

The other day, I listened to a response to the murder of George Floyd from TD Jakes, a visionary black church leader and author, who Time magazine called 'the most influential preacher of the century.'

He was talking about speaking out against injustice and he said it seems most Christians feel that unity can be achieved by silence – not just about the terrible killing of George Floyd, but about the many injustices throughout black history. But he maintains that Churches have a responsibility to speak out.

In Luke 10: 25-37, Jesus tells the well-known story of the Good Samaritan, to answer the question 'Who is my neighbour?' which was put to him by a lawyer who 'wanted to justify himself'. Jesus says that it was the man of another race – a race despised by the Jews – who helped the injured man – not the representatives of religion, the Priest and the Levite. They just walked on by. By staying silent about injustice, are we 'just walking on by'?

Martin Luther King said this, 'He who accepts evil without protesting against it, is really cooperating with it.'

We may not be able to get out and physically join the protests, but we can use our voices to fight injustice wherever it occurs. We can speak to our friends and family, use social media and write to our MP. Not just about the evil of racial prejudice, but the many other injustices in our society and across the world. The important thing is to not stay silent. Jesus constantly spoke out against the injustices in his society and, as his followers, the body of Christ, we are called to do the same.

St Teresa of Avila said, 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours.' It is our responsibility to speak out and not to 'pass by on the other side.'

*Dear Lord,*

*Forgive our silence. Help us to have the courage to speak out against injustice, to not stay silent while others are suffering. Show us how we can bring your love and justice into this needy world.*

*Amen.*

Hilary Swift June 2020