

# First Purchase African American M.E. Church monthly newsletter

August 1, 1935

To Kill a  
Mockingbird 50th  
Anniversary  
Commemorative  
Portrait by  
Nicolosi.



## It is Time to Forgive and Forget

By Reverend Sykes

We have been through some hard times this past summer. Our brother Tom Robinson went on trial for a crime he didn't commit, and was convicted for it. During his first few days in the big house he was shot and killed. Leaving a wife and a house full of little ones behind. I know we are all in mourning and that we all want justice for poor Tom, But we must learn to forgive and forget.

Our dear Tom was put on trial for one of the worst crimes a man could commit. We all knew that there was no chance that we were going to win over the white man, but we still tried and that is what matters the most. Atticus Finch gave us a fighting chance, and if not for the color difference we would of won. Even though it is true we did not win

this battle, we are a step closer to winning the war over equality in this town. During the trial it was easy to see that Our Tom couldn't hurt a fly, let alone a full grown woman. Mr. Finch helped us show the world that we are not the savages that they paint us to be, we are as much as human beings as they are.

I feel that what happened after the trial is what hit us the hardest, the mean streak of Bob Ewell. For reasons unknown to me, Mr. Ewell was not satisfied with putting Tom away for something he did not do. No, he couldn't let things be. Mr. Ewell took it upon himself to disturb the newly widowed Helen Robinson on her daily commute to and from work. If not for the kindness of Link Deas she probably

would have been so scared that Bob Ewell would do something to her that she would have quit her job just to avoid going past that house every morning, leaving her and the little ones to starve.

Every last person who reads this probably has this idea in their mind that in there mind Bob Ewell is an evil sent by Satan himself, but have any of you stop to think what you would of done in the same situation. It is my belief that Bob Ewell was only looking out for what he thought was best for himself at the time. Take a minute and put yourself in his place. In a drunken rage you beat your daughter, this might of happened before but never at this magnitude. You can't let her go walking around town like that, it

might cause people to talk. Their talk might lead to an investigation. An investigation will lead to your arrest and then your conviction. If you ended up in jail more people than just you would suffer. Yes, you would go to jail and Your children will no longer have anyone to hunt for them and will likely go hungry, or they would become separated with in the foster care system. bouncing between house to house not saying anywhere for long because only you can handle them. Your only choices would be to keep Mayella hidden until her wounds heal or to pin it on someone else. You need Mayella to keep the house running so everyone in your household can continue on with their daily routines, so the only option you have left is to put the blame on another, even if the person the blame is pointed on is innocent. After the wrong man is put away you think everything will be fine now, better even right? Wrong. People start to speak out on how even though the man that was put away was supposedly a lesser being, he was better than you. You have to xmake sure that everyone who wants the wrongly imprisoned person to be set free stays quiet. So you go around terrorizing everyone in hope that it will settle everyone.

What I'm trying to say here is the Mr. Bob Ewell did not do anything that you or I would have done in the same situation. He held his own and did the best he could to look out for himself in the predicament he was placed in.

Many people on this earth try to do the best they can for themselves in life with the tools that God gives them. So why should we punish on brother for doing what every other man would do? We have no right. So what we should do is try to move on with our lives. No more shaming ourselves for not being able to do something about things that have already past. We should look toward the future and try to heal and rise above what we are as a community.