

Sermon Preached at East Lansing University United Methodist Church
March 10, 2024
Psalm 8
Hebrews 2:8b-9
Matthew 7:24-27

OPENING: STORY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

I. THREE APPROACHES TO THE ATONEMENT

- A. Limited Atonement: Jesus died for a select group of people.
- B. General Atonement: Jesus died for all people but for no one in particular.
- C. Particular Atonement: Jesus died for each and all people – for every member of the human family, in particular. (View of Asa Mahan)

II. SO WHAT?

- A. People are created in God's image and have "intrinsic worth."
- B. Yet people are prone to great evil and sin.
- C. Christ was God come into the world to offer reconciliation for each and all.

III. WHAT NOW?

- A. Matthew 7:24-27 – This close to the Sermon on the Mount is not simply an allegory about good and bad foundations. It is a charge to hear the teachings of Jesus and act on them.
- B. Human personality can be understood to reflect three distinct attributes: the Intellect or Intelligence, the Sensibility or Faculty for Feeling, and the Will or the Power to Act.
- C. The grace of Jesus Christ quickens and renews our ability to think, feel, and act for each and all.

CLOSING: DAVID INGRAHAM LETTER OF JANUARY 15, 1840

David Ingraham told his readers about the horrors of the *Ulysses* and hoped that young people would confront slavery: “when they *think*, may they *feel*; and when they *feel*, may they *act*; and when they *act*, may God’s blessing attend their efforts; and may the time soon come, when *slavery*, and all its attendant evils, shall curse our world no more.”

How will you think, feel, and act today for racial justice?

AMEN