Four Adult Sunday School Discussions on March 17 and 24 and April 7 and 14 of
Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson, *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair*

March 17: Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 -- Chapter 2 (pp. 11-69=58 total pages)

Introduction: "Generations without Recompense"

- *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair* is a long-overdue response to Jourdon Anderson's letter
- Why is it so difficult for many of us to speak about White supremacy? (p15)

Chapter 1: "The Call to See," p29-31

The 1968 Sanitation Workers' Strike and
I AM A MAN campaign

Feb 1,1968 Robert Walker, 29, and Echol Cole, 35, were crushed to death in a garbage truck in Memphis, Tenn leading to 1300 sanitation workers going on strike.



- Much like the sanitation workers in Memphis, TaNehisi Coates accuses White América of a form of willful blindness, a sustained commitment to shelter its own brutality under the cloak of myth… (40-42)

- "America believes itself exceptional, the greatest and noblest nation ever to exist, a lone champion standing between the white city of democracy and the terrorists, despots, barbarians, and other enemies of civilization…"

- What is it that we see as exceptional about America?

Coates' opening statement on reparations at House hearing in 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcCnQ3iRkys

Chapter 2, "Seeing the Reality of White Supremacy"

What to the American slave is your Fourth of July? ...I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich history of justice, liberty, prosperity, and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me." -Frederick Douglass 4th of July speech 1852

- 60: "There are those whose account of American origins is almost exclusively a tale of throwing off the bonds of royal oppression and founding a new nation of liberty and justice for all. . . . There are others whose account of American origins is exclusively a tale of White supremacy and bondage, an economic and political tragedy in which unfathomable suffering of some enabled the unimaginable enrichment of others. . . . For a great many Americans, the conflict between these two zero-sum accounts is a source of personal stress and political agitation. Each side frames its claims not simply in historical but in moral terms, each views the other exclusively as the enemy, and each accepts nothing less than absolute allegiance."

- 69: "To see–perhaps for the first time–what America is as a nation and who we are as a people…is an invitation to see that both we and the culture we share have been profoundly disordered by the reality of racism. Seeing this requires us to see the reality of White supremacy. It means seeing that America has used modern racial categories as a fundamental way of understanding human beings and ordering relations between them. …Being white entails supremacy, holding the dominant role in the social hierarchy and a disproportionate claim to its privileges."

- Question: In what ways have you struggled to answer the call to see? (For next week, March 24, read chapters 3-4.)