

I was sitting outside of a courthouse about twenty years ago, waiting for someone, when a police van pulled in front of me. The police officer pulled a black prisoner out and shackled him to the outside of the van and walked away into the courthouse. As the black man just stood there shackled, tears ran down my cheeks. In that instant, I saw an image of slavery and it broke my heart.

I have always known that I deserved no credit for being blessed with a wonderful family and living a privileged life. But I hadn't understood how much my benefits were intentionally created by white men in power, and pure, unadulterated racism. Around the same time I witnessed the shackled black prisoner, I watched a film in a social studies class that described so many racial injustices: compensating, not those who had been slaves, but slave-owners who lost their revenue due to emancipation, the insidious practice of red-lining, and the selectiveness of the G.I. Bill, to name just a few. How could humans do this to each other and how could all of these injustices been absent from my education? Yet I am responsible to learn about our unjust systems and I am called by the gospels to act. In reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, I was awakened to the hidden caste system in our society, that "hierarchy of human divisions" that governs who has the power and who doesn't. I now know that implicit racial bias affects everything I think, do, and say, even causing me to react oppositely to what I want.

So as a privileged, white woman longing to eradicate racism, I have work to do! Thus, when Peg and Skipp began *We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism*, I was all in!

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