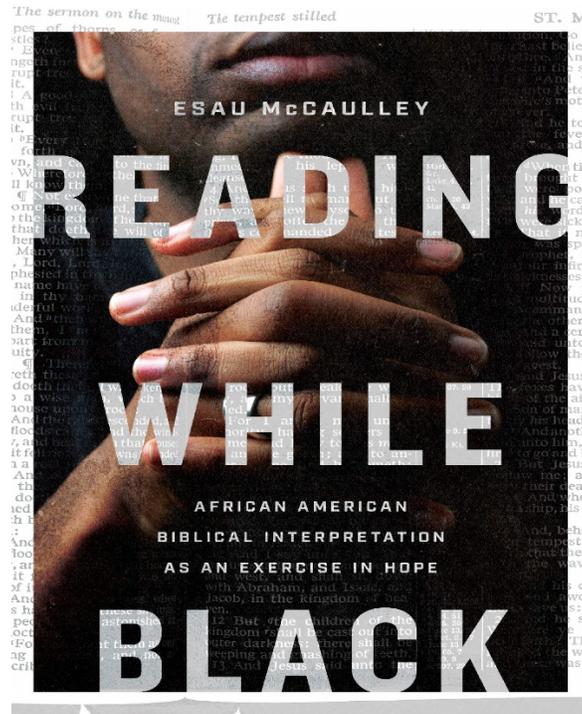


Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope

ESAU MCCAULLEY



Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope steps into the dialogue around a question that has raged since enslaved Africans arrived on North American soil: to what degree is the Bible—and its message—really good news for black people in *this* life? (Author)

We are in year C and given where we are in Milwaukee and the U.S.A. this is a timely read that is situated in the Gospel of Luke which begins with injustice as a central concern.

According to McCaulley, this interpretive impulse prompted early African Americans to read Scripture as:

- **socially located** (seeking to understand what it means to be both black and Christian),
- **theological** (using categories like the character of God or the *imago Dei* to refute “biblical” cases for slavery and discrimination),

- **canonical** (examining difficult texts in light of the whole Bible),
- **patient** (“trusting that a careful and sympathetic reading of the text brings a blessing”). (21, 184)

MUSINGS

This is a book in which Christians will find fresh confidence in the Scripture’s power to speak to both the body and soul of our experience.

“On a formative level, *Reading While Black* is valuable as a faithful model of biblical engagement and interpretive practice. If what they say about lessons being “more caught than taught” is true, then there’s much good to catch from *Reading While Black*.”

As you read this book pay attention to the redemptive metaphors present which are rooted in biblical insights and intricately tied to the intimate knowledge of the collective black experience, it should remind readers that the more we attend to God’s story in Scripture and our history—in a dialogue that prioritizes the former without downplaying the latter—the more we’ll see that Scripture has been and is good news for African Americans as well as everyone else.

Thankfully, the Scriptures contain God’s good news of salvation *and* wisdom for every trial and triumph facing *all* people—including those who are black in America. It is my HOPE that it educates and inspires us to Be better, so we can Do better.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What does the New Testament say about political protest and the church’s witness?
2. Does it contain anything applicable to policing in suffering communities?
3. Is there a redemptive way to deal with the pain of black life (Queer, Poor, Differently Abled) in America?

Respectfully,

Pastor Michelle