

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.329 --> 00:00:10.860

Gloria White-Hammond: And excited to see each one of you it's it's terrific to be here. Pastor ray and I will be leading the conversation tonight and we're

2

00:00:11.280 --> 00:00:25.860

Gloria White-Hammond: Looking forward to just checking in with you and having that pastoral chat. I do want to begin with the Scripture and I do hope people have some Bibles here. It's always great to see these Bible pages flipping

3

00:00:26.550 --> 00:00:34.650

Gloria White-Hammond: I am I got my Bible here, but I'm just for the sake of this conversation. I am going to read from the online.

4

00:00:36.510 --> 00:00:48.990

Gloria White-Hammond: Psalm 46 is a psalm 46 and this is one of the tapes I imagined for a number of us some 46 and it begins. God is our refuge and strength.

5

00:00:49.770 --> 00:01:03.090

Gloria White-Hammond: A very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change. Lots of changes here though the mountains shake in the heart of the city.

6

00:01:03.540 --> 00:01:12.840

Gloria White-Hammond: Lots of shaking going on. Though its waters roar and phone yet that to the mountains tremble with its term old

7

00:01:13.350 --> 00:01:21.600

Gloria White-Hammond: There is yet a river, who streams make glad the City of God. The Holy habitation of the Most High.

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00:01:22.170 --> 00:01:29.850

Gloria White-Hammond: God is in the midst of the city guards in the midst of our situation. He's in the midst of your home and your heart.

9

00:01:30.300 --> 00:01:42.570

Gloria White-Hammond: It shall not be moved, God will help when the

morning downs, the nations are in an uproar, my lord, my lord, my lord, the kingdom start of my god

10

00:01:43.200 --> 00:01:54.750

Gloria White-Hammond: He enters his voice and the earth melts the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge come behold the works of the Lord.

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00:01:55.080 --> 00:02:07.650

Gloria White-Hammond: See what does summations he is brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the Bow. The bow and shatters the spear he burns the shield with fire.

12

00:02:08.190 --> 00:02:21.480

Gloria White-Hammond: Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth, the Lord of hosts is with this, the God of Jacob.

13

00:02:21.900 --> 00:02:35.220

Gloria White-Hammond: Yet is our refuge and as we go into worship. I see sister Leslie is here. If I'd known, you're going to be here. I'd have you sing a song that we'd like to hear at in lieu of sister, Leslie. We're going to hear a word from

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00:02:36.090 --> 00:02:52.050

Gloria White-Hammond: From sisters send out the way maker and one of my favorite songs now and and one of the most popular ones that many of us have sung and either in our, in our voices or something in our spirit. Go ahead, sister, Carol.

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00:03:29.550 --> 00:03:30.660

Carole Copeland Thomas: Can everyone hear that

16

00:08:44.220 --> 00:08:56.850

Gloria White-Hammond: Most loving God. We certainly do bow down and worship you Yahweh, the God who is ever with us. The God Who makes the way the God who brings all into existence. Can we just worship you.

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00:08:57.420 --> 00:09:09.060

Gloria White-Hammond: We thank you God for those who have gathered from both near and far literally more to be in this space tonight this sanctuary space. Oh, God. It looks like a zoom room like any other

zoom

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00:09:09.540 --> 00:09:16.200

Gloria White-Hammond: But we know that what's different here is that even because of your presence that this is we're sitting. We're standing

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00:09:16.740 --> 00:09:26.160

Gloria White-Hammond: On hallowed ground and we thank you God for that reassurance today the confidence to know that no matter what we go through more you are with this.

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00:09:26.550 --> 00:09:39.270

Gloria White-Hammond: The reassurance to know God, that even as the storm clouds rise all around us. So guys, you are with us the confidence, O Lord, that people may come and people may go

21

00:09:39.690 --> 00:09:52.500

Gloria White-Hammond: Political people come and political people go economies rise economies fall justice appears justice disappears. But through it all. God, you are yet with us and we thank you God

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00:09:53.040 --> 00:10:01.170

Gloria White-Hammond: For your promise and God for the reassurance and for the evidence that you are God in Jesus name Amen

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00:10:02.160 --> 00:10:09.810

Gloria White-Hammond: Praise the Lord. It is indeed a blessing to be here in your midst and and to be worshiping even through our study

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00:10:10.470 --> 00:10:26.070

Gloria White-Hammond: The person who will be leading I study, I bet. Y'all know him. I bet y'all have seen him around. Sometimes I I see him. I see him all the time. As a matter of fact, especially these days. And that's, I'd be loving Esther and my best friend.

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00:10:27.270 --> 00:10:30.210

Gloria White-Hammond: Reverend Dr. Ray hamming

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00:10:36.150 --> 00:10:38.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm going to Anna. Thank you.

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00:10:38.910 --> 00:10:39.540

Ray Hammond: All right.

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00:10:40.800 --> 00:10:42.750

Ray Hammond: Great to see everybody in

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00:10:43.740 --> 00:10:44.610

Ray Hammond: And what's a

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00:10:47.130 --> 00:10:56.730

Ray Hammond: Still unprecedented time and season and not just because we're in the midst, again, of an incredible pandemic, or the fact that we are

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00:10:57.810 --> 00:11:06.780

Ray Hammond: Seeing not only the second wave of their pandemic. But the second wave of kind of economic effects as people are being evicted and

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00:11:08.370 --> 00:11:10.170

Ray Hammond: homeowners are being foreclosed on

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00:11:11.550 --> 00:11:16.800

Ray Hammond: But also because both many of the political and justice issues that we

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00:11:18.480 --> 00:11:28.380

Ray Hammond: Have been wrestling with are continuing to come to a head in some powerful ways, not the least of which is our most recent election.

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00:11:29.550 --> 00:11:37.710

Ray Hammond: Which of course is now in the midst of a potential almost real crisis.

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00:11:39.390 --> 00:11:55.740

Ray Hammond: We're about to pass over into the realm of something not seen since the country was founded, so it's as fascinating amazing, incredible times and I'm going to need your help. As we take a moment

to delve a little more deeply.

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00:11:56.760 --> 00:12:06.570

Ray Hammond: Into a theme that I've brought up before that we talked about, not in the Bible study context. But another context before coming out of x, the 16th chapter

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00:12:07.980 --> 00:12:12.360

Ray Hammond: And I'm going to need some some help. Again, from the Bible scholars. Want to need your

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00:12:13.620 --> 00:12:26.940

Ray Hammond: Help and reading along with some of these passages need someone look up acts 16:35 to 40 and then I need someone to be prepared to read Isaiah 58 one through seven.

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00:12:28.830 --> 00:12:35.070

Ray Hammond: And then someone else to read Amos 5:23 and 24

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00:12:36.930 --> 00:12:54.090

Ray Hammond: And then Micah, six, eight, and then we'll have a couple of other scriptures to follow that. But let's start with those as you looking those up. Let me take a moment to just to take note of the comments that have been made here which are as sister.

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00:12:55.320 --> 00:13:04.080

Ray Hammond: Carol couple of talents and we thanks so much for her causing these Bible studies all through this pandemic period. And as we made this transition to June.

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00:13:06.570 --> 00:13:16.740

Ray Hammond: couple interesting questions did you did you prepare alternate talking points in case the election when either way, and great question actually know

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00:13:17.970 --> 00:13:19.860

Ray Hammond: And I'll explain why little bit later.

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00:13:21.330 --> 00:13:32.370

Ray Hammond: It's testicle. I said on some levels. However, the election when God was still going to be God and however the election

when we were still going to have big work ahead of us. Huge work ahead of us.

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00:13:33.570 --> 00:13:44.550

Ray Hammond: It's just a question of whether we have more. We have some tailwind or headwind from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and some of the other political structures and so on.

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00:13:46.290 --> 00:13:54.870

Ray Hammond: So let's take a moment and someone could read that passage acts 1635 to 40 and then I'm going to just pull up my

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00:13:56.910 --> 00:13:58.500

Ray Hammond: PowerPoint, as we're reading that

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00:14:02.850 --> 00:14:07.980

Ray Hammond: Was a volunteer on acts 16

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00:14:12.540 --> 00:14:12.870

Joyce Marshall: Sorry.

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00:14:13.410 --> 00:14:14.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: No. No, go ahead.

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00:14:16.740 --> 00:14:17.280

Joyce Marshall: Okay.

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00:14:18.420 --> 00:14:21.900

Joyce Marshall: X six x 1635 to 40

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00:14:23.730 --> 00:14:30.930

Joyce Marshall: When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order we leased those men.

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00:14:31.500 --> 00:14:39.210

Joyce Marshall: The jailer told Paul the magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.

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00:14:39.660 --> 00:14:53.370

Joyce Marshall: But Paul said to the officers. They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens and threw us into prison, and now they want to get rid of us quietly know let them come themselves and a score this out.

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00:14:54.330 --> 00:15:02.850

Joyce Marshall: And the officers reported this to the magistrates and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. They were alarmed.

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00:15:03.240 --> 00:15:17.730

Joyce Marshall: They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison requesting them to leave the city after Paul and Silas came out of the prison. They went to Lydia's house where they met with the brothers and encourage them then they left

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00:15:18.750 --> 00:15:27.480

Ray Hammond: All right, thank you so much joy. I'm going to try to share this screen. Make sure it comes up, clearly. Let's see if this works with posters.

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00:15:29.670 --> 00:15:29.970

Ray Hammond: Yeah.

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00:15:32.010 --> 00:15:33.990

Ray Hammond: Wrong side though, let's see how that

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00:15:35.610 --> 00:15:36.150

All right.

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00:15:39.240 --> 00:15:43.530

Ray Hammond: Alright, so everybody can see the slide where do we go from here post election reflections.

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00:15:45.480 --> 00:15:56.700

Ray Hammond: Okay, great. Um, let me begin by asking this question. We're turning to the book of Acts, someone tell me why is the book of Acts, so important. I would argue

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00:15:57.750 --> 00:16:13.080

Ray Hammond: That maybe second to the Gospels, the Book of Acts might

be one of the most significant books, if not the most significant in some ways in the New Testament. Why might I say that, why would I say it's such an important book.

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00:16:21.000 --> 00:16:21.840

Ray Hammond: Somebody speak up.

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00:16:24.930 --> 00:16:27.930

James Williams: Because it's beginning of the of establishing the church.

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00:16:28.380 --> 00:16:38.340

Ray Hammond: Okay, tells us the story of the church Gospels tell us a story of Jesus, the founder of the church X tells us the story of the church. He died to found

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00:16:39.630 --> 00:16:42.900

Jonell Johnson: And also how and also how the gospel spread

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00:16:43.620 --> 00:16:50.070

Ray Hammond: Okay, what was this process by which this thing that started out in Palestine.

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00:16:51.510 --> 00:17:00.930

Ray Hammond: At the behest of a Messiah who never went more than 60 miles from where he was born. Moving to the entire world.

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00:17:03.360 --> 00:17:14.130

Jonell Johnson: And I think another thing is it's like a role model for us like corn and me and fellowship and breaking bread together. It's a role model.

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00:17:14.610 --> 00:17:25.230

Ray Hammond: Okay, so we know the principles were supposed to be in fellowship. We know the principles. We're supposed to share the good news. We know the principles that we're supposed to be willing

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00:17:25.710 --> 00:17:36.870

Ray Hammond: To obey God rather than people right if there's a if there's a conflict. But what does that look like and X puts flesh on that word.

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00:17:38.700 --> 00:17:40.530

Ray Hammond: Any other reasons why it's so important.

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00:17:47.550 --> 00:17:50.370

Joyce Marshall: Shows the persecution of the church.

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00:17:50.910 --> 00:18:12.030

Ray Hammond: All right, so what Jesus said. Right. He told them, look, you're going to do some important and powerful things, but this is not going to be easy. So in a sense, it fills out the prophetic utterance of Jesus. Well, thank you, all of you have said.

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00:18:12.030 --> 00:18:14.730

Jonell Johnson: Something one more thing I wanted to say.

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00:18:14.940 --> 00:18:15.330

Sure.

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00:18:16.350 --> 00:18:29.340

Jonell Johnson: About Cornelius because Cornelius was the Gentile and it was in the acts that the Holy Spirit came to Cornelius and his house household was saved and they weren't US

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00:18:30.240 --> 00:18:35.700

Ray Hammond: Amen and and where do you see the pre figuring of that in the Gospels.

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00:18:40.140 --> 00:18:46.230

Jonell Johnson: Everything Jesus did was anti Judaism talking to the woman at the well.

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00:18:49.410 --> 00:18:53.040

Ray Hammond: Actually not so much anti Judaism right he's

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00:18:53.430 --> 00:18:54.270

Jonell Johnson: A custom

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00:18:55.980 --> 00:19:01.410

Ray Hammond: He certainly breaks up the customs of that time. But where does he actually minister to Gentiles.

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00:19:04.320 --> 00:19:06.480

Ray Hammond: There's at least two or three instances of that.

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00:19:12.450 --> 00:19:15.780

Ray Hammond: Well, we'll come back to that in a minute. I'm going to give you time to think about that.

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00:19:15.990 --> 00:19:20.550

Ray Hammond: Give me one of three instances where Jesus speaks to a non Jew.

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00:19:21.870 --> 00:19:25.860

Ray Hammond: Actually sister Jonah gave us one, the woman at the well. Alright, so she's Samaritan.

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00:19:26.760 --> 00:19:40.620

Ray Hammond: Importance of x. And we'll come back I'll give you a little chance to think on that apiece. This x tells us that this movement that Jesus begins this mission that Jesus start has what I'm calling legs. It's going somewhere.

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00:19:41.670 --> 00:19:51.480

Ray Hammond: It's not going to just stay in Palestine. It's not just going to stay in and around Jerusalem and Galileo, it is going into all the world.

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00:19:52.770 --> 00:19:58.950

Ray Hammond: The Book of Acts also tells us that this really is the beginning of a new heaven and a new earth.

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00:20:00.030 --> 00:20:11.640

Ray Hammond: And it starts with the founder sending into heaven transformed resurrected and transform and sending down into the earth who

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00:20:16.230 --> 00:20:16.950

Ray Hammond: Jesus

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00:20:17.520 --> 00:20:18.330

James Williams: The Holy Spirit.

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00:20:18.780 --> 00:20:19.680

Ray Hammond: The Holy Spirit.

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00:20:21.030 --> 00:20:21.930

Jonell Johnson: Yes.

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00:20:22.020 --> 00:20:25.440

Ray Hammond: All right. And what's the Holy Spirit supposed to do.

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00:20:27.870 --> 00:20:28.380

James Williams: comforted

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00:20:29.490 --> 00:20:30.360

Ray Hammond: What does that mean,

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00:20:31.050 --> 00:20:32.160

Jonell Johnson: Be our guide.

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00:20:33.390 --> 00:20:35.130

Ray Hammond: Well, but what does the word comfort me

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00:20:37.860 --> 00:20:38.640

Sharon: To be with us.

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00:20:40.320 --> 00:20:43.980

Ray Hammond: Oh, it's more than that though they certainly the be with us at for sure.

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00:20:45.090 --> 00:20:52.110

James Williams: Resource during our challenge of this challenge that we have in life that you know just a resource to

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00:20:52.290 --> 00:20:55.380

Ray Hammond: help us get us and and what kind of resource.

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00:20:56.010 --> 00:20:57.660

Beverly Williams: It's supposed to give us power right

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00:20:57.660 --> 00:21:05.850

Ray Hammond: There you go. Alright. And the only reason I'm careful about the word comfort brother James you're quoting King James Version. It's absolutely

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00:21:05.940 --> 00:21:13.110

Ray Hammond: Correct. The problem is comfort in the city in King James time doesn't mean what comfort means now.

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00:21:14.730 --> 00:21:24.060

Ray Hammond: And you're exactly right. The church has made the Holy Spirit comforter. When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be an empower

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00:21:25.350 --> 00:21:26.610

James Williams: Oh,

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00:21:28.470 --> 00:21:28.890

Ray Hammond: Right.

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00:21:30.600 --> 00:21:44.670

Ray Hammond: In King James time comfort meant to make you powerful from come forth and fo RT. The word from which we get fortify the word from which we get the military fort. Right.

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00:21:47.010 --> 00:22:09.210

Ray Hammond: Howard strength. That's what the Holy Spirit is and the Holy Spirit is key to the power of this movement all through the book of Acts and assisted Jonah pointed out the movements direction is made clear. It's starting. Locally it's moving regionally and then it's going to affect globally.

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00:22:10.680 --> 00:22:34.320

Ray Hammond: To Jerusalem, Judea, some area or the most parts of the earth, and all along the way it is breaking through barriers. It is tearing down walls between people. It is turning upside down sometimes cultures and practices and habits that run contrary to what God wants God's will to be

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00:22:36.960 --> 00:22:39.840

Ray Hammond: So x lays all of this out.

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00:22:40.920 --> 00:22:53.070

Ray Hammond: And just in terms of being clear about the fundamentals of x and this is again with some of the Bible scholars. Those of you been studying for a while on your own venom Bible study who wrote X.

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00:22:53.760 --> 00:22:54.900

Jonell Johnson: O Luke.

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00:22:56.610 --> 00:22:58.290

Ray Hammond: All right, who said Paul, why did say Paul

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00:22:59.130 --> 00:23:01.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: That was Carol, I said. I said, Paul.

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00:23:01.890 --> 00:23:05.580

Ray Hammond: Okay, fair enough. All right, why. Why did Paul strike you as

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00:23:06.570 --> 00:23:14.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, because much of the deals with his trials and tribulations and and his evangelizing during that era.

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00:23:15.750 --> 00:23:18.300

Ray Hammond: Absolutely, that's that's entirely true.

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00:23:19.650 --> 00:23:23.490

Ray Hammond: Which is at least in those times, it would have been difficult from the right, it

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00:23:25.050 --> 00:23:25.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right.

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00:23:25.470 --> 00:23:32.760

Ray Hammond: And I've been like an autobiography, right. So it's actually one of his companions, who is

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00:23:34.410 --> 00:23:35.340

Jonell Johnson: I said, look,

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00:23:36.000 --> 00:23:40.470

Ray Hammond: It is look right and what other book does look right look

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00:23:43.680 --> 00:23:48.420

Ray Hammond: Out for Gospel of Luke, they are two volumes of the same book.

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00:23:50.160 --> 00:24:14.130

Ray Hammond: All right, and we won't go into it now, but if you read the very first few verses of the Book of Acts, it identifies the writer as the same writer. The Gospel of Luke. Second question, what is this book. It's not a gospel because it's who who's. What's the who's the main character in this

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00:24:15.930 --> 00:24:17.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: The apostle Paul

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00:24:17.550 --> 00:24:22.590

Ray Hammond: It is the Acts of the Apostles. That's right. But who is really highlighted.

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00:24:22.680 --> 00:24:23.640

Jonell Johnson: The Holy Spirit.

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00:24:23.730 --> 00:24:39.180

Ray Hammond: The Holy Spirit. That's right. So some people say it could be called the acts of the Holy Spirit as well. And the book is very clear about it. There are certainly references to Jesus, the power of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, but time and again you're hearing and the Holy Spirit came

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00:24:39.180 --> 00:24:39.720

Upon

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00:24:41.280 --> 00:25:03.930

Ray Hammond: And the Holy Spirit said to the people at separate Paul and Barnabas and so on. So the central character in all of this, not

in opposition to the Gospels, but in compliment to the Gospels is the Holy Spirit. So it's really a it is a history of the early church.

137

00:25:06.210 --> 00:25:11.370

Ray Hammond: And there's also the question of why was it written. Why do you think it was written.

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00:25:20.940 --> 00:25:26.280

Jonell Johnson: I have an answer, but I'm gonna wait so pastor. Don't you give an answer before I give mine.

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00:25:26.880 --> 00:25:28.770

Ray Hammond: Fair enough. Anyone else

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00:25:33.810 --> 00:25:34.350

James Williams: Why

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00:25:35.700 --> 00:25:40.560

Beverly Williams: Not. I'm not sure, but based on the reason that we just did.

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00:25:42.930 --> 00:25:47.910

Beverly Williams: It, it should have it seems to me it would have something to do with the moment government

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00:25:49.020 --> 00:25:49.530

Beverly Williams: Like

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00:25:52.590 --> 00:25:54.060

Beverly Williams: You know, our power.

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00:25:55.500 --> 00:25:59.490

Beverly Williams: Until they have a responsibility to us something around that.

146

00:25:59.730 --> 00:26:00.750

Ray Hammond: Well, you know, you

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00:26:01.020 --> 00:26:08.850

Ray Hammond: You've, you've touched on something very important and will come. It will come read better hold that for a second. Any other reasons why you think this would have been written.

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00:26:10.110 --> 00:26:22.650

Karen White: It lays down the fundamentals of the of the beginning I think it really sort of set the stage, if you will, for what might what might be coming

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00:26:22.800 --> 00:26:29.070

Ray Hammond: Alright, so it's a story that you would want future generations to know right

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00:26:30.330 --> 00:26:34.830

Ray Hammond: You can't stop the Gospels and then say, Well, what happened right

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00:26:36.090 --> 00:26:39.900

Ray Hammond: Jesus says, Go ye into all the world, then the next question is, well, what happened there.

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00:26:40.410 --> 00:26:41.040

Ray Hammond: Right, so

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00:26:41.220 --> 00:26:53.460

Ray Hammond: Right, so the writers of thinking ahead. People need to know that what Jesus said came to pass. People need to know that that that that kind of shaky banded disciples, he

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00:26:53.970 --> 00:27:04.410

Ray Hammond: He had went on to do what God Commission them to do so, you're, you're absolutely right, it, it, it sets out the story it rounds out the story.

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00:27:05.760 --> 00:27:10.140

Ray Hammond: And sister Debbie, you're absolutely right there very good reasons to believe

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00:27:11.340 --> 00:27:21.540

Ray Hammond: That the person who's referred to here, the awfulness for someone else. This may have also been written to defend the church

against

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00:27:21.570 --> 00:27:22.380

James Williams: Charges

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00:27:22.470 --> 00:27:24.930

Ray Hammond: Of being a rebellious Jewish sect.

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00:27:26.460 --> 00:27:35.070

Ray Hammond: Because you're absolutely right. There's a lot of attention to the interaction between the church and the Roman officials.

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00:27:36.870 --> 00:27:42.720

Jonell Johnson: Because all of this happens after Jesus has been crucified and now

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00:27:43.860 --> 00:27:48.420

Jonell Johnson: It's like no, they didn't fall apart. And that didn't go back the fishing.

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00:27:49.680 --> 00:27:52.050

Jonell Johnson: Advanced and grew and it

163

00:27:52.230 --> 00:27:54.330

Jonell Johnson: And it increased. Absolutely.

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00:27:56.640 --> 00:27:58.200

Ray Hammond: Somebody tell me. Where was it written

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00:28:00.030 --> 00:28:00.420

James Williams: Way.

166

00:28:00.870 --> 00:28:01.140

Yeah.

167

00:28:04.860 --> 00:28:05.400

Ray Hammond: Well, no.

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00:28:07.440 --> 00:28:08.070

Jonell Johnson: Wrong.

169

00:28:10.110 --> 00:28:14.070

Ray Hammond: You know, it's a good answer. And I will

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00:28:15.120 --> 00:28:17.760

Ray Hammond: take you a long, long time. We don't know where was written. Now, honestly.

171

00:28:19.590 --> 00:28:25.320

Ray Hammond: It could have been rolled certainly that would have been a reasonable place loop, more likely, being a Gentile.

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00:28:26.490 --> 00:28:35.490

Ray Hammond: Well, could have been there. We know Paul at some point is there that could have been. Where was put together the honest answer though is we don't quite know unlike some of the other epistles.

173

00:28:36.150 --> 00:28:54.870

Ray Hammond: When was it written lots of argument among scholars about this, but I think there's a strong consensus that it was probably in the early 60s right of the first century. So about 30 years after Jesus is crucified right and resurrected.

174

00:28:56.910 --> 00:28:59.070

Ray Hammond: So this is written by Luke.

175

00:29:00.210 --> 00:29:16.260

Ray Hammond: There are places where it literally uses the first person. So Luke is part of the group, but in many of the other cases, Luke clearly has to be reporting the information that other people gave him about what happened. All right.

176

00:29:17.460 --> 00:29:32.010

Ray Hammond: I'm just showing you this map, very quickly, because of course everything and read is the Roman Empire, but it's just to remind you that there are lots of other empires in the world at that time. And there was a lot of space for the Gospel to spread into

177

00:29:33.030 --> 00:29:42.180

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right. Esther. Ham. And can I ask you, can you go back to that I now have a new fascination with Turkey, what were, what was the

178

00:29:43.110 --> 00:29:43.740

Iraq.

179

00:29:44.850 --> 00:29:50.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: What was the rule was the ruling power during this time period.

180

00:29:51.030 --> 00:29:56.730

Ray Hammond: Well, parts of it would be the Roman Empire. So for example, you see with the, let me see if I can see this

181

00:29:56.970 --> 00:30:09.180

Ray Hammond: Yes, this is all I think parts of the supplier probably modern day Turkey, what we would call also Asia Minor, is that you're going. Here's a sort of Palestine.

182

00:30:10.440 --> 00:30:18.600

Ray Hammond: Right on the on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, then you're kind of going up into Syria and then into Turkey.

183

00:30:19.710 --> 00:30:35.790

Ray Hammond: And this was all called Asia Minor emphasis is in here and so on. We'll see this a little bit better on the next but but but Turkey sort of up in this area. And that's why, again, if you for New Testament travel, you really have to go to Turkey.

184

00:30:37.500 --> 00:30:38.010

Carole Copeland Thomas: Thank you.

185

00:30:40.410 --> 00:30:51.090

Ray Hammond: All right, now this map isn't as nicely drawn but emphasis here again, this is all up in that area that's called Asian amount of press relations. So on Antioch, etc.

186

00:30:52.710 --> 00:30:59.460

Ray Hammond: This is Paul second missionary journey. The first one is, you recall was with Barnabas and mark.

187

00:31:00.660 --> 00:31:05.820

Ray Hammond: It was fairly short, they came back at the end of that journey, what happened.

188

00:31:11.310 --> 00:31:12.240

Jonell Johnson: That arrested.

189

00:31:13.260 --> 00:31:18.660

Ray Hammond: Well, no, he wasn't arrested, what happened between what happened in terms of the Paul and Barnabas

190

00:31:21.480 --> 00:31:22.200

Jonell Johnson: Oh, they want to

191

00:31:22.530 --> 00:31:23.430

Joyce Marshall: Split on break.

192

00:31:23.520 --> 00:31:24.990

Jonell Johnson: They went separate ways.

193

00:31:25.020 --> 00:31:25.950

Ray Hammond: Yeah, why

194

00:31:26.490 --> 00:31:27.840

Joyce Marshall: Because of mark.

195

00:31:28.470 --> 00:31:29.610

Ray Hammond: Martin what happened.

196

00:31:30.180 --> 00:31:32.130

Joyce Marshall: And they and mark and Barnabas

197

00:31:35.610 --> 00:31:37.140

Joyce Marshall: Barnabas was close to mark.

198

00:31:37.620 --> 00:31:41.370

Ray Hammond: Well, actually, what was Barnabas his relationship to mark.

199

00:31:43.770 --> 00:31:44.610

They were cousins.

200

00:31:48.690 --> 00:31:49.320

Ray Hammond: Right.

201

00:31:49.920 --> 00:31:50.370

Okay.

202

00:31:52.080 --> 00:31:55.470

Ray Hammond: So let's let's give the boy a chance

203

00:31:56.760 --> 00:31:57.870

Ray Hammond: And Paul says what

204

00:32:05.910 --> 00:32:07.110

Ray Hammond: I don't think so.

205

00:32:10.080 --> 00:32:15.270

Ray Hammond: And what happened, what happened. What happened to the what happened to the to the ministry.

206

00:32:17.280 --> 00:32:21.000

Jonell Johnson: Low I did they went from being PA W TO CHURCH gone quiet.

207

00:32:21.060 --> 00:32:21.570

Ray Hammond: There they go.

208

00:32:23.460 --> 00:32:31.530

Ray Hammond: All right, so splits disagreements breakups in the history of the church are nothing new.

209

00:32:32.580 --> 00:32:33.150

Ray Hammond: Amen.

210

00:32:34.050 --> 00:32:35.970

Ray Hammond: Amen. Amen.

211

00:32:36.390 --> 00:32:37.290

Amen.

212

00:32:38.850 --> 00:32:49.650

Ray Hammond: Now in fact pop Barnabas takes mark on one missionary journey and Paul gets a new partner in silence for the second missionary journey right

213

00:32:50.190 --> 00:32:58.950

Ray Hammond: And they take off. They start off going here. Can you follow these arrows right they're going back north through Syria.

214

00:32:59.430 --> 00:33:17.760

Ray Hammond: Up through Antioch solicit Tarsus, Debbie. Now they're getting again over into that kind of Turkish peninsula area, the Asia Minor area, they go to list run Antioch from Asia and remember it's here that Paul has a dream, and the man says, come on over and help us.

215

00:33:19.980 --> 00:33:24.630

Ray Hammond: With that they take a ship and they cross over from Asia.

216

00:33:25.860 --> 00:33:29.820

Ray Hammond: To Europe and what area is this

217

00:33:32.700 --> 00:33:34.230

Jonell Johnson: Greece. Greece.

218

00:33:34.260 --> 00:33:38.010

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. So this is the Peloponnesian Peninsula.

219

00:33:39.060 --> 00:33:51.960

Ray Hammond: They cross over from Asia to Europe and, as far as we know. We don't know for sure, but in terms of the written record. This is the first introduction of the gospel to Europe.

220

00:33:53.550 --> 00:33:58.620

Ray Hammond: What's the first introduction of the gospel that we know of on record to Africa.

221

00:33:59.610 --> 00:34:01.020

Ray Hammond: Ethiopia, that's

222

00:34:02.040 --> 00:34:03.270

Ray Hammond: Through the Ethiopian you

223

00:34:03.270 --> 00:34:04.620

Jonell Johnson: The Book of Acts.

224

00:34:05.010 --> 00:34:10.290

Ray Hammond: As exactly right. And that is here coming down in here right

225

00:34:11.940 --> 00:34:12.510

Ray Hammond: So,

226

00:34:13.980 --> 00:34:15.540

Ray Hammond: Paul comes, he gets here.

227

00:34:16.800 --> 00:34:27.150

Ray Hammond: comes over to trust gets to fill up on somebody quickly tell me what happens in Philippines and he just a real brief, not a long explanation quick brief explanation of what goes on in Philippines

228

00:34:32.700 --> 00:34:35.100

Ray Hammond: Cuz you read it. Next 16 everybody read Acts 16

229

00:34:41.250 --> 00:34:42.780

Jonell Johnson: I love the fact that

230

00:34:43.890 --> 00:34:48.930

Jonell Johnson: He, he did the one up and you said, I'm a Roman Roman citizen.

231

00:34:48.990 --> 00:34:58.350

Ray Hammond: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. And I want to go back before that though what what happens in Philippines. So maybe give me an outline of acts 16 quick doesn't just quick overview

232

00:35:00.270 --> 00:35:04.410

Ray Hammond: You've heard this preached 1000 1000 but at least 20 times

233

00:35:12.270 --> 00:35:12.750

Ray Hammond: Yes.

234

00:35:21.330 --> 00:35:23.310

Joyce Marshall: Paul and Silas get put in jail.

235

00:35:23.910 --> 00:35:24.660

Ray Hammond: For what

236

00:35:25.170 --> 00:35:27.540

Joyce Marshall: For preaching the gospel.

237

00:35:29.040 --> 00:35:31.020

Ray Hammond: Well, they didn't care about preaching the gospel.

238

00:35:32.130 --> 00:35:33.180

Felicia Wiltz: Driving out in

239

00:35:34.920 --> 00:35:38.190

Aaron T: A cast out the spirit of divination.

240

00:35:38.310 --> 00:35:44.160

Ray Hammond: There you go. And, and they don't. And most people didn't wouldn't care about that. What did they care about.

241

00:35:44.580 --> 00:35:45.000

Aaron T: The money.

242

00:35:45.330 --> 00:35:46.650

Ray Hammond: Money. Money.

243

00:35:48.930 --> 00:35:52.200

Ray Hammond: So so folks don't care if you preach the gospel in

244

00:35:52.200 --> 00:35:54.360

Ray Hammond: Most cases, in many cases, right.

245

00:35:55.080 --> 00:35:58.290

Ray Hammond: There you can see cast demons out, don't mess with their money.

246

00:35:59.220 --> 00:36:00.600

Carole Copeland Thomas: That's what's going on today.

247

00:36:00.960 --> 00:36:02.160

Felicia Wiltz: Well, well.

248

00:36:03.480 --> 00:36:04.680

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, and was free.

249

00:36:04.950 --> 00:36:10.410

Ray Hammond: Yeah, you go, don't mess with the money. So the owners of the girl.

250

00:36:11.640 --> 00:36:17.760

Ray Hammond: And this is basically trafficking, it's not sex trafficking in this time that you might call this spiritual trafficking.

251

00:36:19.320 --> 00:36:35.610

Ray Hammond: This poor girl is in bondage. The owners. She's a slave. The owners are profiting from the fact that they basically have her on you know one of these woody woody call those lines, people call the nine 900 numbers.

252

00:36:37.560 --> 00:36:39.060

Ray Hammond: Get your fortune told right

253

00:36:39.210 --> 00:36:41.250
Felicia Wiltz: Right psychic frame network.

254
00:36:41.610 --> 00:36:49.500
Ray Hammond: Psychic network. Thank you. Right, so she's basically a mobile psychic network out on the streets.

255
00:36:50.550 --> 00:37:06.870
Ray Hammond: collecting money for telling people's fortunes turning it back over to in this case we're spiritual pimps and when Paul sets her free from that, from that bondage, the pimps get beside themselves.

256
00:37:08.880 --> 00:37:18.570
Ray Hammond: They not only are angry with them they stir up a whole crowd and a riot and the consequences. What sister Joyce, you were saying.

257
00:37:22.470 --> 00:37:23.640
Joyce Marshall: Well, they get arrested.

258
00:37:24.870 --> 00:37:25.290
Joyce Marshall: Yeah.

259
00:37:25.650 --> 00:37:28.440
Ray Hammond: They're not. They're not just the rest of what else do they have that until

260
00:37:28.980 --> 00:37:30.570
Joyce Marshall: They get almost beaten to death.

261
00:37:30.660 --> 00:37:31.590
Ray Hammond: There you go.

262
00:37:33.450 --> 00:37:34.170
Ray Hammond: By whom

263
00:37:35.220 --> 00:37:37.980
Joyce Marshall: By the the angry mob.

264

00:37:38.190 --> 00:37:40.200
Ray Hammond: By the mob and the police.

265
00:37:42.150 --> 00:37:42.390
Right.

266
00:37:44.160 --> 00:37:45.450
Ray Hammond: And then what happens to him.

267
00:37:50.370 --> 00:37:50.730
James Williams: Well,

268
00:37:51.810 --> 00:37:52.920
Ray Hammond: Yeah, they thrown in jail.

269
00:37:53.010 --> 00:37:54.690
Ray Hammond: And where are they thrown in jail.

270
00:37:59.670 --> 00:38:00.150
Felicia Wiltz: Enter.

271
00:38:00.210 --> 00:38:01.050
Joyce Marshall: In a dungeon.

272
00:38:01.200 --> 00:38:11.250
Ray Hammond: Like, that's exactly right. You know, most part of the jail and what happens while they're there. What do they do. And then what does God do. Yeah.

273
00:38:11.700 --> 00:38:18.120
Joyce Marshall: They start singing and praising God while they're there. And God open

274
00:38:18.540 --> 00:38:19.800
Ray Hammond: Stop for a second here.

275
00:38:21.210 --> 00:38:31.260
Ray Hammond: Now this isn't, this isn't a Sunday morning service. It's not a Wednesday night Bible study. This is not a YouTube video of

praise. Right.

276

00:38:32.580 --> 00:38:37.680

Ray Hammond: These are two people who had been beaten almost to death.

277

00:38:39.540 --> 00:38:42.600

Ray Hammond: By the authorities and the vigilantes

278

00:38:43.980 --> 00:38:45.660

Ray Hammond: thrown into prison.

279

00:38:46.710 --> 00:38:53.970

Ray Hammond: Not because he did anything wrong, but because they actually help somebody and what's their response.

280

00:38:56.700 --> 00:38:58.560

Felicia Wiltz: Praying and singing hymns.

281

00:38:59.430 --> 00:39:03.240

Ray Hammond: All right, and loud enough for what to happen.

282

00:39:03.660 --> 00:39:05.280

Felicia Wiltz: For the rest of the prisoners to hear them.

283

00:39:05.340 --> 00:39:11.460

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. The entire prison hears them and then what does God do

284

00:39:15.930 --> 00:39:16.770

James Williams: He shakes it up.

285

00:39:17.250 --> 00:39:18.990

Ray Hammond: He shakes out big time.

286

00:39:19.080 --> 00:39:20.820

Ray Hammond: Data right

287

00:39:21.450 --> 00:39:23.700

Ray Hammond: Right and and what happened.

288

00:39:28.500 --> 00:39:30.570

James Williams: They don't lead with the change for

289

00:39:31.350 --> 00:39:32.430

Ray Hammond: All right people.

290

00:39:32.670 --> 00:39:41.010

Ray Hammond: set free. And here's the good news. Everybody gets blessed in this. So it's going to say beyond the prisoners who else would have. What else happened.

291

00:39:41.460 --> 00:39:43.470

Beverly Williams: Why didn't you call

292

00:39:43.830 --> 00:39:47.100

Ray Hammond: All right, what, what is the word. We're going to do first.

293

00:39:47.460 --> 00:39:48.510

Felicia Wiltz: You don't kill himself.

294

00:39:48.750 --> 00:39:50.130

Ray Hammond: Why is he going to kill himself.

295

00:39:50.220 --> 00:39:53.820

Felicia Wiltz: Because he thinks all these prisoners are going to get away, and he'll be blamed for it.

296

00:39:54.210 --> 00:39:59.040

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. And what will what will happen if he gets blamed for it.

297

00:39:59.850 --> 00:40:02.880

Ray Hammond: And he does. That's exactly right. Whatever.

298

00:40:02.910 --> 00:40:07.620

Ray Hammond: The sentence of the prisoners. He lost where becomes his

sentence.

299

00:40:09.300 --> 00:40:09.630

James Williams: Oh,

300

00:40:11.490 --> 00:40:11.940

Ray Hammond: Alright.

301

00:40:13.560 --> 00:40:14.070

James Williams: Have a question.

302

00:40:14.520 --> 00:40:14.910

Ray Hammond: Yeah.

303

00:40:15.330 --> 00:40:15.960

James Williams: I pass it on.

304

00:40:17.100 --> 00:40:27.510

James Williams: Verse three, it says Paul one to take him along on the journey. So he circumcise him because of the Jews who lived in the area. Now is that literal of that figurative

305

00:40:33.090 --> 00:40:33.630

James Williams: Little

306

00:40:37.620 --> 00:40:37.950

James Williams: No.

307

00:40:38.700 --> 00:40:39.660

Ray Hammond: No, no, no.

308

00:40:41.250 --> 00:40:42.960

Ray Hammond: I won't go into what we're willing to

309

00:40:42.960 --> 00:40:46.020

Ray Hammond: Sacrifice for the gospel. But we'll come back to that later.

310

00:40:47.760 --> 00:40:49.200
Ray Hammond: Literal. All right.

311
00:40:51.750 --> 00:41:01.980
Ray Hammond: And so Paul is taken to the house of the fallopian jail so the person who locked him up now washes his wounds and Silas

312
00:41:02.460 --> 00:41:12.000
Ray Hammond: They share the Gospel with them. The entire household is baptize phenomenal. Okay, and we're gonna have to move have better move on a little more quickly here.

313
00:41:12.810 --> 00:41:26.190
Ray Hammond: But I think we've set the ground in such a way that we can say there are multiple themes in Acts 16 and I really commend that you read it. We looked at the outline of the story. This is a story of good trouble. Why do I say it's good trouble.

314
00:41:28.260 --> 00:41:29.280
Ray Hammond: What is good trouble.

315
00:41:30.990 --> 00:41:32.010
Ray Hammond: Everybody know that phrase.

316
00:41:32.220 --> 00:41:34.200
Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah what JOHN LEWIS has made it

317
00:41:34.470 --> 00:41:35.550
Carole Copeland Thomas: Famous now the

318
00:41:36.150 --> 00:41:38.250
Ray Hammond: Ugly. Right. What did he mean when he said good trouble.

319
00:41:38.400 --> 00:41:41.490
Carole Copeland Thomas: You're, you're stirring things up. But for a good cause.

320
00:41:41.550 --> 00:41:46.860
Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. There's some trouble that's worth getting into. In fact, there's some trouble you want to get into

321

00:41:47.100 --> 00:41:47.730

Felicia Wiltz: Praise God.

322

00:41:48.180 --> 00:41:51.930

Ray Hammond: All right, good trouble. This is good trouble.

323

00:41:54.120 --> 00:41:59.040

Ray Hammond: You're out trying to set people free and you pay a price for it. Good trouble.

324

00:42:02.730 --> 00:42:14.250

Ray Hammond: There's a theme here of the power of praise and, in particular, well what the Bible. It's only calls in spite of pray

325

00:42:17.700 --> 00:42:34.830

Ray Hammond: It's wonderful to praise God. When it's going well, you ought to, but it's the in spite of praise that really begins to shake things up. There's an incredible theme here about the miracles that God brings out of messes human and natural

326

00:42:36.690 --> 00:42:42.540

Ray Hammond: There's something in here that's amazing about the power of God in the earthquake.

327

00:42:44.160 --> 00:42:51.630

Ray Hammond: Because, as it turns out, and again, we won't spend a lot of time on this. Now the earthquake is not to free Paul and Silas

328

00:42:52.740 --> 00:42:56.310

Ray Hammond: The earthquake is to free the full of be in jail or in his family.

329

00:43:01.080 --> 00:43:01.560

Ray Hammond: All right.

330

00:43:03.840 --> 00:43:08.340

Ray Hammond: And that brings us to the great overlooked theme here.

331

00:43:09.750 --> 00:43:16.410

Ray Hammond: And we'll talk at the very end about why the church continues to overlook this. All right.

332

00:43:18.000 --> 00:43:26.670

Ray Hammond: The big what here. And I won't go into the wise right now is that in this passage, and it's not the first or last time we will see it.

333

00:43:27.990 --> 00:43:29.610

Ray Hammond: The people of God.

334

00:43:31.350 --> 00:43:39.390

Ray Hammond: By the power of the Spirit of God speak truth to power and they speak up for the voiceless.

335

00:43:42.210 --> 00:43:45.780

Ray Hammond: They do it within the context of their day in time.

336

00:43:47.340 --> 00:43:52.500

Ray Hammond: People say, Well, Jesus never had a protest rally. You didn't hold protest rallies in Palestine.

337

00:43:54.540 --> 00:43:57.270

Ray Hammond: That was considered rebellion for what you'd be executed.

338

00:43:59.580 --> 00:44:19.530

Ray Hammond: You didn't do that in Paul's season in time that was rebellion, for which you would be executed, but there were places and spaces where people could speak truth to power and speak up for the voiceless and without question. Those who are faithful followers of price did just that.

339

00:44:21.720 --> 00:44:22.620

And they did it.

340

00:44:24.090 --> 00:44:31.050

Ray Hammond: Because they understood that you cannot love a God of Justice, if you don't love justice.

341

00:44:33.390 --> 00:44:35.730

Ray Hammond: Someone read Isaiah 58 one through seven.

342

00:44:45.420 --> 00:44:46.680

Ray Hammond: Isaiah 58 for me.

343

00:44:56.700 --> 00:44:57.090

Felicia Wiltz: I haven't

344

00:44:58.440 --> 00:44:59.010

Ray Hammond: Read it, please.

345

00:45:00.300 --> 00:45:08.340

Felicia Wiltz: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet tell my people, their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins.

346

00:45:08.820 --> 00:45:17.460

Felicia Wiltz: Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways as a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God.

347

00:45:17.790 --> 00:45:32.070

Felicia Wiltz: They asked of me the ordinance ordinances of justice. They take delight in approaching God why have we fasted, they say, and you have not and you have not seen. Why have we afflicted.

348

00:45:32.130 --> 00:45:32.880

Andrea Cox: Our soul.

349

00:45:33.060 --> 00:45:35.670

Felicia Wiltz: And you take no notice, in fact,

350

00:45:35.850 --> 00:45:36.150

In

351

00:45:37.200 --> 00:45:39.900

Felicia Wiltz: Asked you find pleasure and exploit.

352

00:45:39.930 --> 00:45:41.160
Felicia Wiltz: All your labors.

353
00:45:41.430 --> 00:45:46.500
Felicia Wiltz: Indeed you fast for strife and debate and to strike with

354
00:45:47.760 --> 00:45:48.600
Felicia Wiltz: Of wickedness.

355
00:45:50.070 --> 00:46:00.990
Felicia Wiltz: You will not fast as you do this day to make your voice heard on high, it is a fast that I have chosen a day for a man to afflict his soul.

356
00:46:01.590 --> 00:46:13.350
Felicia Wiltz: Is it to bow down his head like a bull rush and to spread out sackcloth and ashes, would you call this a fast and an acceptable acceptable day of to the Lord.

357
00:46:14.370 --> 00:46:23.130
Felicia Wiltz: Is this not the fast that I have chosen to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens to let the oppressed go free.

358
00:46:23.760 --> 00:46:38.910
Felicia Wiltz: And that you break every yoke, is it not to share your bread with the hungry and that you bring to your house, the poor who are passed out when you see the neck at that you cover him and not hide yourself from your own flesh.

359
00:46:40.740 --> 00:46:43.980
Ray Hammond: Thank you, somebody read Emma's 523 24

360
00:46:45.210 --> 00:46:48.480
Carole Copeland Thomas: Away with the noise. The noise of your songs

361
00:46:48.630 --> 00:46:58.020
Carole Copeland Thomas: I will not listen to the music of your harps, but let justice roll on like a river righteousness, like a never failing stream.

362

00:46:59.100 --> 00:47:00.960

Ray Hammond: All right. Somebody Micah, six, eight.

363

00:47:13.290 --> 00:47:25.050

Karen White: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

364

00:47:26.490 --> 00:47:26.940

Ray Hammond: All right.

365

00:47:28.350 --> 00:47:34.320

Ray Hammond: Turns out that you simply cannot love a God of Justice, if you don't love justice.

366

00:47:35.880 --> 00:47:41.460

Ray Hammond: I want to even go further and say you can't love a Jesus who loves justice if you don't love justice.

367

00:47:43.080 --> 00:47:49.200

Ray Hammond: And we could go back. I won't go through all the scriptures, just because of the time, many of them you're familiar with.

368

00:47:50.220 --> 00:48:00.960

Ray Hammond: We don't think about the fact that the Gospel writers and the people of their time knew that to call Jesus the Son of God.

369

00:48:01.980 --> 00:48:10.080

Ray Hammond: Was to pit Jesus directly against the Roman emperor who was also called the Son of God.

370

00:48:12.060 --> 00:48:19.980

Ray Hammond: So the whole story. The, the Nativity story is all about the coming of the real Son of God.

371

00:48:21.480 --> 00:48:26.160

Ray Hammond: And that's part of the reason why I have it said this child must be destroyed.

372

00:48:28.470 --> 00:48:32.760

Ray Hammond: Luke 418 when Jesus is in his hometown.

373

00:48:33.840 --> 00:48:43.230

Ray Hammond: And decides to stand up and basically declare the start of his ministry, he goes back to Isaiah 61 and says,

374

00:48:43.980 --> 00:48:53.070

Ray Hammond: The words were offered me with a condom to set the captives free to open the eyes of the blind set at liberty, those who are who are bruised.

375

00:48:53.550 --> 00:49:15.780

Ray Hammond: To declare the acceptable Day of the Lord. These are all scriptures that deal with both righteousness in the sense of the way we conduct ourselves, day to day. But Justice also in what we do in our relationships with one another and the structures and society that we set up.

376

00:49:17.190 --> 00:49:29.340

Ray Hammond: It's there. When Jesus is given that coin and people say do should we pay our taxes. And Jesus says you run it to God. What belongs to God and to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.

377

00:49:30.780 --> 00:49:38.010

Ray Hammond: It's there in the cleansing of the temple and it's reported in three of the Gospels, when he turns over the temples of the money changers.

378

00:49:38.370 --> 00:49:50.730

Ray Hammond: And that really is not just the, if you will, the kind of local political forces, but also in some cases the church. The standing synagogue and church of its time.

379

00:49:51.210 --> 00:50:05.820

Ray Hammond: And it goes right back again to that prophetic word that says all of this noise you make about loving me makes absolutely no sense. If you don't love your neighbor. If you don't walk in justice.

380

00:50:07.620 --> 00:50:08.010

Beverly Williams: Now,

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00:50:09.420 --> 00:50:09.780

Ray Hammond: Yes.

382

00:50:11.250 --> 00:50:13.170

Beverly Williams: So pasa, you just said.

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00:50:14.700 --> 00:50:18.960

Beverly Williams: You just included in that the systems and that's where it becomes subjective.

384

00:50:19.830 --> 00:50:38.730

Beverly Williams: Because people when you say justice. I mean, we know what justice is feeding the hungry cold poor, you know, and all that. But then when you include it in the way that it's administered in the systems of it. I think that's where we get all screwed up because people have different

385

00:50:40.380 --> 00:50:47.220

Beverly Williams: Nationalities as to how that is administered and they believe that they don't justice in there. Well,

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00:50:47.250 --> 00:50:51.060

Ray Hammond: No, no question about that and that there's lots of room for discussion.

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00:50:54.750 --> 00:51:05.190

Ray Hammond: Again, I won't go through all these Scriptures here. I can't understand. Again, you got to explain to me and maybe I'm missing something. I'm and I'm willing to be open.

388

00:51:06.540 --> 00:51:22.320

Ray Hammond: You can't tell me that you love the little children and you love the families that are that are pro guys. Great. And then break up those families as, for example, we did on the board.

389

00:51:23.370 --> 00:51:23.730

Ray Hammond: Right.

390

00:51:24.000 --> 00:51:31.020

Ray Hammond: And I don't, I don't get it. I don't if unless I'm missing something that's contrary. Yeah, right.

391

00:51:32.280 --> 00:51:34.860

Ray Hammond: You can't say

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00:51:38.010 --> 00:51:38.610

Ray Hammond: That

393

00:51:41.610 --> 00:52:04.140

Ray Hammond: For example, workers are essential, and they have to work, but you're not willing to pay them a fair wage and we can talk about what a fair wage ought to be right, but the Bible is very clear about the judgment that God brings on those who do not pay pay a fair way.

394

00:52:06.180 --> 00:52:18.360

Ray Hammond: In the Bible, know anything about the drive of market forces. It asks what is fair competent the compensation for people's time and for the for the care of their family.

395

00:52:19.800 --> 00:52:25.170

Ray Hammond: So again we can discuss it. I'm agreeing with you. We don't have to rely on what the number is.

396

00:52:26.310 --> 00:52:34.500

Ray Hammond: We don't have to agree on all the but there are certain things that the Bible lays out that are non negotiable from God's vantage point

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00:52:35.880 --> 00:52:47.280

Ray Hammond: We can talk about what the immigration system is the Bible is very clear. You cannot miss us, the person who is from other somewhere else when they're a stranger in your country. It's very clear about that.

398

00:52:48.270 --> 00:52:50.190

Jonell Johnson: Dhaka is another example.

399

00:52:51.120 --> 00:52:59.220

Ray Hammond: Well yeah, I mean, as I say, we could. We can talk about the details of it right but the principles biblically, I think, are quite clear.

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00:53:01.200 --> 00:53:19.560

Ray Hammond: So, so the the question for me becomes and I'm going to close on this. Why is the church so confused about this. Why have we often implied that all God cares about is what you do with your personal life what rules you follow

401

00:53:21.240 --> 00:53:31.080

Ray Hammond: And what you do in the public sphere. God doesn't care about at all that just has to be worked up by the politicians and I want to just suggest a couple of things to think about.

402

00:53:31.680 --> 00:53:40.470

Ray Hammond: One is that we have confused and we often this is a consequence of our translations and sometimes I don't think it's an accident.

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00:53:41.670 --> 00:53:52.170

Ray Hammond: In our own heads, there is this separation between personal righteousness and public justice. The Bible does not have any such separation.

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00:53:54.720 --> 00:53:59.580

Ray Hammond: It requires us to be righteous personally and publicly just

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00:54:01.530 --> 00:54:08.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: We talked about this a lot in brother Carl racine's class, and it's, it goes along with the corporate

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00:54:09.780 --> 00:54:12.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: Community that we're a part of

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00:54:12.150 --> 00:54:24.690

Carole Copeland Thomas: And we have a personal we are part of a of a community that supersedes our individual wants or likes and we

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00:54:25.470 --> 00:54:45.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: Have to be mindful of our civic duty and our religious duty to reach out to those who are misfortunate the widows, the orphans, etc. Because that's part of our that's part of our corporate Christian duty and that's that's more than what we individually want for ourselves.

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00:54:47.550 --> 00:55:00.240

Ray Hammond: Absolutely right. In fact, if we'd had time to look through the scriptures first John says unequivocally if you don't love that brother or sister and they don't have to be just like you. You can't say you love God.

410

00:55:00.690 --> 00:55:13.830

Ray Hammond: collation 610 do good to all people, especially those are the household of faith. And so, so there's an obligation, about which the Bible is absolutely clear and about which the church is terribly confused.

411

00:55:16.050 --> 00:55:34.470

Ray Hammond: A further point that would argue is part of our problem here is what I'm calling cooperation, it's not just confusion when we get co opted principalities and powers first try to stamp new movements out if the movement succeed, they then co op them.

412

00:55:37.050 --> 00:55:42.630

Ray Hammond: And in many ways, this has happened over the years in the church.

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00:55:45.030 --> 00:55:47.940

Ray Hammond: Faith is a powerful thing. It moves people

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00:55:49.200 --> 00:56:02.280

Ray Hammond: And so part of what the principalities and powers do all the time is to figure out how can we actually get that face directed toward things that are the opposite of what it was supposed to be about

415

00:56:03.360 --> 00:56:07.170

Ray Hammond: How do we mobilize their faith on behave on on on

416

00:56:08.640 --> 00:56:29.640

Ray Hammond: Toward division when it was supposed to be about bringing

all together. How do we move that faith as an instrument of hatred and destruction and death when it was brought into the world because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.

417

00:56:32.550 --> 00:56:38.970

Ray Hammond: And principalities and powers do that very well and do it all the time.

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00:56:43.530 --> 00:56:44.790

Ray Hammond: So the question.

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00:56:45.840 --> 00:56:52.530

Ray Hammond: I want to throw out and pastor grey and sister Kathy going to lead us into a time in which I want to suggest

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00:56:53.220 --> 00:57:01.860

Ray Hammond: You. We talked about this going back in September that we needed to really think through what will we going to say and stand for as we went to the

421

00:57:02.430 --> 00:57:19.620

Ray Hammond: To the to the to the polling booth and it's not my job to tell you that I pray that you really thought long and hard about what God would have you do and what God would have you stand up for and it's not over yet.

422

00:57:20.790 --> 00:57:28.950

Ray Hammond: I would argue, and again, I don't mean to be a hyperbole, that we are still in a very serious situation.

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00:57:29.760 --> 00:57:40.470

Ray Hammond: And even after January 20 we're still want to be in a very sad serious situation we have a pandemic that's into its second wave. And we are so divided

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00:57:41.130 --> 00:57:53.670

Ray Hammond: So at each other's throats that we've allowed almost we're on the edge of free hundred thousand people who never should have died. We're doing worse than developing countries.

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00:57:57.210 --> 00:58:04.680

Ray Hammond: And the question is, what what we as believers be speaking and saying in our prayer in this season.

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00:58:05.790 --> 00:58:23.010

Ray Hammond: And where and how do we as Jesus. And as Paul and his others speak power in love, first with than often for and often to the quote powerless and I'm putting that in air quotes, because I would argue that, in fact, none of us are powerless.

427

00:58:23.460 --> 00:58:35.610

Ray Hammond: And part of the promise of Jesus was with the coming of the Spirit. We were never powerless, but no question in terms of the world's the systems of power. Some of us are less powerful.

428

00:58:36.690 --> 00:58:41.640

Ray Hammond: And finally, how do we speak the truth in love to the powerful

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00:58:43.110 --> 00:58:45.270

Ray Hammond: And in the time that we've got left

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00:58:45.300 --> 00:58:47.220

Rosaline Lowe: We want to ask you to think about

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00:58:47.220 --> 00:58:53.670

Ray Hammond: This and pray about this together. What are we be praying for with regard to this pandemic.

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00:58:54.210 --> 00:59:05.280

Ray Hammond: What should we be praying for with regard to the people who are getting evicted. The folks whose jobs are not coming back 25 30% of

433

00:59:05.910 --> 00:59:12.270

Ray Hammond: Restaurants. It may never reopen what ought we be praying for with regard to the

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00:59:12.930 --> 00:59:21.900

Ray Hammond: To the folks who are going to lose their homes, thank God, not in the rate that we saw back in 2008 but they're going to lose them because the economy is not going to come back in time.

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00:59:22.620 --> 00:59:30.990

Ray Hammond: What ought we be praying for with regard to these justice issues that are not going anywhere, anytime soon.

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00:59:32.700 --> 00:59:36.210

Ray Hammond: And then finally, what are we be saying where we are.

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00:59:37.710 --> 00:59:42.150

Ray Hammond: So we want to ask you to really think about that and pray about it because

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00:59:43.290 --> 00:59:46.140

Ray Hammond: I'm all with the jubilation over the election.

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00:59:46.230 --> 00:59:47.700

Ray Hammond: I really am. I'm excited.

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00:59:47.820 --> 00:59:49.680

Ray Hammond: Right grateful that

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00:59:49.710 --> 00:59:51.240

Ray Hammond: We may be turning a corner.

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00:59:51.540 --> 00:59:53.280

Ray Hammond: But we haven't turned that corner yet.

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00:59:54.870 --> 00:59:59.310

Ray Hammond: What should the people of God be praying and saying in this moment.

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01:00:06.450 --> 01:00:07.530

Gloria White-Hammond: Praise the Lord.

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01:00:08.640 --> 01:00:10.890

Gloria White-Hammond: Thank you so much. Pastor him and we're

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01:00:12.330 --> 01:00:24.090

Gloria White-Hammond: Just reminded of just how powerful it is to be able to have you lead us in a in invite Bible study. And we do want to encourage us to

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01:00:24.870 --> 01:00:40.500

Gloria White-Hammond: Really a big thing. At this point, and there's there's a lot. There's a lot of questions, I'm sure. But we want to encourage you to. Now we're going to go into breakout rooms and we want to encourage you to pray and let me just put this

448

01:00:43.620 --> 01:00:56.100

Gloria White-Hammond: So there are. This is a scripture that we often quote, and this is we've talked about it. We talked about what we can do. We want to spend some time and focus prayer, my people.

449

01:00:56.610 --> 01:01:05.130

Gloria White-Hammond: Who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven.

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01:01:05.430 --> 01:01:23.910

Gloria White-Hammond: And will forgive their sin. And I will heal their land with pastor is asked us what should we be speaking in prayer and how should we be speaking in prayer. And so we're going to now go into breakout rooms, sister, Carol, and I know we're at the end of our time.

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01:01:24.990 --> 01:01:34.230

Gloria White-Hammond: But we're going to spend just 10 minutes in small groups in praying and we've tested we so we've got the panda.

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01:01:34.230 --> 01:01:36.210

Ray Hammond: I think we've got 3:30am I correct

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01:01:37.230 --> 01:01:41.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yes, I just need for you now to just stop sharing your screen. So I can say

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01:01:42.210 --> 01:01:42.990

Ray Hammond: I'm sorry, let me

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01:01:45.600 --> 01:01:49.710

Ray Hammond: Get back to that the controls. There we go. There we go.

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01:01:50.460 --> 01:01:51.090

Gloria White-Hammond: Yeah, and I

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01:01:51.990 --> 01:01:58.710

Gloria White-Hammond: Made a mistake, it should be the economic crisis that those are ending. The other thing that we had talked about having this pray about

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01:01:59.070 --> 01:02:03.570

Gloria White-Hammond: On the justice issue. So there are four issues. I know that there are many more issues that are

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01:02:04.140 --> 01:02:14.820

Gloria White-Hammond: That are around us that a swirling around us with those. We want to pray in a very specific way to those particular issues and there are number of us a number of people we know

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01:02:15.210 --> 01:02:23.520

Gloria White-Hammond: And don't know who are going to be directly who are being directly impacted by these issues. And so again, a moment to go into prayer.

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01:02:25.230 --> 01:02:28.020

Ray Hammond: Praying. Can we be speaking up and speaking out

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01:02:28.650 --> 01:02:31.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: Can you give us the topics again justice economics.

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01:02:32.040 --> 01:02:43.800

Gloria White-Hammond: So there's a pandemic, the housing crisis, the Economic. Economic Justice that economic crisis and justice with regard to a number of ways. But we're talking about

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01:02:45.990 --> 01:02:48.000

Gloria White-Hammond: Police Reform models.

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01:02:48.570 --> 01:02:50.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right. Give me a second. And I'll

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01:02:52.260 --> 01:02:55.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: Probably set up maybe eight or nine groups.

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01:02:55.620 --> 01:02:58.320

Carole Copeland Thomas: Desert 40 that's 39 of us.

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01:03:09.720 --> 01:03:12.960

Carole Copeland Thomas: Alright, well, you can just hit join when we

469

01:03:14.220 --> 01:03:19.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: Were going to go into our breakout rooms now and pastor, you're saying, how long do you want them to be in the group's

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01:03:21.330 --> 01:03:32.520

Ray Hammond: Um, what we've got, we got till 830 so maybe 1010 minutes or so and then we can come back and and just kind of share a little bit. That makes sense.

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01:03:32.580 --> 01:03:35.730

Carole Copeland Thomas: Sure, so I'll bring everybody back around 820

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01:03:35.940 --> 01:03:36.330

Great.

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01:03:57.060 --> 01:03:57.390

Gloria White-Hammond: And

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01:03:58.410 --> 01:04:01.350

Gloria White-Hammond: We thank the Lord for those of you who who

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01:04:02.430 --> 01:04:15.630

Gloria White-Hammond: Came together in your, your breakout rooms and we share that we often we're making lots of plans for what we were going to do. And at the top of our list. We certainly do include the

476

01:04:16.290 --> 01:04:33.420

Gloria White-Hammond: The power of prayer and determining to remain steadfast in prayer for God's wisdom God's direction and for God's justice to prevail. So thank you so much, Pastor, Ray. Have you can you unmute yourselves and just say hallelujah. Thank you Jesus to

477

01:04:35.130 --> 01:04:39.900

Gloria White-Hammond: Pastor raise good words and inside tonight. A man.

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01:04:53.970 --> 01:04:54.690

Gloria White-Hammond: Sure, and

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01:04:55.800 --> 01:04:59.940

Gloria White-Hammond: Thank you. Pastor Carrington for for yielding

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01:05:01.380 --> 01:05:02.070

Gloria White-Hammond: Another zoom

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01:05:03.690 --> 01:05:07.290

Gloria White-Hammond: Pastors to come before the congregation and

482

01:05:09.300 --> 01:05:12.540

Gloria White-Hammond: Have you close us in prayer parting words are directions.

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01:05:15.000 --> 01:05:25.380

Carrington Moore: Amen. That was great. Thank you very much. Pastor Ray Patrick Gloria, I enjoy being in conversation with brother James and brother Aaron sister Lily.

484

01:05:25.830 --> 01:05:39.120

Carrington Moore: And so it's good to see everybody on today. I think we're talking about in our time together this deep sense of hopefulness but also a sense of anxiety and not knowing what's next.

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01:05:39.960 --> 01:05:40.320

Carrington Moore: I think

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01:05:40.350 --> 01:05:53.190

Carrington Moore: We we landed on that we want have faith in God, but also to have faith in ourselves and that we have the radical power of the holy spirit living inside of us. And so I think this moment begins with prayer.

487

01:05:53.490 --> 01:05:53.790

Jonell Johnson: And I've

488

01:05:54.030 --> 01:06:05.520

Carrington Moore: Often, often with Jesus, we move from prayer to action. And so I'm excited that we have so many great organizations like GBI oh there's so many different movements that are going on this moment that we can attach ourselves to

489

01:06:07.410 --> 01:06:17.340

Carrington Moore: So I'll close my final thoughts with prayer with the prayer that Jesus said to his disciples and part of that prayer was by kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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01:06:17.670 --> 01:06:28.050

Carrington Moore: And so that's what I'm praying for in this moment that God's will be done and that will bring Heaven on earth through through justice. So thank you so much. Pastor glory. I'll turn it back over to you.

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01:06:31.440 --> 01:06:43.410

Gloria White-Hammond: But again, I hope that you all will have a wonderful rest of the week thank the Lord for who you are and for all that you do and all the ways that you make a difference in the world.

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01:06:44.310 --> 01:06:54.960

Gloria White-Hammond: Please feel free to call us and you know how to reach us pastor Gloria Bethel boston.org pastor ray that devil boston.org we love to hear from you. We'd love to hear

493

01:06:55.800 --> 01:07:05.400

Gloria White-Hammond: The ways in which you're doing well, we'd love to know about the ways in which you've struggling and thank you, as a community, for coming together and supporting each other.

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01:07:06.180 --> 01:07:16.140

Gloria White-Hammond: Through through the ups and the downs, the ins

and the outs called life. God bless you, and we love you so much.
Thank you.

495

01:07:16.950 --> 01:07:17.460

Amen.

496

01:07:19.800 --> 01:07:21.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: Everybody. All right.

497

01:07:21.570 --> 01:07:22.170

Ray Hammond: Good night.

498

01:07:22.230 --> 01:07:22.980

Aaron T: Good night.

499

01:07:23.190 --> 01:07:23.670

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right now.