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## THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

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### Sustaining the Soul of Equal Justice

with Eddie Howard

April 14, 2023

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

#### **Genesis 18:1-10**

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord,<sup>[a]</sup> do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs<sup>[b]</sup> of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

#### **Lamentations 3:22-24**

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

#### **Mark 4:35-41**

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

**Eddie Howard** joined as Executive Director in fall 2021, after serving on staff for eight years in the early 2000's. Eddie grew up in the Prospect neighborhood, Abundant Life's focus for ministry and served on staff building deep relationships in the community and helping to launch our 5/8 Program for Middle School boys. After his initial time with Abundant Life, Eddie moved to Virginia Beach where he was a business owner and continued his vocations of mentoring and pastoring, through his local church and organizations focused on literacy and mentoring fathers. He is also the author of *Still Convicted: A Story of Redemption, Reconciliation, and Restoration*.

Eddie brings experience and energy along with his broad local network to the areas of development, partner building, vision casting, and strategic planning at Abundant Life. His extensive personal experience in peacebuilding and restorative justice practices, as well as his thoughtfulness about community building will inform his approach to this important work.

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