



Asbury Church



June 30, 2019
Sermon Notes
"Black Panther"
Matthew 7:24-27

I. Introduction

- A. Black Panther is a 2018 _____ film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name.
- B. The Black Panther's character shatters _____.

II. Pure and Faultless Religion

- A. Wakanda is a rich nation whose technology surpasses all the other nations combined but they keep themselves _____ from the rest of the world.
- B. James says pure and faultless religion is to _____ for orphans and widows in their distress.

III. American Idols

- A. Vibranium has become an _____ to the people of Wakanda.
- B. There are two _____ that can tell us what idols we may have in our lives.
 - 1) How we spend our time.
 - 2) How we spend our money.

IV. Admitting Our Mistakes

- A. One of the central themes of Black Panther is how our actions can have powerful and long-reaching _____.
- B. James says there is no healing without _____.

Things I would like to remember about this message:

Asbury Daily Study Guide

Monday: 2 Peter 3:17-18

Early in Black Panther, new king T'Challa's brilliant half-sister Shuri tells him she wants to show him how she's improved the Black Panther suit. He tries to brush her off, saying his suit works fine. Shuri insists: "Just because something works doesn't mean it can't be improved." The apostle Peter wrote something similar about our spiritual life. Grace "works"—but that means it provides a climate of love in which we keep growing, not an excuse for indifference about areas where we need to grow. In what ways are you growing in trusting and obeying the things you know about Jesus?

Tuesday: James 1:13-18, Rom 12:1-2

As king, T'Challa learned that the father he had idolized had, in fact, made some serious mistakes. His girlfriend told him, "You can't let your father's mistakes define who you are. You get to decide what kind of king you are going to be." Some Christians assume God sent the problems you face, so you can't do anything about them. But that is not the Bible's teaching. Jesus' half-brother James wrote that our God gives good and perfect gifts, not traumas or temptations." How can James' assurance that "Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above" remind you not to blame God for bad things that happen?

Wednesday: Isaiah 1:13-17, Matthew 5:38-48

Angry because T'Challa's father abandoned him, Killmonger seized the throne of Wakanda, and tried to make it a war-like, destructive kingdom. T'Challa said to his father's memory, "All of you were wrong.... No more.... He's a monster of our own making. I must take back the mantle. I must right this wrong." God's people, too, have had to honestly face corporate as well as personal wrongs, and change course. Are there any personal wrongs that you need to face honestly and ask for forgiveness?

Thursday: Romans 9:24-26, Ephesians 2:14-16

At the end of Black Panther, T'Challa vowed eloquently that Wakanda would no longer isolate itself from the world and its problems. "In times of crisis," he said, "the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. How are you building bridges and not barriers in your life.?"

Friday: Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 5:6-12, 19:16

In Black Panther, Killmonger seemed to kill T'Challa for the throne. T'Challa barely survived, then revived. He returned to dramatically confront Killmonger, saying, "I never yielded! And as you can see, I am not dead!" Jesus' followers had an even more dramatic witness. Jesus was dead and buried—and then came to them, saying, "I am not dead!" Jesus' victory over evil, hatred and death is "our defining story." In what ways does the story of Jesus define your life?

MOVING FORWARD

The Black Panther reminds us of several things as Jesus followers. First, Jesus followers are not called to stay in the holy huddle but to be engaged in our communities, nation and the world. Second, in order to be salt and light in the world, our lives need to be built on the foundation of Jesus. Finally, when we mess up tell the truth and quickly repent and get back on the path God has for you.

Answers to the sermon notes:

IA) superhero, B) stereotypes IIA) isolated, B) care
IIIA) idol, B) indicators IVA) consequences, B) truth