

A cinematic photograph of Jesus sitting in a field of tall, dry grass. He is wearing a white robe and a white head covering, looking towards the camera with a gentle expression. Several other people, seen from behind, are sitting around him, wearing similar traditional robes and head coverings. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a bright sky.

Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness...

...for they shall be filled

Matthew 5:6

What is 'righteousness'?

- Right with God
- The right way to live
 - To be right with God
- Doing the right thing
 - Justice
- The Message – personal hunger
- NLT, Wright – Justice



Jesus' description

- Matthew 6:1-18
- Acts of righteousness (v.1)
- Right company – prayer
- Right heart – fasting
- Right action – charity



Right company... prayer

- Hunger for a good relationship with God
- Not through talking too much or repetition
- Through knowing him as Father
 - Identity as his children
 - Forgiveness
 - Provision
 - Protection
 - Not just my, but our – for ALL!
- Practicing his presence



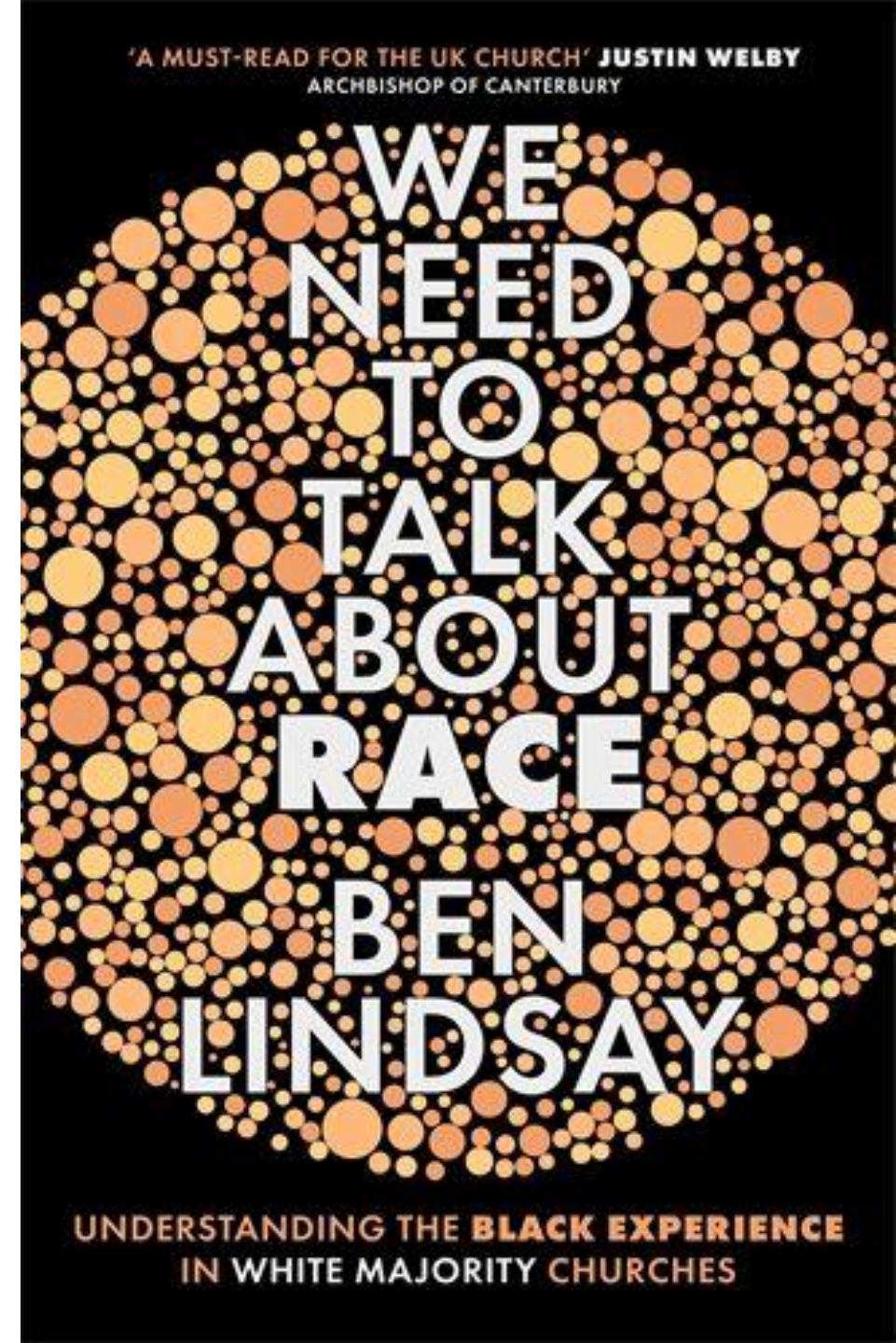
Right heart... fasting

- Not to get closer to God
 - Not godliness via self-discipline
 - I was gently rebuked...
 - Jesus the way
- Israel fasted in crisis
 - Facing war or famine
 - Adds intensity to our prayers!
- Compassion
 - Sharing another's pain
 - Seeking change we are powerless to effect
 - My fasting for a friend's job
- Covid-19 & Black Lives Matter



Right action... charity

- NASB has almsgiving
- Jesus puts this first
 - Most important?
 - A key theme of the OT
 - How 'the nations' will be judged — Matt 25:31-46
- Compassion
 - Sharing another's pain
 - Seeking change we can effect
 - Sadie campaigns, I empathise
 - Buy the book!
- Religion dead without it — Isaiah 1:10-17, James 2:17

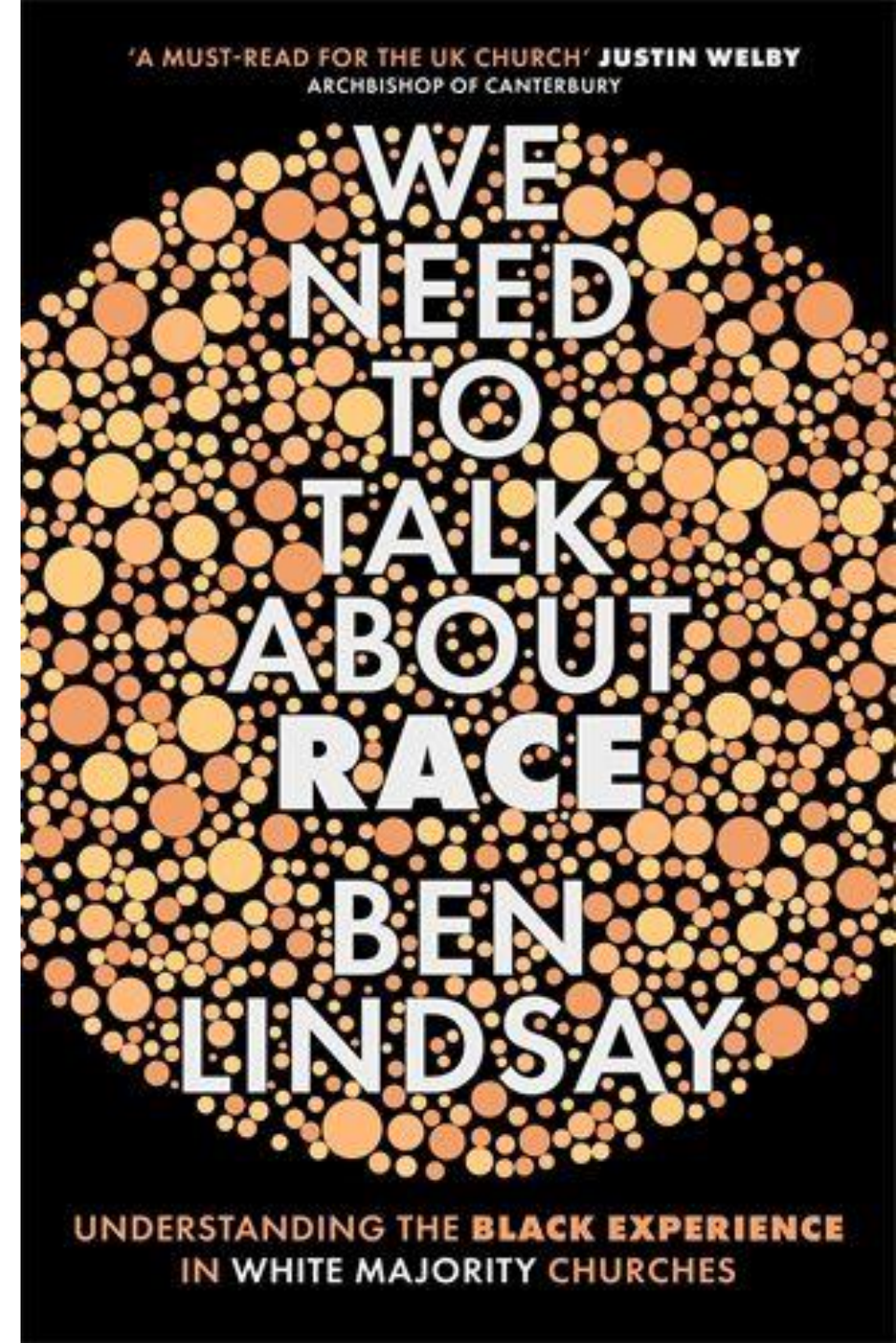


No new message...

- Jesus could be expounding on Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what is good...”
 - Act justly – right action
 - Love mercy – right heart
 - Walk humbly with your God – right company
- And Jesus promises a reward for all who desire this rightness
 - Not to be seen as right with God
 - Motive is all
 - When we truly hang out with God, compassion is the result

So what?

- Will we seek the right company?
 - How can I improve my prayer life?
- Will we be willing to share someone's pain even though we can't seem to affect it?
 - Shall I fast for BLM or Covid?
- Will we be willing to share someone's pain in action?
 - What can I do to bring someone comfort this week?
 - Buy the book!



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We've got to start somewhere!