

COLLEGIATE TIMES

Preacher Moss addresses judgment and racism

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"When it comes to racism, you never come to the great answers if you never ask the great questions," said Preacher Moss.

The End of Racism tour had its latest stop in Litton Reeves auditorium last night, where Moss intertwined humor with the premise of his comedy tour.

The audience listened to stories from Moss's life that caused laughter and thought. Moss, from the very beginning informed the audience that he would not be politically correct, because racism is not political or correct.

Moss first discussed how Katrina was a "racial wake up call." He said he felt sorry for most of the people involved, but he admitted that he did feel good about some of the victims of the storm. "I felt bad, yet I felt good, cause the KKK got hurt. Then I knew God had a sense of humor," Moss said.

This was the first time Moss introduced a serious topic, but then used humor to force the audience to look at the situation from a different view. Moss used this tactic to help the audience understand his thoughts of racism.

He wanted the audience to investigate before they judge. Moss admitted to judging a book by its cover, "I have judged a library," Moss said.

A story of Moss's first job out of college emphasized his idea that racism and hate can come from not investigating. Moss was a teacher at a Catholic school. His class was comprised of 8-year-olds. When Moss suspended his first student, he recalled going to the student's house to drop off the homework that had been assigned. As soon as Moss walked in the door he knew why the student was so angry, Moss said, "The Kid was so angry cause his Mom was gone and his Dad was in jail." Moss described the student as not knowing where his mother was, but he knew his father was in jail. Moss asked if he had ever tried to contact his Dad, and the student said no. Moss told the audience that he help the boy write a letter to his Dad.

"With a little investigation I understood about the anger in my student," Moss said.

Moss preached his own experience of judging before he did any investigation. Moss said investigating before you judge, "organic sensitivity." Moss wants people to do their homework before making judgments and avoid getting angry.

Moss offered options to take away the power of racists.

"Critical thinking takes away the power of racists," he said.

Moss described an encounter he had with a white homeless man to defend his critical thinking advice. Moss walked passed a homeless man who got angry for not receiving any money.

He described the encounter from when the man said, "Hey you nigger, who do you think you are?"

Moss calmly replied, "I am a wealthy nigger."

Moss repeatedly defended his advice with humorous stories.

Erika Boyle, a junior accounting major who is also a member of the Theta Nu Xi Multi-Cultural Sorority Incorporation, the sponsors of the event, said, "I think it was a success tonight, although I wish it was a little more of a diverse crowd."

Adam Ficke, a sophomore chemical engineer, agreed with Erika and said, "I thought tonight was funny, insightful and very well done."

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