



Bishop Larry A. Brookins

(First Preached – True Foundation Transformation Church – 2/26/23)
– BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERMON –

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

(King James Version)

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

DO ME A FAVOR AND TELL SOMEBODY:

AND STILL WE RISE

Throughout the history of America, we, as an African American people, have endured a lot.

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AND STILL WE RISE

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2/26/23 • 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 KJV

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERMON



We've endured oppression. We've endured mistreatment. We've endured segregation. We've endured discrimination. We've endured slavery. We've endured Jim Crow. We've endured redlining. And we've endured disdain and derision from the moment we *unwillingly* got here. From the moment we got here, we've been disrespected. From the moment we got here, we've been undermined. From the moment we got here, we've been castigated. And from the moment we got here, we've been looked upon as less than, and subservient, and despicable, and as three-fifths of a human being.

From 1619 until now, we've been lynched—hung by the neck from trees. From 1619 until now, we've been profiled—stopped, beaten, arrested, and even killed while driving black. From 1619 until now, we've been stereotyped—caricatured as lazy, shiftless, treacherous and dishonest. And from 1619 until now, we've had to fight for BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. For EQUALITY. For JUSTICE. For DIGNITY. For SURVIVAL. For FAIR HOUSING. For EQUAL WAGES. For JUST LAWS. For EVENHANDED EDUCATION. And for the right to VOTE. And for the right of

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REPRESENTATION. And for the right of
OPPORTUNITY. And for the right of
REPARATION. Let's set the record straight. We
built this country. Let's set the record straight.
We laid the foundations. Let's set the record
straight. We erected the monuments. Let's set
the record straight. We engineered the
blueprints for the buildings and streets of
Washington, D.C. Check the record: from the
White House to the *U.S. Capitol*. Check the
record: from the *Smithsonian Institute* to
Georgetown University. Do me a favor and tell
somebody: "Our ancestors did that." Do me a
favor and tell somebody: "If not for us, it would
not be." If not for us, there would be no Harvard
Law School in Massachusetts. If not for us,
there would be no Fort Sumpter in South
Carolina. If not for us, there would be no
Monticello or Mount Vernon in Virginia. If not
for us, there would be no Wall Street in New
York. And the list goes on, and on, and on, and
on. And if the truth be told: many whites are
rich from the labors of blacks, and if the truth
be told: America owes its wealth to the Stolen
from Africa. That's right! We were stolen from

AND STILL WE RISE

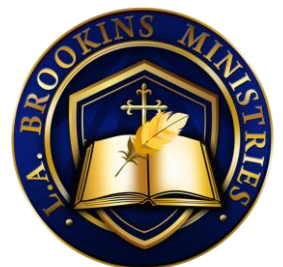
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Africa. That's right! Blacks did the work and the white folk got paid.

They don't want to teach it in school, but we picked the cotton. They don't want to teach it in school, but we harvested the sugar. They don't want to teach it in school, but we cultivated the rice. They don't want to teach it in school, but we plucked the tobacco. They don't want to teach it in school, but we cleaned their houses. They don't want to teach it in school, but we cooked their food. They don't want to teach it in school, but we washed their clothes. They don't want to teach it in school, but we raised their children, some of whom were theirs because they raped our black women. Do me a favor and tell somebody: "America owes us." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "Reparation is due us." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "American History is Black History." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "There would be no America without us."

Without a doubt, for 404 years and counting, it's been a struggle. Without a doubt, for 404 years and counting, it's been an uphill journey.

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Without a doubt, for 404 years and counting, it's been plethora of difficulties and challenges. **But, however**, without a doubt, for 404 years and counting, we've learned how to take a licking and keep on ticking. As an African American people, we've learned how to PERSEVERE. As an African American people, we've learned how to PRESS ON. As an African American people, we've learned how to PULL OURSELVES UP BY THE BOOTSTRAPS. As an African American people, we've learned how to RESIST, AND DESIST, AND INSIST, AND PERSIST. Do me a favor and tell somebody: "We come from a people THAT DON'T GIVE UP." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "We come from a people WHO WOULD NOT QUIT." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "We come from a people THAT DID NOT CONCEDE." Do me a favor and tell somebody: "We come from a people WHO WOULD DIE BEFORE SURRENDER."

We come from HARRIET TUBMAN. We come from MARCUS GARVEY. We come from MALCOLM X. We come from DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. We come from ROSA PARKS. We come from NELSON MANDELA. We

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come from FREDERICK DOUGLASS. We come from JACKIE ROBINSON. We come from MUHAMMAD ALI. We come from HARRY BELAFONTE. We come from JAMES BALDWIN. We come from W.E.B. DU BOIS. We come from SHIRLEY CHISHOLM. We come from THURGOOD MARSHALL. We come from MADAM C.J. WALKER. And we come from REV. JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR, who taught us to say: **“I AM SOMEBODY! I MAY BE POOR, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. I MAY BE YOUNG, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. I MAY BE ON WELFARE, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. I MAY BE SMALL, BUT I AM SOMEBODY! MY CLOTHES ARE DIFFERENT, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. MY FACE IS DIFFERENT, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. MY HAIR IS DIFFERENT, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. AND I MAY SPEAK A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, BUT I AM SOMEBODY. AND I MUST BE RESPECTED. AND I MUST BE PROTECTED. AND I MUST NOT EVER BE REJECTED. FOR I AM A CHILD OF GOD!”** Do me a favor and tell somebody: “Don’t you ever give up.” Do me a favor and tell somebody: “Don’t you ever give in.” Do me a favor and tell somebody: “Don’t you ever

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stop trying.” Do me a favor and tell somebody:
“Always remember from whom you came and
who you are.”

Tell somebody: “We are INVENTORS.” Tell
somebody: “We are EDUCATORS.” Tell
somebody: “We are ARCHITECTS.” Tell
somebody: “We are ENGINEERS.” Tell
somebody: “We are SURGEONS.” Tell
somebody: “We are PILOTS.” Tell somebody:
“We are POETS.” Tell somebody: “We are
ENTREPRENEURS.” We’re LAWYERS. We’re
JUDGES. We’re KINGS and we are QUEENS.
We are FATHERS and we are MOTHERS. We are
HOMEOWNERS and TAXPAYERS. And we are
SOMEBODY. And we are BLACK and
BEAUTIFUL. James Brown would say: “Say it
loud, I am black and I’m proud.” So, say it loud:
“I AM BLACK AND I AM PROUD!” I’m STRONG.
I’m RESILIENT. I’m TENACIOUS. I’m
DETERMINED. I am STEADFAST and
UNMOVABLE, and I can take a licking and keep
on ticking. Do me a favor and tell somebody:
“We’ve been through a lot, AND STILL WE RISE.”
Do me a favor and tell a neighbor: “We’ve
endured a lot, AND STILL WE RISE.”

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We've been put in jail: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been water hosed: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been overlooked: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been underpaid: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been ostracized: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been persecuted: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been denigrated: AND STILL WE RISE.
We've been victimized: AND STILL WE RISE.
Maya Angelou would say:

**You may write me down in history,
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt,
But still, like dust, I'll rise.**

**You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.**

Do me a favor and tell a neighbor: “RISE!” Do
me a favor and tell a neighbor: “RISE!” Do me a
favor and tell a neighbor: “RISE!” Do me a favor
and tell a neighbor: “RISE!” If you get knocked
down—RISE! If you get overlooked—RISE! If you

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get fail at something—RISE! If you stumble along the way—RISE! RISE! We know how to PROTEST. RISE! We know how to BOYCOTT. RISE! We know how to PERSEVERE. RISE! We know how to GET BACK UP AGAIN. We're like a *Weeble Wobble*: we fall down but we don't stay down. We're like a *Weeble Wobble*: you can punch us and kick us but we stand upright. WE RISE! Against the odds. WE RISE! Despite the difficulty. WE RISE! In season and out of season. WE RISE! Through the good times and the bad. Do me a favor and tell somebody: “AND STILL WE RISE!” Do me a favor and tell somebody: “AND STILL WE RISE!” Do me a favor and tell somebody: “AND STILL WE RISE!” Do me a favor and tell somebody: “AND STILL WE RISE!” “**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.**”

Tell somebody: “RISE and ADVANCE.” Tell somebody: “RISE and FORGE AHEAD.” Tell somebody: “RISE and CONTINUE.” Tell somebody: “RISE and PROGRESS.” AND STILL WE RISE! “For if God be for us, who can be

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against us” (Romans 8:31). AND STILL WE RISE! For “no weapon formed against us shall prosper” (Isaiah 54:17). So, go ahead and talk about me. So, go ahead and reject me. So, go ahead and harass me. So, go ahead and knock me down. AND STILL, WE RISE! AND STILL, WE RISE! AND STILL, WE RISE! With a broken heart: WE RISE! Though disappointed: WE RISE! Though treated wrong: WE RISE! Though frowned upon: WE RISE! Tell somebody: “Never GIVE UP.” Tell somebody: “Never STAY DOWN.” Tell somebody: “Never CONCEDE DEFEAT”. Tell somebody: “TAKE THAT LICKING BUT KEEP ON TICKING.” The songwriter says: “I’m a believer.” The songwriter says: “I’m an achiever.” The songwriter says: “I won’t be stopped.” The songwriter says: “I won’t be blocked.” Like dust and air: AND STILL, WE RISE! Like the moon and the sun: AND STILL, WE RISE! Tell somebody: “GET BACK UP!” Tell somebody: “GET BACK UP!” Tell somebody: “GET BACK UP!” **AND STILL, WE RISE!!!!!!**

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