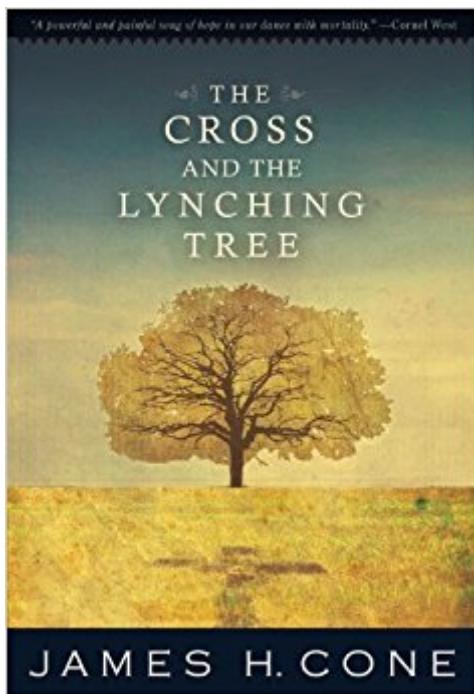


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The Cross And The Lynching Tree



Synopsis

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Once again James Cone demonstrates why he is indispensable as an interpreter of faith, race, and the American experience." --Bill Moyers One of the Top 11 Religion Books of the Year. --Huffington Post "Based on impressive research, Cone argues that the lynching tree is a viable reality/symbol for reflection on the cross of Christ. According to Cone, understandings of the cross and lynching tree can mutually inform one another and explain how events of trauma and injustice can still inspire hope for the African American community." --Christianity Today

James H. Cone, Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary, is widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians in America. His books include Black Theology & Black Power, A Black Theology of Liberation, The Spirituals & the Blues, God of the Oppressed, and Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare.

There's no doubt in my mind that this is one of the most important books of our time. It is essential reading for every theologian, every pastor, and I would even say every person who is a Christian especially if you are white. The venting tree is the perfect analogy for the cross of Jesus reviewing it

through the eyes of African Americans who have long struggled in this country. I'm the Cross we see the love of Jesus glorified, and the lynching tree we see the same type of death but our savior died which is removed from the symbolism of the cross is nothing more than an abomination. We need to be reminded of the struggle of our brothers and sisters who are not white. Why there has been such a disconnect from seeing the cross and the lynching tree as identical in the struggle I do not know, but in the times in which we live it is important that we reconnect this powerful symbols to create solidarity and to never go down this terrible road torture and death again.

Although it was hard to read, I believe every student of American history needs to read this book. It didn't dwell so much on any of the 5,000 or so lynchings in the United States, but when James Cone did recount an instance of it in the book, it will bring tears to your eyes. After reading the book, I have an even greater respect for Dr. Martin Luther King, a man who preached non-violence yet prophesied his own death by violent means.

This is a very thought-provoking and powerful book! It helps non-black people to better understand the pervasive and horrible fear of lynchings in the past and how the cross could be seen as another lynching, making Jesus an empathic source of comfort and identity for black folks.

Suffering in America does have a context. The context is obviously black bodies as the means by which America built its rhetoric of greatness. If it wasn't for black lives America wouldn't be great.

This book will be, for all who read it, a life changing education. I am encouraging all who will listen to me to read this book, as it provides a historical perspective that the vast majority of Americans today simply are not aware of (or have conveniently forgotten). To read about a pivotal part of our country's history that I never really understood, even though I was alive for a meaningful portion of the period covered by this book. All concerned citizens in our society would have a much better understanding of the foundational causes of the conflicts our nation is facing today if we all read this book.

A hard read for white people but the Truth. Reality of the Black experience and the blindness of white people, or their intentional violence rooted in fear. A must read if we intend good will to all.

Mesmerizing!

superb product

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