



Rev. Junius Boyd Dotson. *File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*

Greetings!

Please Read [1 Corinthians 12](#)

On Thursday February 25, 2021 the Rev. Junius B. Dotson died after a brief battle with cancer. While I did not know him personally, Rev. Dotson had an impact on my life. Dotson was the top official at [Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church](#). Rev. Dotson pastored local congregations and worked at many levels in the connection. His death is an enormous loss to his family, friends, colleagues and the Church, and in particular the United Methodist Church. Where did he impact me, you ask? It was in the discipleship and evangelism campaign that he championed titled "**See All the People.**"

As we continue to journey towards Jerusalem with Jesus this Lent, I am struck with the number of times that Jesus wanted to **see all the people**.

- When Jesus called together a group of disciples who came from a wide variety of backgrounds – he wanted to **see all the people**.
- When Jesus went to the Cities of the Decapoli, a place where he wouldn't have been welcome and where people of his own faith group and ethnicity would have said "you really don't want to go there," Jesus went anyway, because he wanted to **see all the people**.
- When there was a woman getting water at the well one day. Jesus approached her, a big social error for a man to talk to an unattended woman, but he did so because He wanted to **see all the people**.
- There is hardly a healing story from Bartimaeus to having lunch with Zacchaeus the tax collector where Jesus wasn't trying to **see all the people**.
- Even as he pushed the Pharisees, the Scribes and the Priests to choose deeper relationship with God, as opposed to relationships with over burdensome rule following, dirty tricks of self-importance and corruption with Rome, Jesus wanted to **see all the people**.

- And even when faced with Rome in the form of Pontius Pilot, who found no fault with Jesus, and who gave way to the wishes of the crowd, Jesus wanted to **see all the people**.

The passage from 1st Corinthians talks about the importance of all parts of the Body of Christ. Each is connected to the other and completes the whole. No part is more important than the next. The “Body” metaphor helps us **see all the people** who make up the church. But not everyone sees it that way. Divisions and quarrels have caused the church much pain and strife because of the failure to **see all the people** and only people like ourselves. Perhaps we can reconnect with that first century church that was multicultural and vibrant as on the day of Pentecost? Remember though, it didn’t take long for that to breakdown, because the first dispute in the church was a racial, ethnic and physical dispute between Gentiles and Jews on circumcision and what foods were considered clean or unclean.

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost came to help everyone **see all the people**, but that is hard if you need to be right. Clearly there were people in those narratives we find in scripture who succumbed to that basic human sin. Not **seeing all the people**, but only seeing your life, or your interests or your spirituality as superior to others is the failure. We must remember that the individual and the community of people were created in the same image of God as you!

Perhaps as we journey toward Jerusalem this Lent, we can lay at the roadside our penchant for self and actually take the time to **see all the people**? Could you have the courage to do more than **see all the people**? Could you choose to be in **relationship with all the people**? Maybe you can help lead your church to do this? If I am not mistaken that was the point of the tag line.

Thank You Rev. Dotson!

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Todd D. Anderson, West Ohio Superintendent
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