

**A CHURCH**

**UNITED**



**RACISM**

## Numbers 12:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. <sup>2</sup> “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

## Numbers 12:1-15

<sup>3</sup> (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) <sup>4</sup> At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out.

## Numbers 12:1-15

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, <sup>6</sup> he said, “Listen to my words:

## Numbers 12:1-15

“When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. <sup>7</sup> But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup> With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

## Numbers 12:1-15

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”<sup>9</sup> The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.<sup>10</sup> When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow.

## Numbers 12:1-15

Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, <sup>11</sup> and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. <sup>12</sup> Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh half eaten away.”

## Numbers 12:1-15

<sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!” <sup>14</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back.”

## Numbers 12:1-15

<sup>15</sup> So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

## Acts 10:34-35

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

## Galatians 3:28-29

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile... for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

## Colossians 3:11

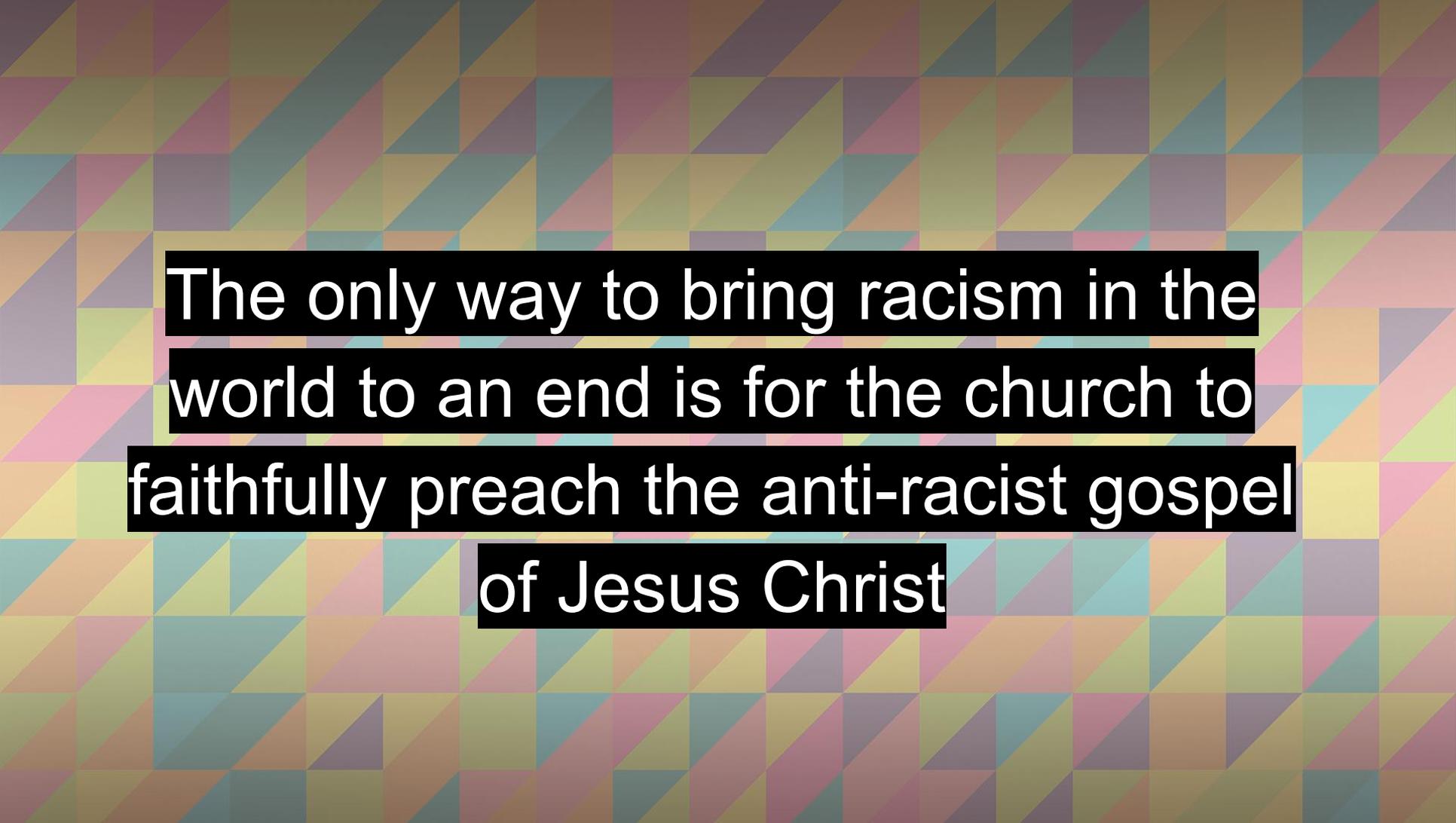
<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew,  
circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian,  
Scythian...but Christ is all, and is in all.

## Romans 10:12

For there is no difference between Jew and Greek: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him.

## 1 Corinthians 12:13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks... and we were all given one Spirit to drink.



The only way to bring racism in the world to an end is for the church to faithfully preach the anti-racist gospel of Jesus Christ



**1) MAKE US HUMBLE**

## Numbers 12:1-3

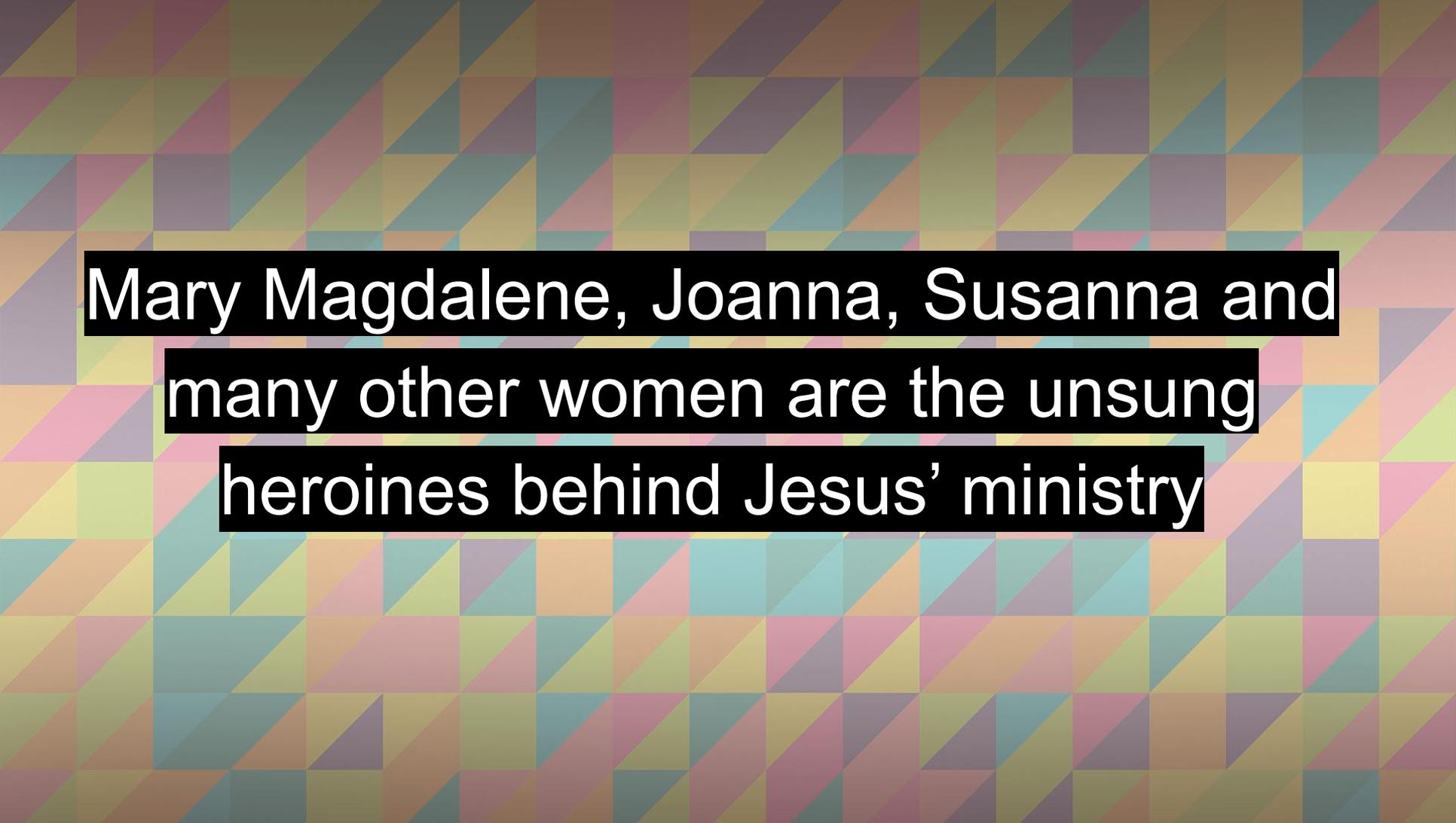
<sup>1</sup> Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. <sup>2</sup> “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

## Numbers 12:1-3

<sup>3</sup> (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)



**The source of all racism is pride**



Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and  
many other women are the unsung  
heroines behind Jesus' ministry

## Exodus 4:15-17

<sup>15</sup> “You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. <sup>16</sup> He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

## Exodus 7:1

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.”

## Exodus 15:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

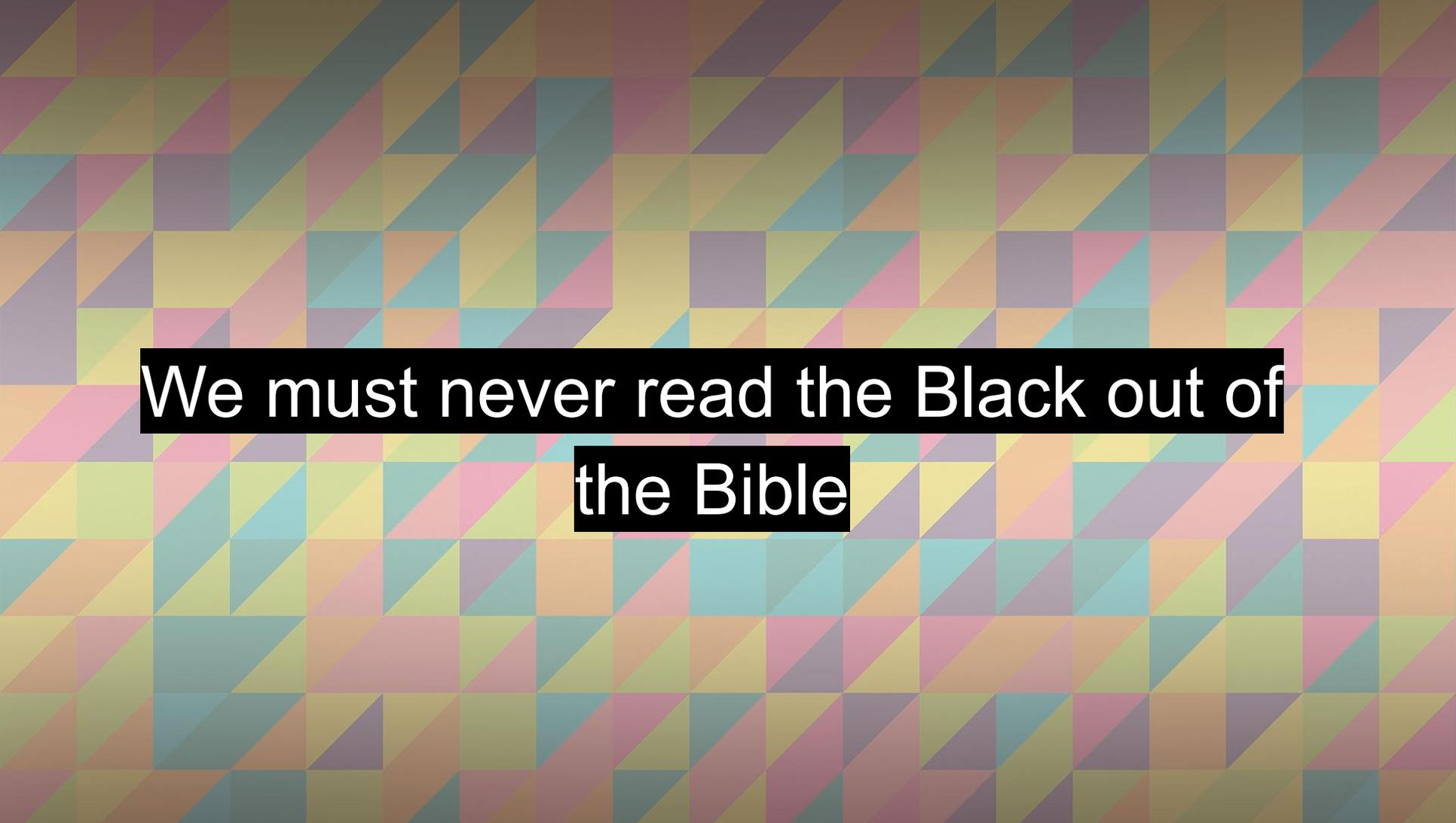
<sup>21</sup> Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."

## Numbers 11:29

<sup>29</sup> But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

## Exodus 2:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Moses agreed to stay with the [Reuel, also known as Jethro], who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. <sup>22</sup> Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

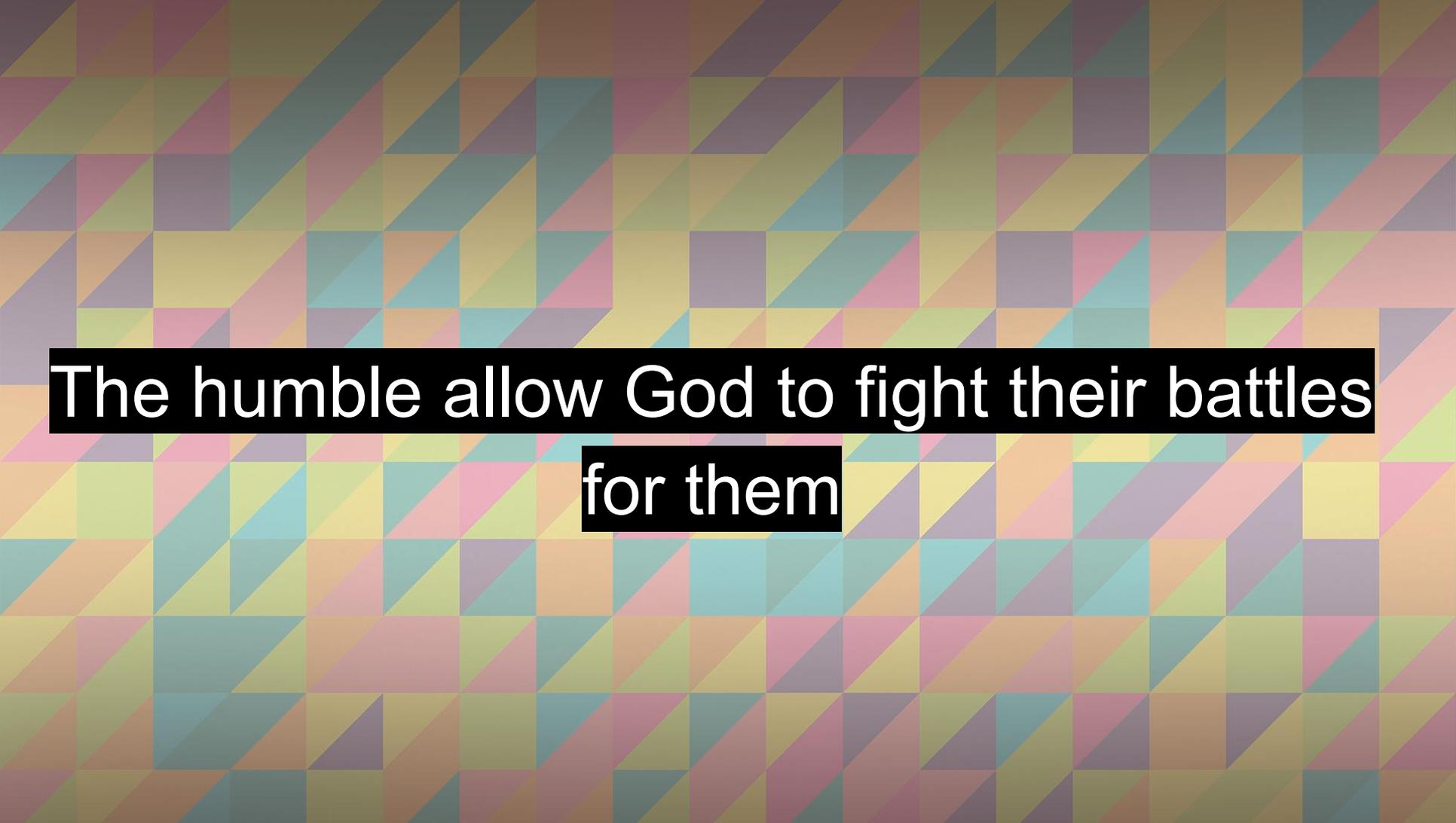


**We must never read the Black out of  
the Bible**



**James 4:6**

God opposes the proud but shows favour to  
the humble.



The humble allow God to fight their battles  
for them



# 2) DISCOVER HOLY DISCONTENT

## Numbers 12:4-9

<sup>4</sup> At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out.

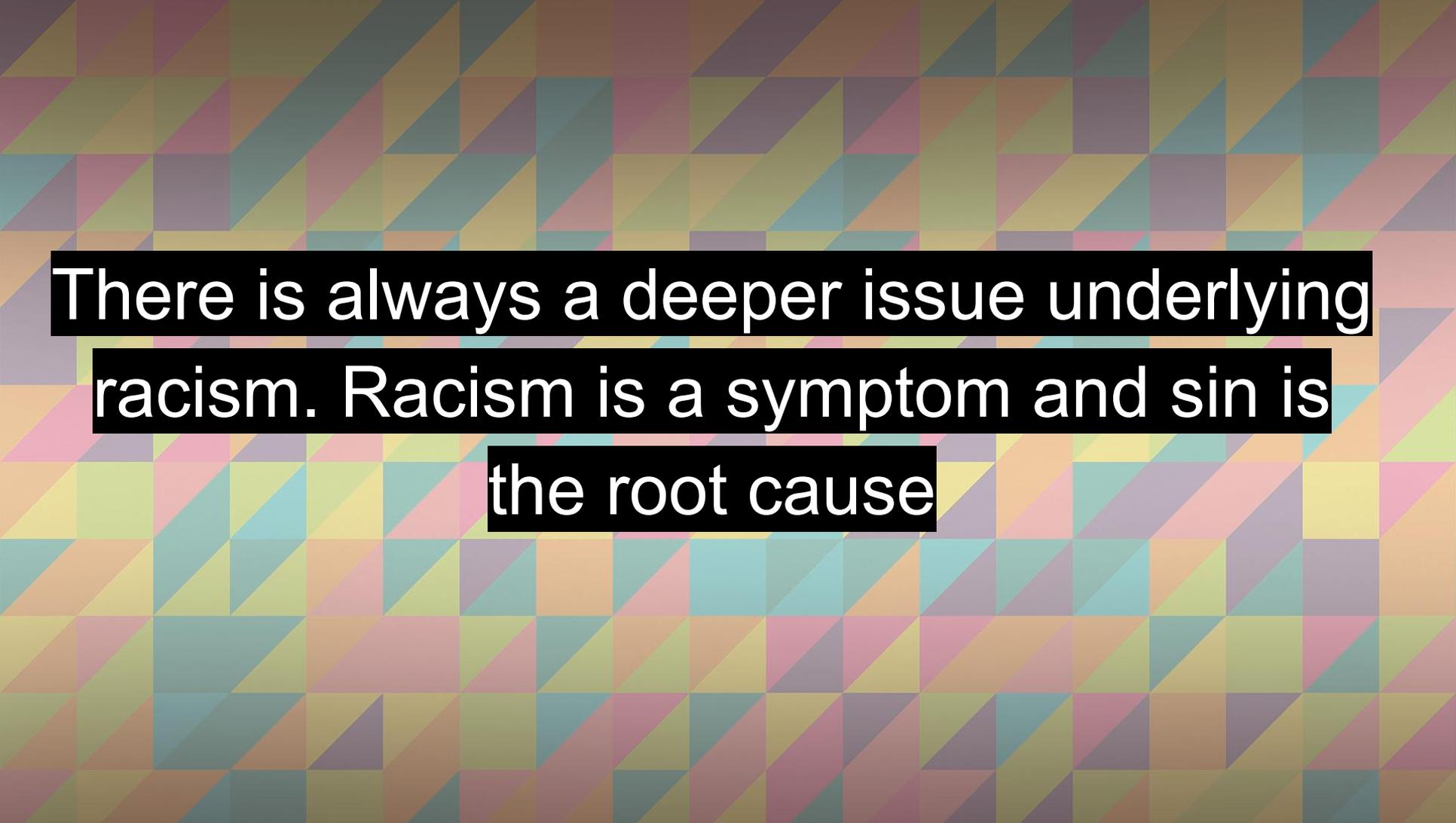
<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam.

## Numbers 12:4-9

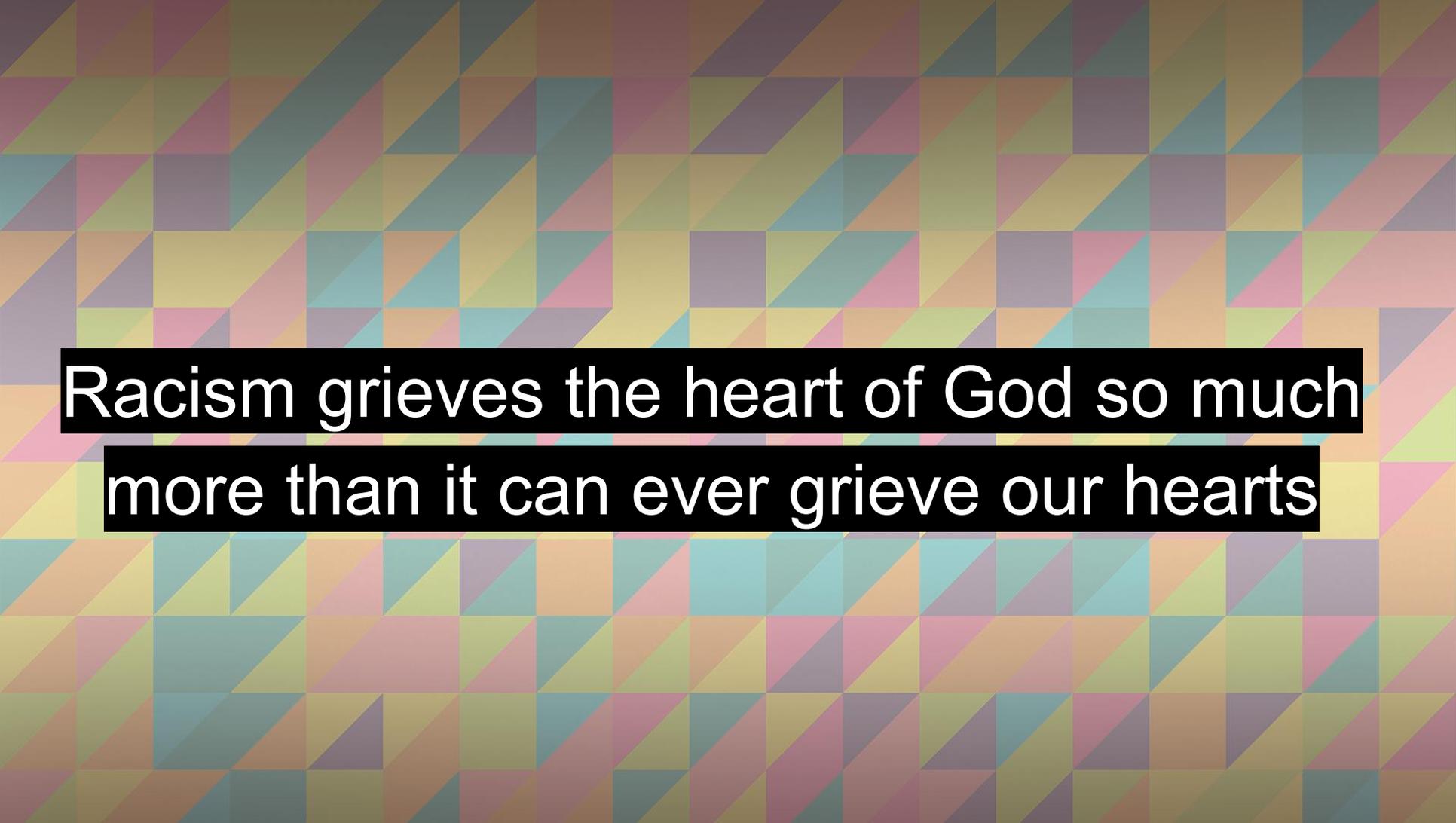
When the two of them stepped forward, <sup>6</sup> he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. <sup>7</sup> But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

## Numbers 12:4-9

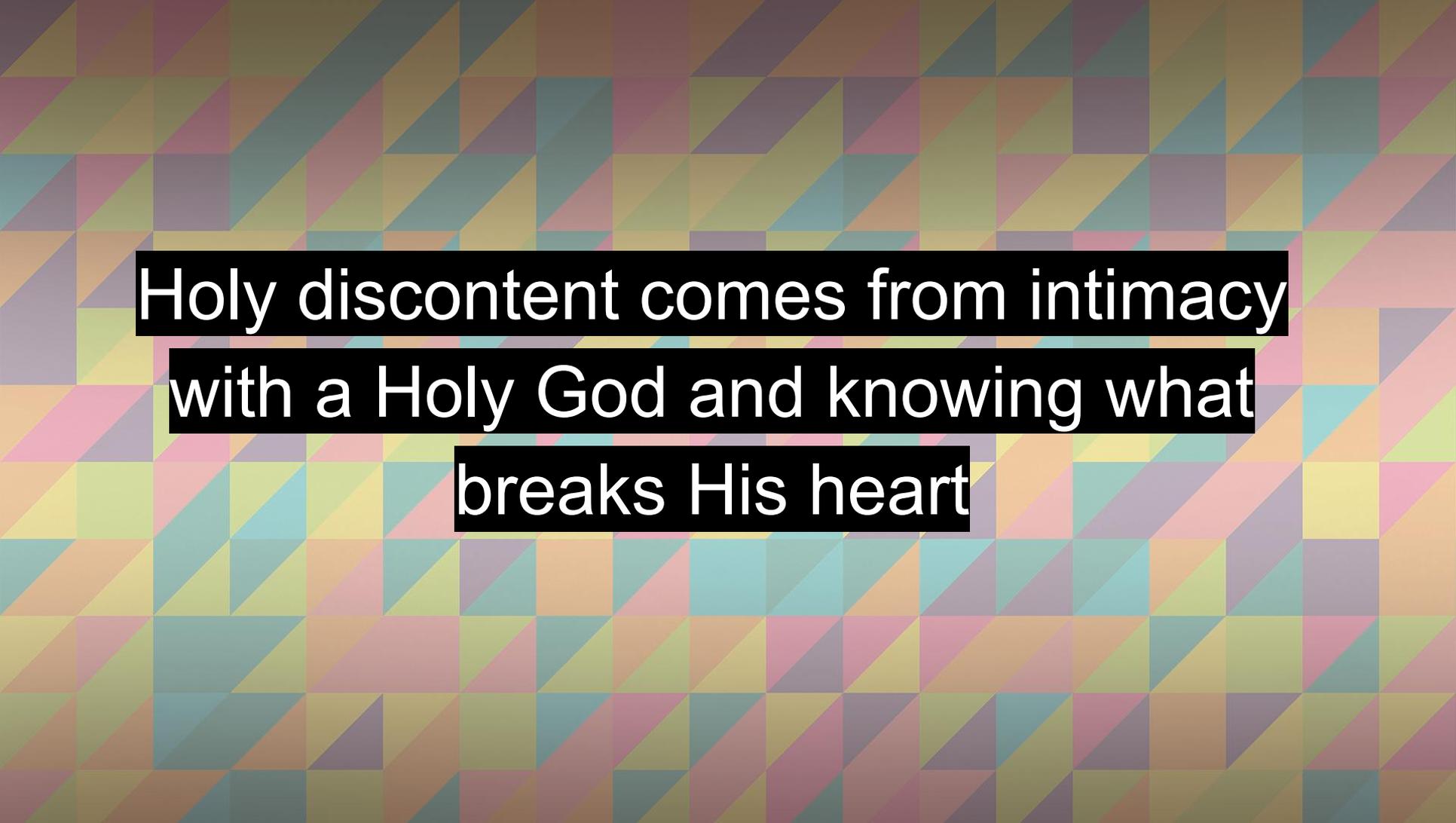
<sup>8</sup> With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” <sup>9</sup> The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them. <sup>10</sup> When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow.



There is always a deeper issue underlying  
racism. Racism is a symptom and sin is  
the root cause



Racism grieves the heart of God so much  
more than it can ever grieve our hearts



Holy discontent comes from intimacy  
with a Holy God and knowing what  
breaks His heart

# Ephesians 4:26

26 “In your anger do not sin”

## Isaiah 54:17

<sup>17</sup> No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.



# 3) PRAY FOR HEALING

## Numbers 12:10-15

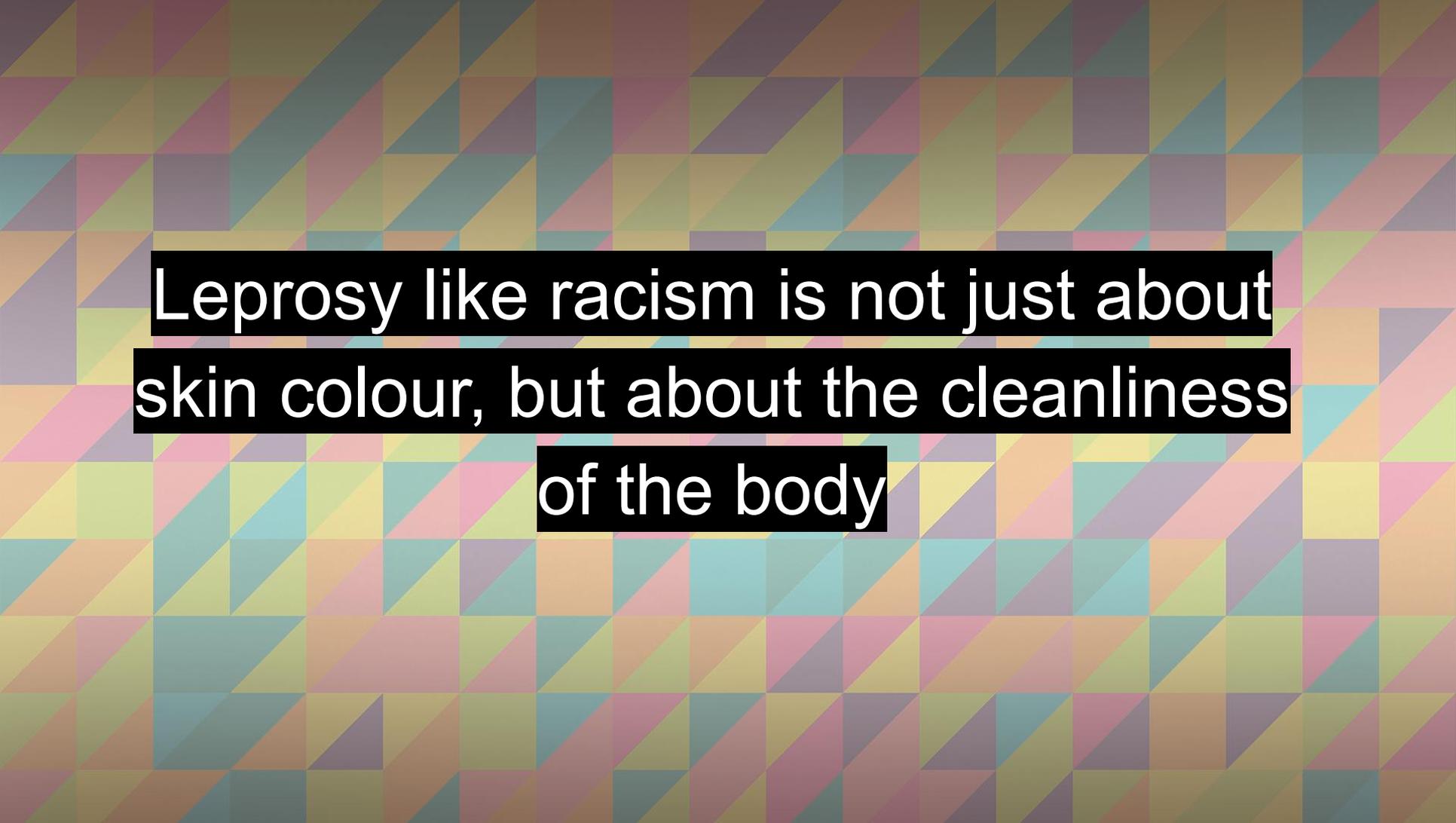
<sup>10</sup> When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, <sup>11</sup> and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed."

## Numbers 12:10-15

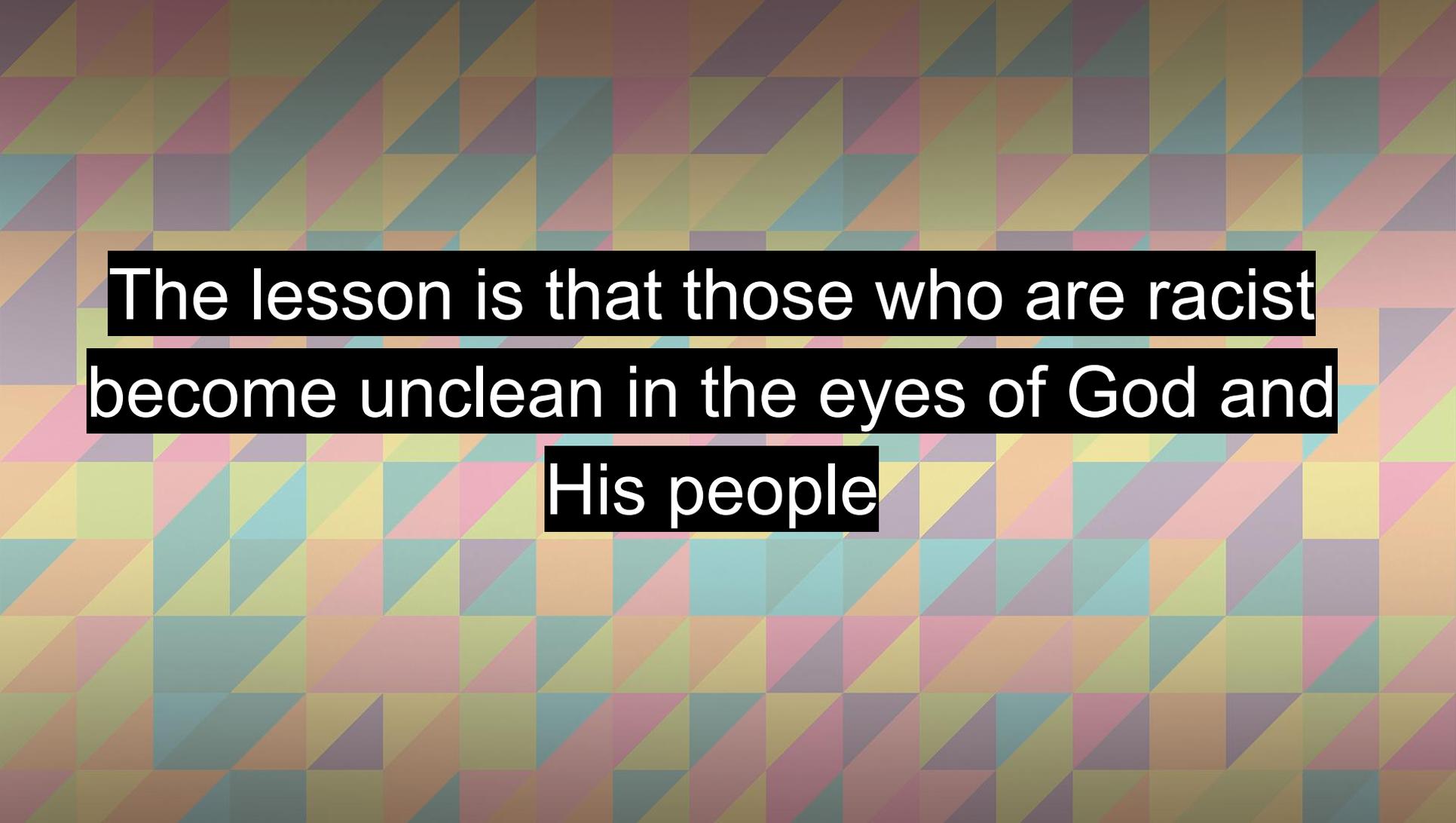
<sup>12</sup> Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!” <sup>14</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days?”

## Numbers 12:10-15

Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back.”<sup>15</sup> So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.



Leprosy like racism is not just about  
skin colour, but about the cleanliness  
of the body



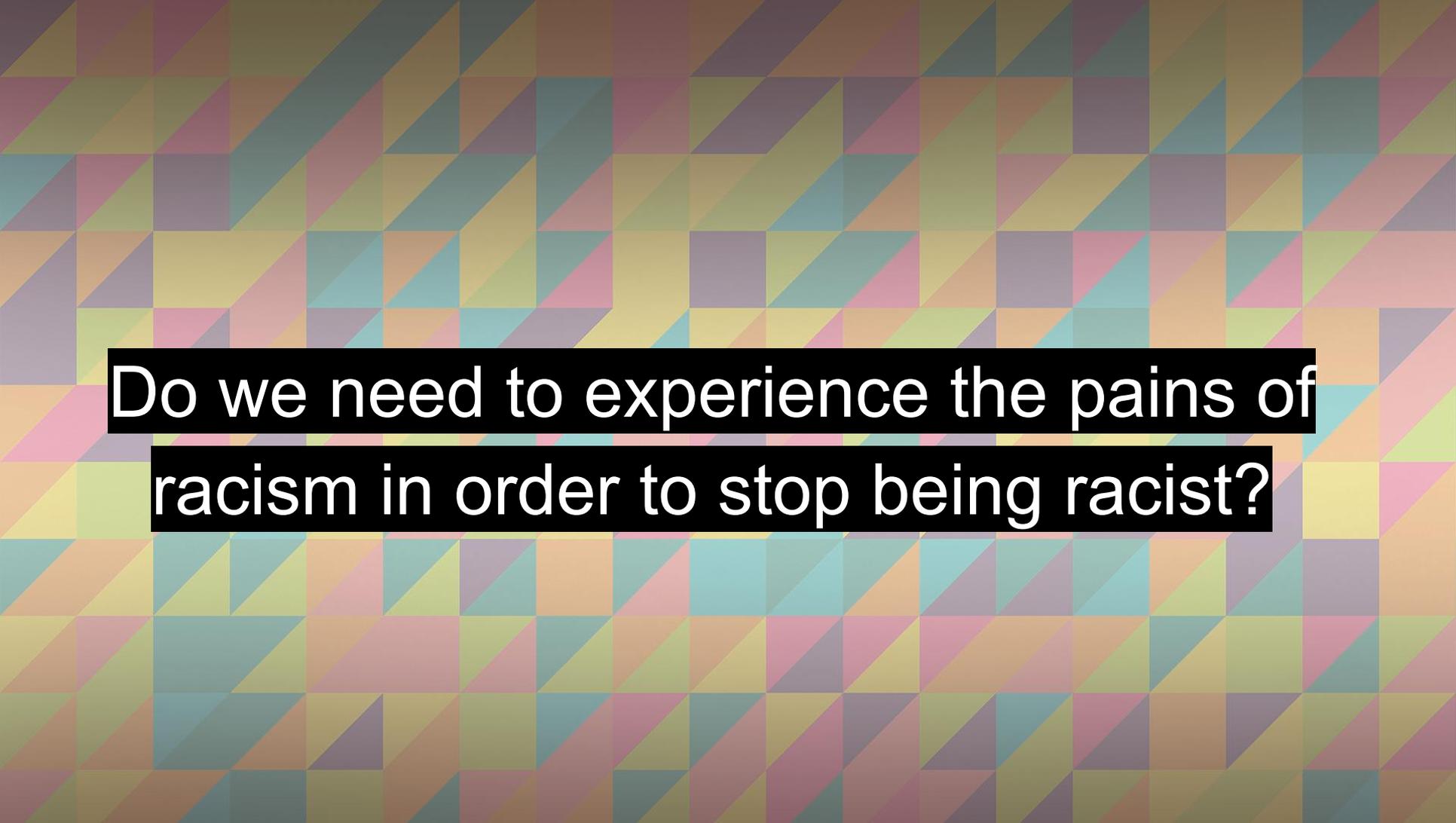
The lesson is that those who are racist  
become unclean in the eyes of God and  
His people

## Leviticus 13:45-46

45 “Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’

## Leviticus 13:45-46

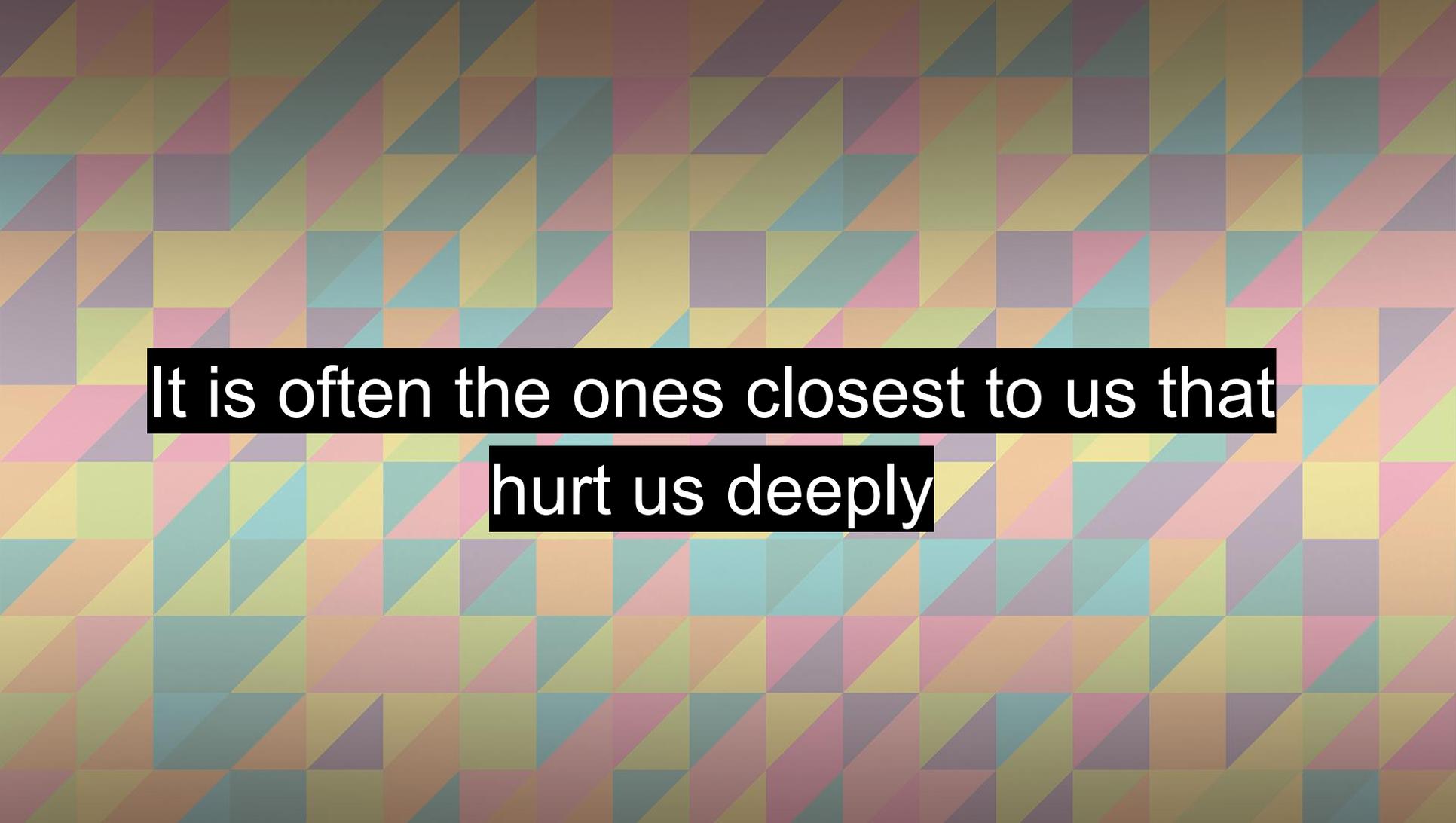
<sup>46</sup> As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.”



Do we need to experience the pains of  
racism in order to stop being racist?



Before we can be healed, we must  
be forgiven



It is often the ones closest to us that  
hurt us deeply



Racism can only be healed by God alone

## Matthew 5:43-45

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>  
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

## Matthew 5:43-45

<sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**Luke 23:34**

**“Father, forgive them, for they do not know  
what they are doing.”**

**Acts 7:60**

**“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”**



God is calling us to forgive and love  
racist people

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