

## Congregational Read of *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

Week 2 – Part Two (Chapters 4-9); Quote and prompts for reflection

On page 40, we read:

As an actor, you are to move the way you are directed to move, speak the way your character is expected to speak. You are not yourself. You are not to be yourself. Stick to the script and to the part you are cast to play, and you will be rewarded. Veer from the script, and you will face the consequences. Veer from the script and other cast members will step in to remind you where you went off script. Do it often enough or at a critical moment and you may be fired, demoted, cast out, your character conveniently killed off in the plot.

- Reflect on this passage and how it might apply to you at various times in your life.
- Are there times you have been the actor who was not to be yourself? The one who veered from the script? The cast member who stepped in to remind someone else they are off-script? The one who was rewarded for staying on script? The one who was punished for going off-script?
- What factors determined the role you were cast to play and which of these factors are readily apparent to someone who just met you?
- Where did the script come from and how did you learn it?
- Have laws ever been used to keep you in the role you were cast to play?
- Over the next week pay attention to ways the script and casting of characters is reinforced or disrupted in things you read, hear, or see. Is it easier to notice the times of reinforcement or the times of disruption?

### Hear from the author and other scholars:

- [Follow this link for a video recording](#) of the IU-hosted event “*Race, Caste, and Inequality: A Conversation with Isabel Wilkerson*” will be available until 3/3/21.
- The conversation continues Wednesday, 2/24 at 9:30 am with “*Race, Caste, and Inequality: A Student-Focused Discussion.*” [Click here to register.](#)

### Building Community with Enough is Enough, Saturday, February 20, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Join the CommUNITY Education Program for a virtual dialogue this Saturday afternoon with Enough is Enough: a passion and purpose-driven organization led by IU students and community members. Their work centers around fighting for justice, raising awareness, and taking action right here in Bloomington, "to end racism and institutional oppression by uplifting black leadership, business, and art in our local communities." [Click here to register for the event.](#)