In his book “Nobody,” Marc Lamont Hill describes many examples of injustice, particularly in police brutality, urging for people to refer to the Franciscan values of discovery, community, and individual worth to improve the condition of today’s society and utilize liberty.

As young adults, discovery represents one of the most important aspects of our everyday lives. Although learning happens in a classroom, learning also takes place in nature, our home, and anywhere an individual seeks to find it. In “Nobody,” Hill opens the eyes of readers to discover the inequalities rupturing our country day in and day out. By exposing the “gross injustice” of today’s society, readers discover an ongoing problem and can focus on how to implement lessening the effects of inequality in their lives (Hill, 29). While many people grow up recognizing the problem of inequality, only few truly learn from the injustice and work to discover a way to reduce the problem. History continues to repeat itself and society cripples its growth. If mankind works together to recognize the immense problem of inequality and set forth
a plan to reform it, not only will the future benefit, but so will those who grow through the process of discovering new ways to think and fix problems.

The importance of community continues to affect our lives, especially as society continues to grow toward polarization. Hill reveals the ever-increasing differences between poverty-ridden cities and the officials who work there, urging for a sense of community between the two in order to put an end to police brutality and unfair punishment. At the end of the book, Hill urges society to continue developing strong communities and to speak out against injustice, while arguing this as the key to liberty.

While Hill emphasizes the power of communities, it is also important to recognize the values of inclusion as another aspect toward freedom. Though many communities do include anyone and everyone, some only accept a certain demographic, limiting who can join. While this does unify certain groups of people, a community should be open to everyone in order to create a diverse sense of community and execute American democracy. Building a sense of community represents Hill’s main theme in “Nobody” to celebrate diversity and teach acceptance to a society that desperately needs it.

Individual worth is one of the most significant Franciscan values, especially in young adults, as it not only improves the individual but also improves the other Franciscan aspects of discovery and community. Hill depicts how a lack of individual worth has corrupted the country and left us with an unresolved problem and lack of a solution. By teaching individual worth and discovery through communities, the issues surrounding police forces and citizens can be lessened over time to eventually end the epidemic that has plagued the country. Enforcing individual worth eventually leads to an increased use of communication, which, in turn, provides a more stable and understanding democratic society. This also allows the country to execute true liberty,
giving each individual a voice despite economic or social ranking. By understanding that everyone truly is created equally, we as a society enable ourselves to learn from our mistakes and develop a stronger sense of communication and problem solving.

In “Nobody,” Marc Lamont Hill illustrates the Franciscan values of discovery, community, and individual worth to reveal how they could lessen the injustice many individuals face in America. By describing different extremes of injustice throughout our history, Hill emphasizes the importance of developing inclusive communities in order to create a more harmonious society. Ultimately, “Nobody” captures the main idea of Franciscan values and why it is important for people, especially in my generation, to understand the values and implement them into everyday life to better the community as a whole.

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