

## **Holy Week Soul Searching: Owing Our Collective Story**

Brene Brown, in a 2017 video, lifts up the importance of owning our story, our truth. She states that *“we spend a lot of time running away from our stories. And our collective story in the United States is a largely a story of white supremacy. That is the story. That is our story.”* She goes on to say that *“if we truly own our story we get to write the ending... The stories that we don’t own collectively, own us.”* As we enter into Holy Week and examine the wounds of Jesus, his suffering and sacrifice, may we also be willing to look at the wounds and long suffering of Black America inflicted largely by white America and racist policies. May we commit ourselves to the process of owning our collective story so we can write the ending – an ending of healing, resurrection and new life!

“For the Inward Journey,” part of the collection of Howard Thurman’s writings.

### **I CONFESS**

The concern which I lay bare before God today is  
my concern for the life of the world in these troubled times.  
I confess my own inner confusion  
as I look out upon the world..  
There is food for all - many are hungry.  
There are clothes enough for all - many are in rags.  
There is room enough for all - many are crowded.  
There are none who want war - preparations for conflict abound.  
I confess my own share in the ills of the times.  
I have shirked my own responsibilities as a citizen.  
I have not been wise in casting my ballot.  
I have left to others a real interest  
in making a public opinion worthy of democracy.  
I have been concerned about my own little job,  
my own little security,  
my own shelter,  
my own bread.  
I have not really cared about jobs for others,  
security for others,  
shelter for others,  
bread for others.  
I have not worked for peace;  
I want peace, but I have voted and worked for war.  
I have silenced my own voice  
that it may not be heard on the side of any cause, however right,  
if it meant running risks or damaging my own little reputation.  
Let Thy light burn in me that I may, from this moment on,  
take effective steps within my own powers,  
to live up to the light and  
courageously to pay for the kind of world I so deeply desire.