

## Trouble I've Seen - Chapter 6

### #BlackLivesMatter

“Being black is draining...To be a black American is to have to constantly tell yourself that you are somebody, that you are made in the image of God, that you are creative and intelligent. Not doing so will result in drowning in the oceans of negative words about your existence and ‘your kind.’”

White controlled news media organizations, publishing houses, most television and movies, advertising campaigns, and common cultural ideas constantly depict Black people as lazy, irresponsible, culturally deprived, and lacking in moral values.

Such static and overarching definitions and stereotypes have been used to justify the control and elimination of Black life: 246 years of legalized chattel slavery, white supremacist terrorism, lynching, and mass incarceration.

Philadelphia: massive defunding of public education in poor communities of color while at the same time increasing funding for the privatized and lucrative prison system—this is known in Black communities as “the school-to-prison pipeline.”

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (New York: The New Press, 2012)

#### Historical Assaults on Black Identity

Enslaved Africans were not only told they were inferior and divinely appointed to work for white masters, but were also accused of being lazy.”

The assault on Black humanity did two things: 1) it attempted to make black people accept their lot in life as it terrorized their psyches and self-esteem; 2) it provided a rationale for whites to justify their actions.

#### #BlackLivesMatter and the Crucified Christ

“The real challenge in America is whether both white and black people are willing to subversively risk loving black people enough as though each life were created by God.”

“The church in particular needs to be an alternative community that demonstrates to the world that truly loving all God’s people—especially those we are socialized to believe don’t matter—is possible.”