

SERMON RECAP + THE RECEIPTS

THE PICTURE AND THE PERSON.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 · MATTHEW 16:13-23 · REVV CARTER

THE WHOLE SERMON IN ONE SENTENCE

The white Jesus is a picture somebody manufactured. The real Jesus predates it, our ancestors always knew the difference — and **nobody, not them and not us, owns him.**

INSIDE — THE RECAP · THE SCRIPTURE TRAIL · THE RECEIPTS · BROTHER DOUGLASS



WE ARE A RADICALLY AFFIRMING, CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY.

FIVE THINGS WE SAID.

You asked for the map after the drive — here it is. Everything from Thursday night, in one place, so you can walk it again slow.

01 A MANUFACTURED GOD ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE THE MANUFACTURER.

Your phone camera makes a fake click. Your ebook turns a page that isn't there. We can't receive a brand-new thing until somebody dresses it up like a thing we already know — and we do the same thing with God. The disciples answered "who is Jesus?" with faces they already knew. A Swedish-American artist answered with the face **he** knew. Keep the word from Thursday: **the mirror**.

02 "WHITE JESUS" HAS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

The picture from grandma's hallway is the **Head of Christ** — painted in 1940, in Chicago, by Warner Sallman, first drawn as cover art for a Swedish church magazine, reproduced 500+ million times, copyright date printed right on it. That Jesus was born in Chicago. The Jesus of the Gospels was born in Bethlehem, under an empire. One is a product. One is a person. **Changing the portrait does not change the person.**

03 "JESUS IS THE WHITE MAN'S GOD" IS HEARSAY — AND WE BEAT HEARSAY WITH **WITNESSES**.

Hearsay is secondhand testimony, and no court accepts it. So we called witnesses — Genesis to your grandmother's generation — and every one testified to the same thing: **he was ours before he was ever painted**. Africa sheltered him as a baby. An Ethiopian carried the gospel home before Europe had a church. Africans built the theology Europe claimed. They cut the Bible apart before handing it to the enslaved because they were **afraid** of it — and deliverance still leaked through. Our ancestors risked the lash in the hush harbors to worship the real one.

04 AND STILL — NOBODY OWNS HIM. NOT THEM. NOT US.

Peter got the right answer and five verses later tried to arrange Jesus to his own preference — and Jesus said **get behind me**. The first person to distort Jesus wasn't Rome or whiteness; it was his own friend. So this was never about taking Jesus back — you can't take back what you always had. **He belongs to us, and to them**. You cannot gentrify God, and you cannot repossess him. "I Will Be What I Will Be" — no hands built him, so no hands get to hold him.

05 DECONSTRUCTION IS YOUR **INHERITANCE**.

Frederick Douglass separated the Christianity of Christ from the slaveholding Christianity of this land in **1845**. Howard Thurman's grandmother, born enslaved, sorted the weaponized parts from Jesus and kept custody of her faith. When you tell the difference between Christ and the counterfeit, you're not leaving the faith. **You're practicing the family trade.**

THE SCRIPTURE TRAIL.

Every text we touched Thursday night, in the order we walked it.

MATTHEW 16:13–20 — THE ANCHOR

Jesus asks "Who do people say that I am?" at Caesarea Philippi — a city named for the emperor, surrounded by carved gods. Peter answers: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

MATTHEW 16:21–23

Peter tries to edit Jesus; Jesus says "Get behind me, Satan." Nobody owns him — not even the man who just got the answer right.

HEBREWS 12:1

"...surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." This faith has always called the ancestors to the stand.

EXODUS 13:19

Moses carries the bones of Joseph — an ancestor in the caravan, riding the long road. (That's coat-of-many-colors Joseph, Genesis Joseph — not Mary's husband.) See his oath in Genesis 50:24–25, and the promise kept in Joshua 24:32.

MATTHEW 2:13–15

Herod hunts the baby; Egypt hides him. Africa was sanctuary to Jesus before Europe ever heard his name.

ACTS 8:26–39

The Ethiopian official meets Jesus on a desert road and carries the gospel home. Africa received Jesus before the West did.

NUMBERS 12:1

Moses married a Cushite (African) woman. Africa is in this Book's bloodstream.

MARK 15:21

Simon of Cyrene — Libya, Africa — carries the cross when Jesus can't.

EXODUS 20:2

The verse that leaked through the Slave Bible's scissors: "...who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." You cannot edit the freedom out of this God.

EXODUS 3:14

"I Will Be What I Will Be." The living God has been refusing our frames since the burning bush.

JOHN 1:45–46

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip didn't argue. He said: "Come and see."

YOU KNOW THE RULE.

Never pluck a single verse. Read the whole chapter each one lives in — plus the chapter before and the chapter after.

DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT

THE RECEIPTS.

Google every one of these. I told you — I will pass the fact-check.

"BANIAS"

The cliff niches at Caesarea Philippi where they installed their gods — still there. (The historian Josephus records Herod's white marble temple to Caesar nearby.)

"WARNER SALLMAN HEAD OF CHRIST"

1940, Chicago. 500+ million copies. Check the copyright date on the prints.

"RICHARD NEAVE JESUS"

The 2001 forensic reconstruction of a typical man from Jesus's time and place. Not Jesus's face — nobody has that — but his world's face.

"KING EZANA COINS"

Kingdom of Aksum, early 300s — Africa's first Christian kingdom, and the first ruler in history to put the cross on money.

HIPPO · CARTHAGE · ALEXANDRIA

Find them on a map, then look up Augustine, Tertullian, Athanasius, and Origen. The theology Europe claimed was built in Africa, by Africans.

"SLAVE BIBLE"

Museum of the Bible. 232 chapters out of 1,189. Exodus story: removed. Revelation: removed. Ask yourself why they needed the scissors.

RABOTEAU, "SLAVE RELIGION"

The hush harbors — wet quilts to trap the sound, prayers over water pots, worship worth the lash.

THURMAN, "JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED"

And the grandmother, Nancy Ambrose, who kept custody of the faith.

BROTHER DOUGLASS, IN HIS OWN WORDS — 1845

"I look upon it as the climax of all misnomers, the boldest of all frauds... We have men-stealers for ministers, women-whippers for missionaries, and cradle-plunderers for church members. The man who wields the blood-clotted cowskin during the week fills the pulpit on Sunday, and claims to be a minister of the meek and lowly Jesus... He who proclaims it a religious duty to read the Bible denies me the right of learning to read the name of the God who made me."

— NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, APPENDIX · READ THE WHOLE THING FREE ONLINE

YOUR HOMEWORK: COME AND SEE.

This week, read the **Gospel of Mark** — it's short; you can do it in a day. Meet him for yourself. No middleman. No paint. And carry the question — it was asked to the whole room, and that includes you:

"BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"



THEY NEVER OWNED HIM. YOU NEVER LOST HIM.