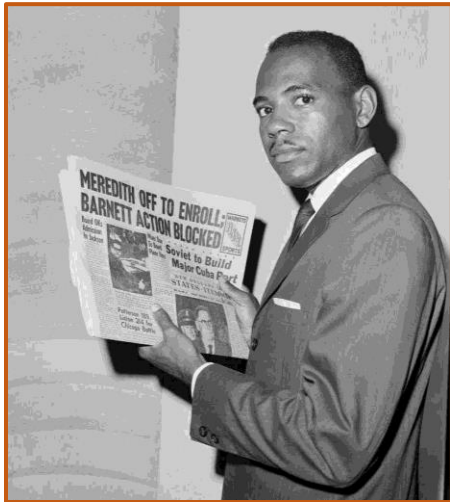


# God's Kingdom on the March

In her book *Down in Mississippi*, Carolyn Kleiner Butler tells of James Meredith making civil rights history in 1962 as the first Black student ever to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

This simple act inspired vicious race riots in the surrounding town, but Meredith didn't let it intimidate him. Four years later, in a bid to inspire Black citizens in the South to vote, Meredith planned a walk from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi. He carried nothing but a walking stick and a Bible.



The 220-mile walk was an effort to show that a Black man could walk freely through the South. As Meredith commented, "I was at war against fear."

On the second day of his walk, however, Meredith was ambushed by Aubrey James Norville, a Memphis hardware clerk. Norville shot him four times and left him to die in the middle of the road. Incredibly, Meredith survived the shooting.

And then a remarkable thing happened. As Meredith recuperated in the hospital, dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of people gathered to continue his walk from Memphis to Jackson. On the last day, a

recovered James Meredith, accompanied by 12,000 marchers, entered Mississippi's state capitol.

There is a spiritual corollary to this story. It's somewhat similar to what the kingdom of God will be like. One man was slain on a cross. And that started a parade. At first, only a few were brave enough to join it, but that few grew to hundreds, then thousands, then millions.

Among those people are a few righteous souls. But these few righteous are outnumbered by the thousands, no, millions of persons who have not been all they might have been or should have been. But they've been healed by the wounds of their Master.

The kingdom of God has come. That was the central message of Jesus' earthly ministry. The kingdom of God is marching forward, and nothing can stop its momentum, nothing can prevail against it, not even the gates of Hell.

You have a front-row invitation to be a part of it. This is the greatness of God's grace: salvation cannot be earned; it is a free gift; a gift of love offered to all who will accept it.

(more)

Don't let your goodness get in the way of Jesus' righteousness. Don't let your sanctity overshadow Jesus' sacrifice. Believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and claim your place in the kingdom of God today.

Jesus Himself said it:

*But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we wear?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:30-33 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter