

TED Talks Faith
April 26, 2020
Rev. Keith Dove

- Watch Heather C. McGhee's talk "Racism has a cost for everyone" at https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcghee_racism_has_a_cost_for_everyone#t-848046.
- This talk reminded me of Audre Lorde's quote "I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own." McGhee's talk inspires a community approach, in which those with privilege recognize that systems of oppression negatively impact everyone. How can we adopt a community-based approach in our own lives? How do we burst our I-me-mine bubbles and think collectively?
- McGhee's argument is an interesting one, but it is not unique. She essentially appeals to people of privilege by saying that those with privilege in the structure of racism are also negatively affected. This approach, then, is an appeal to people of privilege to do the right thing in order to make their own lives even better. Does this imply that those with privilege will only act out of selfishness? Are we incapable of acting altruistically? Does this sort of argument actually lift up the needs of the marginalized out of neighborly love? What do you think about this approach?
- McGhee focuses a lot on the economy. It's her job, after all. On one hand, economic prosperity is a common means of measuring community health. On the other, does this reduce everything to dollars and cents? What other means can you imagine for measuring community health.
- What scripture does this talk bring to mind? These days I am constantly looking through the lens of Matthew 25. What does Jesus's identification with "the least of these" have to add to this conversation?