

Resisting Anti-Asian Racism

in a time of COVID-19



Zoom Etiquette

- Please keep yourself muted in the large gathering.
- Tip: Use speaker view to track with the presenters.
- Participate by using the chat as an amen / praise / ouch box.
- Reminder: *Hateful, profane, racist, sexual, defamatory, or violent messages and any promotion of yourself and/or products or services are prohibited.*
- If you run into any problems, send a private chat to **Alice Atkins**.

Have a Question?

Send questions for Q&A in a private chat to [Sabrina Chan](#).

Overview

- Context
- Focus

Lament

- I am posting this on behalf of my dad. He's a 71-year old Korean adoptee. Yesterday, he was chased out of a rural convenience store after asking to use the restroom while traveling along I-5 through California to get to Portland, Oregon.
- My kids were at the park with their dad (who is white.) An older white man pushed my 7-year old daughter off of her bike and yelled at my husband to "take your hybrid kids home because they're making everyone sick."

Lament

- I had worn a face mask on Bart to work. There are about five black African teenagers saying I have coronavirus and used their backpack to hit me.
- I was live tweeting from a town hall on Anti-Asian Racism with a picture of the opening slide and tweeted "#AntiAsianRacism town hall happening now! Much needed perspective during this time." and someone replied and said "Shut up and make some fried rice you bitchy POS [piece of s***]."

Lament

- My elderly mom and grandma were threatened and cursed at with racial slurs then followed on foot to grocery store and further verbally attacked until they locked themselves inside the dry cleaners owned by my cousin.
- We were having community circle in our grade 4 classroom. One of the students said "Kill the Chinese" in Spanish when it was his turn to speak. Many of the Spanish speaking children laughed.



Lament

Psalm 13:1

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?



Lament

Psalm 13:1

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Communal



Lament

Lament asserts: “Life isn’t right. It is now noticed and voiced that life is not as it was promised to be...

For the managers of the system there is always a hope that the troubled folks will not notice the dysfunction...

Lament occurs when the dysfunction reaches an unacceptable level.”

Walter Brueggemann. *The Costly Loss of Lament*, 1986. (p. 62)

Lament

- Numbness → We are in pain.
- “That’s just the way it is” → This is not right.
- “It’s not a big deal” → Our pain matters.

Sermon on the Mount

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:39a

- ...do not resist an evildoer...
oppose
retaliate against

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:39b

- ...if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also...

Let's practice!



Sermon on the Mount

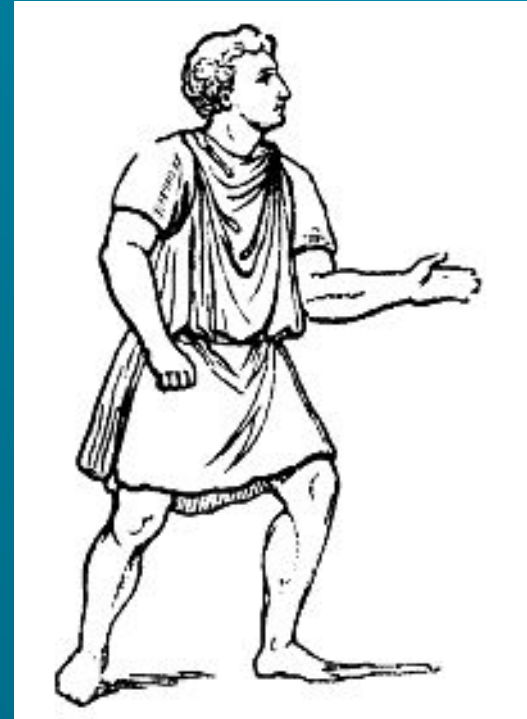
“The person who turns the other cheek is saying, in effect, ‘Try again. Your first blow failed to achieve its intended effect. I deny you the power to humiliate me. I am a human being just like you. Your status does not alter that fact. You cannot demean me.’”

Walter Wink. *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination* (p. 176). Kindle Edition.

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:40

- if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat/undershirt/tunic, give your cloak as well



Sermon on the Mount

“Jesus provides here a hint of how to take on the entire system by unmasking its essential cruelty and burlesquing its pretensions to justice. Here is a poor man who... accepts the laws as they stand, pushes them to absurdity, and reveals them for what they have become. He strips naked, walks out before his fellows, and leaves this creditor, and the whole economic edifice that he represents, stark naked.”

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:41

- if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile

Sermon on the Mount

“Jesus does not encourage Jews to walk a second mile in order to build up merit in heaven, or to exercise a supererogatory piety, or to kill the soldier with kindness. He is helping an oppressed people find a way to protest and neutralize an onerous practice despised throughout the empire.”

Wink, 182

Sermon on the Mount

Summary

- Targets the whole system
- Critiques with [perishable] symbolic action
- Turns the tables
- Demands dignity
- Offers repentance

Kingian Resistance



Kingian Resistance

1. Non-violent
2. Direct action
3. Somebodiness

Kingian Resistance

1. Nonviolent

“But if we retaliate with hate and bitterness, the new age will be nothing but a duplication of the old age. [...] The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. “Facing the Challenge of a New Age.” 1956.

Kingian Resistance

2. Direct Action

- Not passive.
- Creatively resists and exposes oppression.
- Asserts dignity.
- Makes demands.

Kingian Resistance

2. Direct Action

“We must remember as we boycott that a boycott is not an end within itself; it is merely a means to awaken a sense of shame within the oppressor and challenge his false sense of superiority.” - MLK, Jr.



Kingian Resistance

3. Somebodiness

“Number one in your life’s blueprint should be a deep belief in your own dignity, your own worth, and your own somebodiness. Don’t allow anybody to make you feel that you are nobody.”

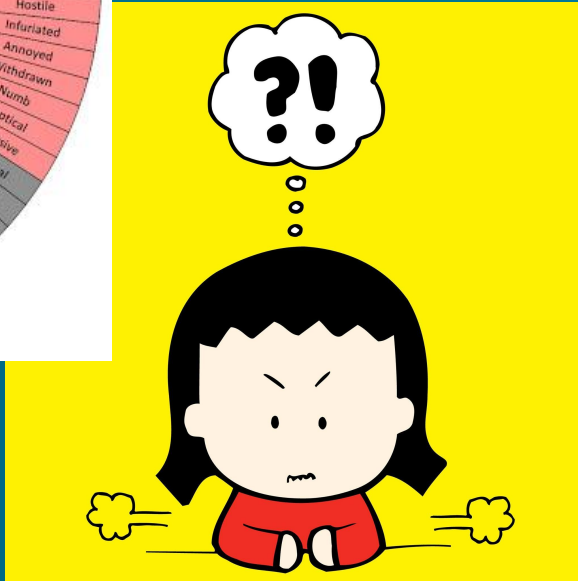
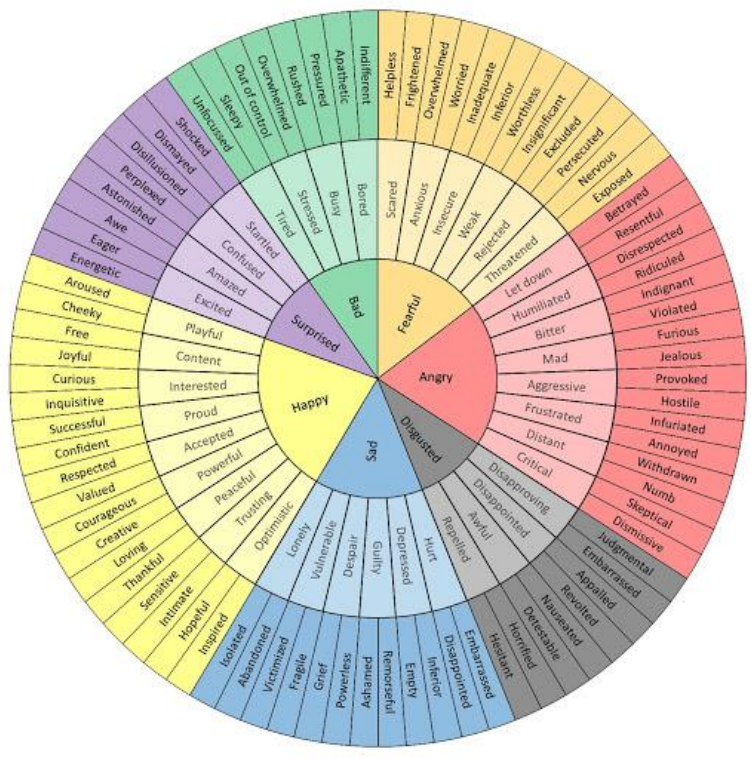
- MLK, Jr.

Kingian Resistance

3. Somebodiness

- Fearfully & wonderfully made
- Resist internalized shame
- Reclaim our emotions







SAALT #TRACKHATE

ACTS OF HATE DATABASE

SAALT, along with our allies have been tracking hate crimes against South Asian, Sikh, Muslim and Arab communities since November 2015. This is a live document and is updated daily.



SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER



Coronavirus Anti-AAPI Racism Incident Report

STATEMENT

ON ANTI-ASIAN RACISM
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

5 ACTION STEPS



Asian Teens Are Addressing Coronavirus Racism On TikTok

The outbreak has brought out anti-Chinese memes and hoaxes.



Lauren Strapagiel
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on January 31, 2020, at 3:29 p.m. ET





Demonstrators, including members of the Massachusetts Asian-American Commission, protest on March 12 at the statehouse against what racism and fearmongering aimed at Asian communities amid the coronavirus outbreak. Photo: AP



Kingian Resistance

1. Non-violent
2. Direct action
3. Somebodiness

Breakout Group Questions

1. What is resonating? Where do you feel dissonance?
2. What values are you picking up that might shape how you resist racism?
3. Do you sense any actions that those values might call for?

Case Study

You're on your weekly grocery run, and a person at the check-out counter yells at you that you shouldn't have gone out in public spreading the "China virus."

4. Han

- Concept spanning Korean, Chinese, Hindi, Mongolian, Japanese, and Vietnamese languages, though with different emphases (anger, melancholy, revenge, etc.)
- “A sense of unresolved resentment against injustice suffered, a sense of helplessness because of the overwhelming odds against... the obstinate urge to take ‘revenge’ and to right the wrong of all these combined.”¹

¹ Younghak Hyun cited in Andrew Sung Park, *Racial Conflict and Healing: An Asian-American Theological Perspective*, 1996.

Conclusion / Next Steps

- Give Jesus your han
 - Decide about retaliation (words, thoughts, feelings, actions)
- Share han with others; let them share theirs with you
- Pursue a biblical imagination off of which to improvise
- Prepare to act in faith

Q&A

Send questions via private chat to Sabrina Chan.

Optional Breakouts

What might God be saying to you about your (or others) sense of Han/pain?

What are your takeaways?

*If you would like to pray with someone instead, please send a private chat to Alice Atkins.

