

WEBVTT

1

00:00:01.560 --> 00:00:04.049

Carl Racine: Lord God, we thank you for bringing us here today.

2

00:00:06.690 --> 00:00:10.110

Carl Racine: We thank you for your continued provision for us.

3

00:00:11.759 --> 00:00:14.549

Carl Racine: We lift up those who are suffering.

4

00:00:16.320 --> 00:00:19.050

Carl Racine: Especially from this coven illness.

5

00:00:20.880 --> 00:00:26.010

Carl Racine: And ask your healing hand be upon them, lift up those that are looking for.

6

00:00:27.210 --> 00:00:31.020

Carl Racine: Solution to the issue that you would guide them and direct them.

7

00:00:32.520 --> 00:00:33.870

Carl Racine: And we pray that you would

8

00:00:35.280 --> 00:00:42.360

Carl Racine: Give us wisdom as to how to spend the time that you've given us here in our lives.

9

00:00:43.440 --> 00:00:49.440

Carl Racine: And guide our discussion has we looked at your word this morning in Christ's name. Amen. Amen.

10

00:01:02.610 --> 00:01:03.780

Carl Racine: Last Sunday.

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00:01:06.930 --> 00:01:10.680

Carl Racine: There was a funeral of sorts for Rabbi sacks.

12

00:01:11.730 --> 00:01:16.560

Carl Racine: In London outdoors in the cemetery and it wasn't

13

00:01:18.210 --> 00:01:35.340

Carl Racine: It wasn't broadcast live which surprised me a little bit, but I wondered if maybe the family wanted more privacy, but they did record videos of the eulogies there were 510 minute or so long eulogies

14

00:01:36.390 --> 00:01:37.950

Carl Racine: Including one from his daughter.

15

00:01:39.060 --> 00:01:44.850

Carl Racine: And those are available on YouTube. If you're interested, you can kind of search it on YouTube.

16

00:01:46.050 --> 00:01:47.670

Carl Racine: They're interesting to see.

17

00:01:49.350 --> 00:01:53.700

Carl Racine: If you're, if you've got a lot of free time in your hands, but it was very sad.

18

00:01:55.470 --> 00:02:03.990

Carl Racine: I mean, it was really sad to watch. You've got 30 people that could be there Britain's in lockdown again.

19

00:02:04.620 --> 00:02:14.970

Carl Racine: Here's a man there, you know, Westminster Abbey would have been over for, I don't know if they would have had this funeral Westminster Abbey, but you know he has international following

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00:02:15.600 --> 00:02:26.970

Carl Racine: And it was even more sad to me to realize that the Jews have a traditional week long seven day mourning period Shiva. It's called

21

00:02:28.200 --> 00:02:35.730

Carl Racine: Where the family is at home and and people come by to just spend time with them.

22

00:02:36.900 --> 00:02:43.350

Carl Racine: And the family cannot receive those visitors because of the coven lockdown. So the family.

23

00:02:44.400 --> 00:02:46.920

Carl Racine: Is simply stuck in isolation.

24

00:02:48.180 --> 00:02:51.630

Carl Racine: At this very difficult time and it just once again sort of

25

00:02:53.190 --> 00:03:01.110

Carl Racine: Reminded me of the just the weirdness of the of the situation we're in. And really, that sense that we talked about in our

26

00:03:02.310 --> 00:03:07.530

Carl Racine: Question answer coffee hour period with the pastors this morning about lament weeping.

27

00:03:08.820 --> 00:03:10.230

Carl Racine: For what's going on.

28

00:03:11.970 --> 00:03:20.250

Carl Racine: Sister Carol posted my personal tribute to Rabbi sacks on the website. So I found incredibly difficult to write

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00:03:20.850 --> 00:03:35.910

Carl Racine: And I feel. Still, it's kind of totally inadequate, but I suppose this class is a real tribute to him my real tribute to him more than anything else. But there was an interesting statement read at the funeral from Prince Charles that I wanted to quote

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00:03:37.470 --> 00:03:52.290

Carl Racine: Prince Charles sent this message with his passing the Jewish community, our nation and the entire world have lost a leader, whose wisdom scholarship and humanity were without equal

31

00:03:53.070 --> 00:04:05.910

Carl Racine: His immense learning spanned the sacred and the secular

and his prophetic voice spoke to our greatest challenges with unfailing insight and boundless compassion.

32

00:04:07.140 --> 00:04:13.560

Carl Racine: His wise counsel was sought and appreciated by those of all faiths and none.

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00:04:14.700 --> 00:04:26.100

Carl Racine: And those are not just empty words from the Prince of Wales. He actually sought Rabbi Sachs' counsel on occasion, Rabbi Sachs gave him.

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00:04:27.390 --> 00:04:33.210

Carl Racine: written papers on topics that that the prince wanted to think through

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00:04:34.350 --> 00:04:40.890

Carl Racine: He actively sought counsel from an Orthodox Jew and I find this remarkable

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00:04:42.480 --> 00:04:53.700

Carl Racine: That a man who was so deeply committed to what most people in our world, think of as an antiquated and even arcane religious system Orthodox Judaism.

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00:04:55.650 --> 00:05:16.350

Carl Racine: Was still able to communicate how those ancient ideas. Those biblical ideas still make sense in our modern world. And as a result, touched the lives of millions of people around the globe, many of whom are not Jewish, and including our own little group here at Bethel.

38

00:05:17.940 --> 00:05:25.860

Carl Racine: So Nate his memory continued to be both a blessing and a challenge to us as we continue in this course.

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00:05:29.700 --> 00:05:42.960

Carl Racine: Last week we began looking at Rabbi Hassles' response to the show the Nazi genocide of the Jews. And if we could see slide number six, please, sister.

40

00:05:42.960 --> 00:05:44.820
Carole Copeland Thomas: Carol here, one second.

41
00:05:52.740 --> 00:05:54.420
Carl Racine: Rabbi Heschel you remember

42
00:06:07.170 --> 00:06:09.810
Carl Racine: Maybe it's number five. What am I

43
00:06:15.000 --> 00:06:18.810
Carl Racine: Keep going. But I must say I'm I'm sad, the wrong number.

44
00:06:20.700 --> 00:06:22.740
Carl Racine: Number three. I'm sorry.

45
00:06:25.200 --> 00:06:27.120
Carl Racine: Yeah. Number three, who is responsible

46
00:06:27.360 --> 00:06:29.010
Carl Racine: There we go. Correct. Yeah, that's it.

47
00:06:29.280 --> 00:06:29.550
Okay.

48
00:06:31.980 --> 00:06:33.270
Carole Copeland Thomas: Oh, wait a minute, I'm

49
00:06:35.370 --> 00:06:37.530
Carole Copeland Thomas: You hold on just a second. This is, um,

50
00:06:38.760 --> 00:06:39.540
Carole Copeland Thomas: This is the

51
00:06:41.430 --> 00:06:47.070
Carole Copeland Thomas: This is the PDF version. Let me, let me stop that and let me get the

52
00:06:48.150 --> 00:06:51.450

Carole Copeland Thomas: The actual keynote version. Just one second, please.

53

00:06:53.190 --> 00:06:56.280

Carole Copeland Thomas: I pulled it up all headed already for today and

54

00:06:57.780 --> 00:07:00.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah, that's, that's a PDF document.

55

00:07:01.800 --> 00:07:02.310

Carl Racine: Oh, yeah.

56

00:07:04.770 --> 00:07:07.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah. Just one second, let me

57

00:07:09.720 --> 00:07:13.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: Special slides. Here we go. Yep. Okay.

58

00:07:15.900 --> 00:07:17.250

Carole Copeland Thomas: Let's also PDF

59

00:07:20.400 --> 00:07:21.540

Carole Copeland Thomas: Slides.

60

00:07:22.830 --> 00:07:23.430

Susan Racine: On me

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00:07:25.020 --> 00:07:26.580

Carl Racine: Somehow, the numbers are different, though.

62

00:07:29.850 --> 00:07:30.270

Carole Copeland Thomas: Me.

63

00:07:32.370 --> 00:07:34.020

Susan Racine: Carl, where's your tribute publish

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00:07:36.720 --> 00:07:41.250

Carl Racine: It's on the website with all the rest of the class materials.

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00:07:42.360 --> 00:07:44.970

Susan Racine: Oh this website. Okay. Yeah.

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00:07:45.930 --> 00:07:56.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm just trying to pull up the actual slide deck in Keynote, which is the Mac version for PowerPoint and. Okay, I think I have it now.

67

00:07:58.140 --> 00:08:01.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: And you're it starts off with, who is responsible

68

00:08:02.100 --> 00:08:02.460

Yeah.

69

00:08:03.690 --> 00:08:17.220

Carole Copeland Thomas: But it is it is number six in the original deck, I believe. Okay, let me go back to us and let me pull it up the keynote. There we go.

70

00:08:18.600 --> 00:08:22.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: Is this correct brother Carl that's that's the one. Okay.

71

00:08:28.230 --> 00:08:29.700

Carole Copeland Thomas: All right, ready to rock and roll.

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00:08:30.780 --> 00:08:40.500

Carl Racine: So we call the Heschel himself escaped Poland, before the Nazis invaded and but he lost his mother and three sisters

73

00:08:41.340 --> 00:08:54.450

Carl Racine: To the Nazis. And so this was not just an abstract idea to him but but very personal. But we saw that his perspective. And this is from something he wrote in the middle of the war in 1943

74

00:08:55.050 --> 00:08:59.340

Carl Racine: We saw that his perspective was maybe a little bit surprising to us.

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00:09:00.150 --> 00:09:09.810

Carl Racine: That rather than falling back in the facile comfort of dividing the world into good guys and bad guys and pointing the finger at all those bad guys out there.

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00:09:10.140 --> 00:09:22.680

Carl Racine: He called on all people to search their hearts to see what they might have done to prevent such evil from flourishing. He emphasizes corporate responsibility for what's happened now that's not quite the same thing as guilt.

77

00:09:23.790 --> 00:09:29.190

Carl Racine: But corporate responsibility and asked us to think how we might act differently in the future.

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00:09:30.420 --> 00:09:34.530

Carl Racine: And I think the Gospels contain a fascinating parallel to this.

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00:09:35.340 --> 00:09:48.420

Carl Racine: In the story where Jesus in Luke 13 where Jesus is asked about an atrocity that the Roman governor pilot has committed, where he slaughtered Jewish worshipers as they're offering sacrifices

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00:09:49.170 --> 00:10:04.260

Carl Racine: And Jesus says something virtually identical to what the bows and 12 says here that hassle quotes. He tells people such events are a wake up call to look at your own sinfulness, rather than the sinfulness of others and repent.

81

00:10:04.710 --> 00:10:10.200

Carl Racine: To turn your lives around and head in a different direction. This is Luke 13 one to five.

82

00:10:12.540 --> 00:10:24.990

Carl Racine: So hassles first responses is emphasizing human responsibility which we've seen as a major theme in the rabbi's we've been looking at and certainly in Rabbi sacks.

83

00:10:26.760 --> 00:10:41.220

Carl Racine: But while addressing this issue of human responsibility history Heschel also asks, so what can we say about God, then what can we say about a God who allows such human evil to flourish.

84

00:10:43.200 --> 00:10:54.240

Carl Racine: And Heschel finds in the scriptures and especially in the prophets. An understanding of God. And I actually spoke briefly about this in our question and answer.

85

00:10:55.710 --> 00:11:08.070

Carl Racine: Period. This morning he finds in the prophets and understanding of God that is really different from the rationalist philosophical abstractions we've inherited from the Greeks.

86

00:11:09.180 --> 00:11:14.580

Carl Racine: Our understanding of God as this kind of Unmoved Mover

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00:11:16.410 --> 00:11:29.250

Carl Racine: All of that that very intellectual idea of God Heschel finds a different understanding of God in the Bible, and he develops. What I think is, is most important.

88

00:11:30.150 --> 00:11:40.470

Carl Racine: theological concept concept talking about who God is, what he calls the divine path us. And if we could move to slide number seven, please.

89

00:11:42.120 --> 00:11:43.800

Carl Racine: The Divine path us

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00:11:45.300 --> 00:11:55.920

Carl Racine: Half us. As you can see, is as from the Greek word meaning feeling or emotion passion, we get a word passion from it. We get words like pathetic as well.

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00:11:58.170 --> 00:12:08.970

Carl Racine: The biblical truth that God is not distant God is not impassive and unfeeling God is not the philosopher's Unmoved Mover

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00:12:11.370 --> 00:12:24.810

Carl Racine: Nor a stern law giver who simply issues commands and expects obedience Heschel insists that God is moved and affected by what happens in the world.

93

00:12:26.040 --> 00:12:32.850

Carl Racine: Events and human actions arouse in him joy or sorrow pleasure or wrath.

94

00:12:34.560 --> 00:12:46.080

Carl Racine: And Heschel asked the question, how does the world look in the eyes of God and to that question. He quotes Torah and he quotes this verse here from Genesis six

95

00:12:47.430 --> 00:12:57.210

Carl Racine: The Lord saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

96

00:12:59.220 --> 00:13:06.420

Carl Racine: The Lord was grieved God's heart was filled with pain because of what happened on the earth. This is

97

00:13:07.890 --> 00:13:30.990

Carl Racine: Part of regular biblical teaching that God. God is full of anguish, God is full of dismay at the evil that happens in our world. God is not affected by our pain and our suffering and Heschel especially developed this idea in his book on the prophets.

98

00:13:33.930 --> 00:13:39.150

Carl Racine: Where it's really the first thing he talks about if we could go to Slide number eight.

99

00:13:40.800 --> 00:13:47.010

Carl Racine: And you recall the importance of that book on the profits for the civil rights movement, which we'll talk about more

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00:13:48.270 --> 00:13:49.170

Carl Racine: Subsequently,

101

00:13:50.370 --> 00:14:00.480

Carl Racine: But the very first characteristic of the biblical prophets that Heschel talks about in that book is what he calls their sensitivity to evil.

102

00:14:01.830 --> 00:14:05.010

Carl Racine: The prophets. He says rail against

103

00:14:06.030 --> 00:14:20.250

Carl Racine: Human wrongdoing, that we simply consider a normal part of how the world operates and I the the extensive quote here was actually available online. I found this thing by accident.

104

00:14:20.850 --> 00:14:31.350

Carl Racine: So this is a quote on the left here from his book on the prophets. He says, indeed, the sort of crimes and even the amount of delinquency that fill the profits of Israel with dismay.

105

00:14:32.040 --> 00:14:40.290

Carl Racine: Do not go beyond that which we regard as normal as typical ingredients of social dynamics and stuff we take for granted. This is how the world operates.

106

00:14:41.850 --> 00:14:54.510

Carl Racine: But Heschel says to us, a single act of injustice cheating in business exploitation of the poor is slight to the prophets, it's a disaster.

107

00:14:55.410 --> 00:15:10.590

Carl Racine: To us injustices injurious to the welfare of the people to the prophets. It is a death blow to existence to us an episode to them a catastrophe a threat to the world.

108

00:15:11.340 --> 00:15:22.890

Carl Racine: So the prophets feel deeply and are deeply sensitive to the evil that is in the world that as a result of human actions.

109

00:15:23.790 --> 00:15:39.030

Carl Racine: And he says that the prophets make us aware of how meager our moral comprehension is of our callousness to human cruelty and injustice and of our failure to recognize how such things look to God.

110

00:15:39.870 --> 00:15:51.330

Carl Racine: So he says the prophet is a man who feels fiercely God has thrust a burden upon his soul, and he was bound and stunned at men's fuse greed.

111

00:15:52.800 --> 00:16:03.030

Carl Racine: Prophecy is the voice that God has lent to the silent agony of voice to the plundered poor to the profane riches of the world.

112

00:16:04.080 --> 00:16:13.260

Carl Racine: God is raging in the prophets words. And I love that quote, God is raging in the prophets words.

113

00:16:14.430 --> 00:16:21.780

Carl Racine: And you see this wonderful little quote here as well. God is not nice. God is not an uncle. God is an earth quick

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00:16:24.510 --> 00:16:39.090

Carl Racine: Whereas God after Auschwitz. He speaks says Heschel through his prophets and hassle does not see those profits as simply existing long ago, in the past, he will find

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00:16:40.920 --> 00:16:48.960

Carl Racine: In the world, a man like Martin Luther King to be continuing in their footsteps as God's prophets

116

00:16:51.180 --> 00:17:05.940

Carl Racine: So Heschel hears the pain and the agony invoices in the voice of profits like Jeremiah or Hosea as an expression of God's pain God's suffering and this is the divine path us

117

00:17:09.240 --> 00:17:11.400

Carl Racine: If we could go to Slide number nine, please.

118

00:17:13.860 --> 00:17:20.130

Carl Racine: The prophets are expressing God's pain. And he points to a passage like Jeremiah eight

119

00:17:21.810 --> 00:17:29.280

Carl Racine: This is actually the end of Jeremiah and then as it

continues over into the beginning of chapter nine. If you have a Bible. It would be helpful to

120

00:17:30.960 --> 00:17:48.630

Carl Racine: Look at it. I've got part of the quote here since my people are crushed. I am crushed I mourn and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead yet. Is there no physician there. Why then is there no healing for the wound.

121

00:17:49.860 --> 00:18:05.940

Carl Racine: And Heschel looks closely at this text and sees if you go down to a few verses later to verse three of chapter nine in this passage that continues into the next chapter that all of these words of God's words. It's God speaking through the prophet

122

00:18:08.070 --> 00:18:21.390

Carl Racine: So Asheville says doesn't God's pain and disappointment ring throughout the book of Jeremiah and we know Jeremiah is the weeping prophet. We know Jeremiah's expressing pain. Jeremiah Lamentations as well.

123

00:18:22.440 --> 00:18:42.510

Carl Racine: Again and again Hassel says the Prophet brought God's Word to his beloved people mourn grief sorrow lament. And we talked this morning in the in the coffee hour about how that is a very appropriate response to our current situation.

124

00:18:44.220 --> 00:18:48.360

Carl Racine: And I would say not simply I think we primarily talked about the

125

00:18:50.220 --> 00:18:54.510

Carl Racine: The coven situation which is which is certainly on our minds.

126

00:18:55.530 --> 00:19:10.410

Carl Racine: Now, but I would say also to the ongoing struggle and we're going to talk about this as we go on with the ongoing struggle for for racial equality and the really strong racial hatred that has has

127

00:19:11.490 --> 00:19:14.700

Carl Racine: Flourished and come out into the open again in America.

128

00:19:16.590 --> 00:19:20.940

Carl Racine: That that is a source of pain and anguish and sorrow.

129

00:19:22.500 --> 00:19:39.030

Carl Racine: But Heschel goes on to say, and this is very interesting in talking about Jeremiah expressing God's pain and disappointment. He says, a sense of delicacy prevented the prophet from spelling out the meaning of the word.

130

00:19:40.170 --> 00:19:45.420

Carl Racine: The prophets word mourn my people for me as well.

131

00:19:46.860 --> 00:20:06.720

Carl Racine: It's God Himself who looks in vain for a balm in Gilead at its God Himself who expresses pain and anguish at what's going on with his people. The bond of covenant love that links God to Israel means that God participates in Israel suffering.

132

00:20:08.790 --> 00:20:20.910

Carl Racine: And Heschel in another work goes on to develop the radical view of Rabbi Akiva, the second century rabbi who we've talked about before, and other ancient rabbis, he says.

133

00:20:22.050 --> 00:20:35.610

Carl Racine: The holy and blessing. One is a partner in the suffering of his creatures, he's involved in a lot of his people wounded by their sufferings and redeemed by their liberation.

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00:20:37.650 --> 00:20:51.180

Carl Racine: And in his writings Heschel develops this significant and really challenging theme that is in some rabbinic teaching that sees God is going into exile and suffering with his people and needing to be redeemed with them.

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00:20:52.260 --> 00:20:59.340

Carl Racine: And Hassel says that the person who asks, Why has this exile come upon us. Why are we suffering.

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00:21:00.780 --> 00:21:11.010

Carl Racine: Should be answered with in typical Jewish fashion answering a question with a question upon us and not upon him.

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00:21:12.420 --> 00:21:22.860

Carl Racine: In other words, Heschel is saying to ask the question that way. Why is this suffering come upon us is to suggest that we're suffering by ourselves apart from God.

138

00:21:23.910 --> 00:21:30.600

Carl Racine: Heschel argues that someone quote who removes God from the community has denied the very essence of faith.

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00:21:32.160 --> 00:21:45.270

Carl Racine: So if God has promised to dwell among his people then God's presence goes with them, even into exile, even into suffering God's suffers when they suffer and is liberated when they are liberated.

140

00:21:47.430 --> 00:21:55.380

Carl Racine: So for Heschel God in the post Holocaust era can only be seen as a God who suffers with us.

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00:21:55.740 --> 00:22:11.430

Carl Racine: And so recognizes that this is a daring idea and many rabbis rejected that notion. It makes us uncomfortable and it made some rabbis uncomfortable as well. But for Heschel the biblical God is intimately involved in the affairs of his people, including it's suffering.

142

00:22:12.540 --> 00:22:23.970

Carl Racine: We can bear suffering without losing hope because we know God is suffering with us. And I would simply point out that this is precisely the message of the cross.

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00:22:25.560 --> 00:22:43.710

Carl Racine: As and I've got a great quote here from the Christian rap group cross movement they proclaim, most people look at God as an IT and not a person, they look at God is a thing not someone who has feelings not someone who can listen to the radio and weep.

144

00:22:47.070 --> 00:22:58.440

Carl Racine: For Christians, Jesus is the ultimate expression of a

loving God who is not in passive and unfeeling and far off, not a philosophical abstraction unaffected by what happens in the world.

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00:22:58.890 --> 00:23:04.980

Carl Racine: But rather a God who draws near to his people and enters into their suffering in order to redeem them.

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00:23:06.540 --> 00:23:24.090

Carl Racine: For those who claim to follow Jesus, taking up the cross means a willingness to accept that suffering as part of what it means to redeem the world for Christians. The cross is the central affirmation of what he calls the divine path us

147

00:23:26.460 --> 00:23:34.800

Carl Racine: So I'm going to pause there and let people respond to this challenging notion

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00:23:37.650 --> 00:23:47.640

Bill Hughes: Carl that's. This is really powerful. And usually I have. I don't have a question as much as a statement, but now I really have a question.

149

00:23:48.840 --> 00:23:55.020

Bill Hughes: Which is, I mean, this is, this is really powerful. So if God is is a partner with us in our suffering.

150

00:23:56.850 --> 00:24:11.820

Bill Hughes: And he feels suffering then obvious question is why does he not respond to the suffering that he feels is he powerless and I noticed. Listening is the bill maher I like he's interesting guide.

151

00:24:13.290 --> 00:24:14.280

Bill Hughes: To listen to

152

00:24:15.690 --> 00:24:18.480

Bill Hughes: In these times, and he's very anti religious

153

00:24:20.010 --> 00:24:30.450

Bill Hughes: As you probably know, you know, and this is kind of one of the classic arguments of atheists of, you know, how, how can it be a god when there's so much suffering in the world.

154

00:24:30.840 --> 00:24:39.090

Bill Hughes: And the corollary would be, well, if God can feel it and see see irrelevant because okay he feels that I feel that we all feel it.

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00:24:40.320 --> 00:24:53.040

Bill Hughes: So what is he not going to do anything about it and i and i can I really would want to dig into that because I think understanding that more deeply will help me a great deal.

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00:24:59.340 --> 00:25:03.060

Carl Racine: Well, as you say, this is maybe the

157

00:25:04.500 --> 00:25:05.160

Carl Racine: Most

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00:25:06.690 --> 00:25:10.260

Carl Racine: Difficult theological philosophical question.

159

00:25:12.210 --> 00:25:12.900

Carl Racine: If

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00:25:14.010 --> 00:25:18.240

Carl Racine: As Christians as Jews.

161

00:25:19.620 --> 00:25:22.950

Carl Racine: As people who read the Bible and

162

00:25:25.350 --> 00:25:27.210

Carl Racine: Follow what the Bible has to say.

163

00:25:29.850 --> 00:25:33.090

Carl Racine: How can you believe in a loving God

164

00:25:34.140 --> 00:25:36.960

Carl Racine: In the face of Auschwitz.

165

00:25:39.300 --> 00:25:50.940

Carl Racine: How can you believe in a loving God in the face of 400 years of the enslavement and brutal treatment of Africans in America.

166

00:25:54.570 --> 00:26:02.100

Carl Racine: Either God is loving but doesn't have the power to do anything about this.

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00:26:03.240 --> 00:26:04.950

Carl Racine: Or God is

168

00:26:06.060 --> 00:26:06.900

Carl Racine: Powerful

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00:26:08.520 --> 00:26:13.650

Carl Racine: But simply chooses not to act and what we think of as a loving manner.

170

00:26:17.730 --> 00:26:20.460

Carl Racine: That's something people have wrestled with

171

00:26:21.990 --> 00:26:22.920

Carl Racine: Historically,

172

00:26:24.300 --> 00:26:25.170

Carl Racine: From day one.

173

00:26:27.030 --> 00:26:27.990

Carl Racine: It's in the Bible.

174

00:26:30.630 --> 00:26:32.310

Carl Racine: Why did the wicked prosper.

175

00:26:33.660 --> 00:26:34.770

Carl Racine: And the righteous

176

00:26:36.300 --> 00:26:37.170

Carl Racine: crushed down

177

00:26:38.520 --> 00:26:42.510

Carl Racine: God, what are you going to do about this and over and over again.

178

00:26:44.970 --> 00:26:47.400

Carl Racine: From the Psalms to the prophets.

179

00:26:50.520 --> 00:26:56.130

Carl Racine: People are saying, God, where are you, what are you doing about this. Are you paying attention.

180

00:26:58.590 --> 00:26:59.220

Carl Racine: And I don't

181

00:27:00.540 --> 00:27:10.410

Carl Racine: claim to have a brilliant easy answer to it if I if I did somebody else would have figured it out. First, a long time ago.

182

00:27:12.030 --> 00:27:15.030

Carl Racine: But I think what hassle would say

183

00:27:17.820 --> 00:27:22.560

Carl Racine: And certainly what we're sort of trying to say in this course.

184

00:27:23.940 --> 00:27:32.490

Carl Racine: Is that God's response. Number one is to suffer with us. And number two, to call us to responsibility to do something about it.

185

00:27:35.190 --> 00:27:35.970

Carl Racine: And

186

00:27:40.710 --> 00:27:42.750

Carl Racine: The first time I sort of

187

00:27:44.010 --> 00:27:49.110

Carl Racine: Thought through this stuff and and ran into this in a, in a very

188

00:27:51.690 --> 00:28:03.570

Carl Racine: practical way, I suppose, was when I was in college and read the novel, The Brothers karma itself by dusty esky because that's the issue that does CFC wrestles with in that novel.

189

00:28:04.590 --> 00:28:14.820

Carl Racine: And he presents the most power and dusty esky was a believer, but he presents the most powerful case for the other side that he can muster.

190

00:28:16.410 --> 00:28:18.150

Carl Racine: He used to collect

191

00:28:19.200 --> 00:28:27.600

Carl Racine: newspaper clippings of human brutality towards small children.

192

00:28:31.710 --> 00:28:35.910

Carl Racine: And he cites some of the quotes, some of it in in the book itself.

193

00:28:37.470 --> 00:28:41.010

Carl Racine: And says, Where is God.

194

00:28:42.030 --> 00:28:50.010

Carl Racine: When these poor children are suffering. I think one of them infant was was put out by its parents

195

00:28:51.450 --> 00:29:01.050

Carl Racine: Into the outhouse, and left to freeze to death in an outhouse, whereas God when this poor infant is freezing to death, crying out

196

00:29:02.130 --> 00:29:10.980

Carl Racine: In the outhouse, and we all can, you know, think of the kinds of examples that we know about these sorts of situations.

197

00:29:13.350 --> 00:29:14.010

Carl Racine: And

198

00:29:15.780 --> 00:29:21.030

Carl Racine: Dostoyevsky's response in that novel is basically the same thing as Heschel

199

00:29:23.550 --> 00:29:35.820

Carl Racine: He says, this is a call to responsibility. This is a call to reach out and love to people who are suffering and to embrace that suffering as part of what it means to live in this world.

200

00:29:37.560 --> 00:29:42.990

Carl Racine: But it doesn't answer the question. And that's why this idea is troubling.

201

00:29:45.870 --> 00:29:57.720

Carl Racine: But I find the idea of God's suffering with us to be less problematic than the idea of of an all powerful god who is distant and uncaring

202

00:30:01.980 --> 00:30:16.110

James Williams: Respond okay I wrestled with this a lot when I was teaching Sunday school and it seems like a couple of things. One is some of the things that we're going through is result of our own folly, you know, for example, like when they were

203

00:30:16.860 --> 00:30:22.530

James Williams: Creating a producing as best as it was this one the product and it will make it all this money on it.

204

00:30:23.820 --> 00:30:33.780

James Williams: The folly of that economic pursuit caused a lot of repercussions down the road down the way. And so we were suffering from our own

205

00:30:34.950 --> 00:30:37.110

James Williams: Issues of what we're doing and

206

00:30:38.400 --> 00:30:44.880

James Williams: So, some of it is because of stuff that we've done. And that's why we we suffer and then others I'm

207

00:30:47.160 --> 00:30:59.880

James Williams: Losing my train of thought or others is that God is trying to tell us something something's about to happen. I just called it thing that's cool but thing is a terrible, terrible thing. I mean, without question, but

208

00:31:01.560 --> 00:31:05.700

James Williams: I think a lot of us have finding some light at the end of the tunnel. I mean,

209

00:31:06.180 --> 00:31:15.210

James Williams: For some of us redirecting our attention. So now we're looking for God we're paying attention ago where we were before, which is going about our business doing what we were doing.

210

00:31:15.480 --> 00:31:26.760

James Williams: And, you know, God was kind of secondary now God's got our attention. So sometimes I believe that God is doing something and we can't see that thing that he's doing.

211

00:31:27.330 --> 00:31:41.400

James Williams: Now, in terms of a person dying. All of us are going to die. So I don't know if God is a is particular about how we did. I mean, I guess he is particularly just want to see us suffer. But we're all going to go there anyways.

212

00:31:42.570 --> 00:31:42.960

James Williams: So,

213

00:31:42.990 --> 00:31:48.780

James Williams: There is anew thing happening here and and we're just not knowing what that thing is.

214

00:31:50.460 --> 00:31:59.220

Bill Hughes: You know what you when you talk, James. I really appreciate that. And the thing that came to mind that she started talking was and we are the body of Christ.

215

00:32:00.180 --> 00:32:23.460

Bill Hughes: So like we when I've heard that in the past I've heard it very differently. It's almost like what are the benefits and the blessings that we have as Christians. Oh, we're part of God's body,

you know, but if if God I wrote down the title of this in my notes profits on God's nervous system.

216

00:32:25.020 --> 00:32:31.080

Bill Hughes: So profits are God's nervous system and they help god they they basically are kind of

217

00:32:32.370 --> 00:32:38.130

Bill Hughes: Connecting the feelings of God that of his empathy with us back into the body.

218

00:32:39.600 --> 00:32:41.700

Bill Hughes: Then what I had heard about

219

00:32:43.440 --> 00:32:55.980

Bill Hughes: About leprosy was the problem with leprosy is that it messes with the nervous system so that and your body ends up atrophying because it doesn't know how to care for your extremities.

220

00:32:56.760 --> 00:33:03.870

Bill Hughes: Because the nerves in your. I don't know if that's true but and Susan, you might know better than I do you know anybody on this call, or that Peter

221

00:33:05.580 --> 00:33:21.270

Bill Hughes: But, but it seems like if you're nervous system is not functioning, then your body is going to break down. And so if you're not listening to your nerves. But if we are listening to the nervous system, then we are the response we are God's response to his pain.

222

00:33:22.530 --> 00:33:30.210

Bill Hughes: And and listening to profits and listening to the Holy Spirit is how God is actually emanating out

223

00:33:31.920 --> 00:33:45.150

Bill Hughes: His feelings and that we are supposed to be God's hand soft, there needs to be a healing or needs to be protection or whatever we're supposed to be doing, you know, the call to action that you're talking about, Carl.

224

00:33:46.080 --> 00:33:52.590

Bill Hughes: I call the responsibility. Maybe that's that's the the completion of the loop.

225

00:33:53.970 --> 00:34:00.150

Carl Racine: So the Book of Job wrestles with this whole issue of

226

00:34:02.310 --> 00:34:05.640

Carl Racine: You know why, why do innocent people suffer.

227

00:34:07.350 --> 00:34:11.490

Carl Racine: Me brother James said we bring a lot of suffering on ourselves. And that's certainly true.

228

00:34:12.240 --> 00:34:26.970

Carl Racine: But innocent people suffer as well and job wrestles with that and and God doesn't really answer job. Good job, and answer that's particularly satisfying and I just says you you'd have to be me to understand this there, things are beyond your comprehension.

229

00:34:29.130 --> 00:34:29.610

Carl Racine: And that

230

00:34:30.390 --> 00:34:47.730

Carole Copeland Thomas: Not along with that Pat going along with that brother, Carl, I'm thinking about, you know, the, the, it's not a joke is a sad joke, but it's like everybody has their time as you who said that brother Bill, I think, said that but but what if you're on a plane and it's the pilots time

231

00:34:54.660 --> 00:34:54.900

Beverly Williams: But

232

00:34:54.990 --> 00:35:12.120

Carl Racine: Rabbi Sachs has a has an interesting comment that I read recently on the on the Book of Job in that and and he says, what, you know, why doesn't God give us the answer to this question. Why doesn't God explain to job just what what's going on in God's mind.

233

00:35:13.680 --> 00:35:25.290

Carl Racine: And he says, God doesn't give us the answer to this question because if we had the answer to this question, we would

234

00:35:26.670 --> 00:35:38.760

Carl Racine: Therefore, make our peace with the suffering that exists in the world and we would no longer want to do something about it.

235

00:35:39.870 --> 00:35:49.290

Carl Racine: God keeps the answer from us precisely so that we will address these issues and take responsibility for it.

236

00:35:50.370 --> 00:36:04.440

Carl Racine: If we understood it. We just sit back and say, Okay, that's okay. That's why. That makes sense. Fine, I'm going to accept it. God doesn't answer the questions. So we won't accept that suffering and pain in the world.

237

00:36:06.060 --> 00:36:07.320

Carl Racine: Very interesting idea.

238

00:36:09.900 --> 00:36:24.930

Susan Racine: I bought notion in the very beginning of the class where you talked about God withdrawing his power to what a to allow for people to exist, given that we are fallen creatures and are not going to do things the way God would love us to do.

239

00:36:25.980 --> 00:36:33.990

Carl Racine: For human freedom. Exactly. I mean, that's the other part of the thing that people say, well, this, this is simply a product of human freedom.

240

00:36:36.600 --> 00:36:41.220

Carl Racine: And that's certainly true for the most part, but not entirely. Because again,

241

00:36:42.630 --> 00:36:46.200

Carl Racine: A lot of things happen that aren't a direct result of

242

00:36:46.230 --> 00:36:46.950

Human

243

00:36:48.300 --> 00:36:48.810

Carl Racine: Evil

244

00:36:50.460 --> 00:37:10.140

Carl Racine: You know, natural disasters and stuff. And in again and dusty huskies novel, The Brothers Karamazov, that that issue comes up very pointedly in in the central section of the book and the, the, one of the brothers who is arguing the case against God says,

245

00:37:11.610 --> 00:37:16.380

Carl Racine: The pain and suffering that exists in the world is too big a price to pay for human freedom.

246

00:37:22.710 --> 00:37:40.110

Carl Racine: And I think we, I think we, at least at least need to feel the force of this argument from the side from from Bill Maher side from the side of those who are challenging God if we don't feel

247

00:37:42.240 --> 00:37:59.430

Carl Racine: The significance of that argument as Christians, and we either. Well, we have to abandon our faith in God or to say the cross cause us to embrace that suffering, along with Jesus, along with God and to do something about it. To help God in the redemption of the world.

248

00:38:00.480 --> 00:38:11.040

Carl Racine: But for Heschel again as I pointed out last week to deny God because of the Holocaust is to simply open up the possibility of even more holocausts

249

00:38:12.090 --> 00:38:23.250

Carl Racine: Because it only intensifies human sense of autonomy and and lack of responsibility to anything and anyone outside themselves.

250

00:38:25.290 --> 00:38:29.460

Carl Racine: So yeah, it's, it's, I'm

251

00:38:31.470 --> 00:38:38.730

Bill Hughes: Also, having listened to someone. I mean, Bill Maher in particular, I think I've heard everyone if it shows the last three or four maybe five years now.

252

00:38:39.240 --> 00:38:52.170

Bill Hughes: I'm actually, I'm kind of sense of what his, his thinking is around this. The one thing that one exception where he doesn't, you know, he won't say I'm not an atheist anymore. He's always an atheist.

253

00:38:53.790 --> 00:39:07.830

Bill Hughes: But the people that he has the most contempt for are the hip hypocrites and the ones he has the least contempt for other people who somehow seem to be doing God's work humbly

254

00:39:08.640 --> 00:39:21.630

Bill Hughes: And he'll say well you know you're just a nice person. And then you have to put all this magic thinking around it but you know I like you and I get, you know, he there's a, there's a, there's a point in his heart way he's like drawn to

255

00:39:22.770 --> 00:39:33.570

Bill Hughes: The person who would be like a Mother Teresa, who, who is actually responding to the pain that goddess feeling and who's doing something about it.

256

00:39:34.050 --> 00:39:43.680

Bill Hughes: I mean his argument is simply. Well, you don't need to be a Christian in order to do that, and I think the the condemnation of the church is that he's right.

257

00:39:45.660 --> 00:39:52.560

Bill Hughes: Is that there are a lot of people who are responding to the pain that God is feeling who don't have a

258

00:39:53.490 --> 00:40:01.260

Bill Hughes: Philosophical worldview about Jesus and cross and somehow they they they are responding

259

00:40:01.770 --> 00:40:18.780

Bill Hughes: So they're doing the feature of God's work without even being connected to the nervous system. The way that God has called us to be which is, you know, connected in the Holy Spirit redeemed, you know, forgiving and all these things. Somehow, they were able to figure it out anyway.

260

00:40:20.190 --> 00:40:36.840

Bill Hughes: And I think that's the other the other side of that question, which is an open door, and the one hand to to the non believer. But on the other hand, it's a condemnation of the church when we don't when we are not the shining example of that.

261

00:40:40.860 --> 00:40:43.200

Carl Racine: Jesus said exactly that. In Matthew 25

262

00:40:45.630 --> 00:40:46.380

Carl Racine: He just said.

263

00:40:47.490 --> 00:40:48.690

Carl Racine: There's all sorts of people

264

00:40:50.220 --> 00:40:55.500

Carl Racine: Who say Lord Lord, they don't do what I asked him to do. That's actually a Matthew six or seven

265

00:40:58.770 --> 00:41:01.380

Carl Racine: There's also the people who think they're connected to Jesus.

266

00:41:02.400 --> 00:41:07.110

Carl Racine: Who are opening their hearts to the poor to the naked to the homeless.

267

00:41:08.640 --> 00:41:09.510

Carl Racine: To the immigrant

268

00:41:12.450 --> 00:41:13.020

Carl Racine: And

269

00:41:13.770 --> 00:41:16.320

Carl Racine: Then there's a whole lot of people who

270

00:41:17.670 --> 00:41:31.200

Carl Racine: don't recognize Jesus at all who are doing precisely that. And you know what Jesus says, those are the people are going to be invited into the kingdom at the end of the day, and all those good cheese church people that are

271

00:41:32.700 --> 00:41:38.040

Carl Racine: talking the talk but not walking the walk, they're going to find themselves on the outside.

272

00:41:40.260 --> 00:41:41.190

Carl Racine: If I were

273

00:41:43.980 --> 00:41:44.430

Carl Racine: Pope

274

00:41:46.440 --> 00:42:04.650

Carl Racine: And were able to wave a magic wand and change the course of his Christian theology. For the last 400 years I would substitute Matthew 25 for Romans three as what salvation really means for Christians.

275

00:42:06.270 --> 00:42:17.520

Carl Racine: And I argue this over and over again and various ways what Jesus says exactly that he will have don't have a clue about Jesus, who are acting in accordance with what Jesus wants and what God wants

276

00:42:18.570 --> 00:42:22.920

Carl Racine: Us to be a whole lot of people who think they know Jesus really well who don't

277

00:42:25.380 --> 00:42:32.850

Carl Racine: And those words as as as brother Bill says this word should strike tear into the hearts and most church people

278

00:42:35.670 --> 00:42:39.930

Carl Racine: But we don't hear sermons on that passage too often in the church.

279

00:42:41.970 --> 00:42:43.020

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, again,

280

00:42:45.120 --> 00:42:53.340

Carole Copeland Thomas: That interesting we're talking about this in

the chat. Also, and I mentioned brother D Sean has made some comments I talked about the

281

00:42:54.210 --> 00:43:09.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: 35 almost 40 year old book now when bad things happen to good people by Harold by Rabbi Harold Kushner I that book was very helpful to me when my son died 20 some odd years ago, but I'm

282

00:43:10.740 --> 00:43:29.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm just struck by again the evangelical movement embracing a Donald Trump and the 70 million people who voted Republican during this election, knowing the obvious stated and blatant

283

00:43:31.470 --> 00:43:33.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: infraction infractions and

284

00:43:34.770 --> 00:43:54.810

Carole Copeland Thomas: just downright evilness perpetrated by the candidate who lost now by at least 5 million votes, and yet they stuck by him for their own agenda to get conservative judges put in place to meet their own needs and I just when people would talk about that. I just would be

285

00:43:56.130 --> 00:44:15.810

Carole Copeland Thomas: thrown back into Yes, those are the same types of people, same types of religious people who justified slavery and use scripture to justify slavery, including having a censored slave Bible that also fit into their needs. So it's insidious

286

00:44:17.130 --> 00:44:35.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: Because then you look at the our capital system capitalized system in this country that generated, you know, thousands, millions of slaves, bringing them from from Africa and setting up this hierarchy in this country for for economics.

287

00:44:39.390 --> 00:44:40.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Part of that's evil.

288

00:44:42.240 --> 00:44:43.470

Carole Copeland Thomas: And a choice.

289

00:44:44.520 --> 00:44:48.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: That that we, that why we're struggling today.

290

00:44:51.630 --> 00:45:02.460

Carl Racine: Well, let me go on and make one more point to leave us with today. So that next week, we can move into a different section of the outline

291

00:45:05.460 --> 00:45:06.420

Carl Racine: Heschel

292

00:45:08.280 --> 00:45:14.370

Carl Racine: Obviously wrestled with this stuff and he wrestled with it on a personal level, not just an intellectual level.

293

00:45:15.540 --> 00:45:24.450

Carl Racine: How do you reconcile a deep love for the living God, which Heschel clearly had with the suffering of his people.

294

00:45:26.400 --> 00:45:35.430

Carl Racine: How do you live in the shadow of the show on the shadow of the Nazi Holocaust if we could see slide number 10 please

295

00:45:46.470 --> 00:46:05.520

Carl Racine: And he, you know, one of the things he says is that we live, both in awe and consternation, looking at God in fervor and horror with my conscience on mercy and my eye on Auschwitz wavering between exploitation and despair.

296

00:46:07.020 --> 00:46:19.410

Carl Racine: He's left looking in two directions at the same time at a God whose cares about human suffering and on that suffering itself. And this is what we've been talking about this morning. And that's the struggle. He says of the prophetic soul.

297

00:46:20.040 --> 00:46:30.150

Carl Racine: The pain of living with the tension between the world as it is in the world as we know God wants it to be and that very much as what faith means

298

00:46:31.380 --> 00:46:38.850

Carl Racine: To live with that tension to live with that pain to live with that sense of things not being right.

299

00:46:40.740 --> 00:46:47.790

Carl Racine: But how do we respond to such great evil he says this essential predicament of man.

300

00:46:50.010 --> 00:47:02.340

Carl Racine: has assumed a particular peculiar urgency in our time living as we do in a civilization where factories were established in order to exterminate millions of men, women and children were soap was made of human flesh.

301

00:47:03.090 --> 00:47:18.390

Carl Racine: What have we done to make such crimes possible. What are we doing to make such crimes impossible. So, again and again. Hashtag cause human beings to take responsibility for the world. God has entrusted us with

302

00:47:20.160 --> 00:47:38.610

Carl Racine: And then one last code. I could quote Heschel all day but he insists that evil is not man's ultimate problem very interesting thought. Man's ultimate problem is his relation to God the biblical answer to evil is not the good, but the Holy

303

00:47:39.780 --> 00:47:50.010

Carl Racine: And this comes from in part of sort of reading of Genesis one, where God in the process of creation continually

304

00:47:51.180 --> 00:47:57.090

Carl Racine: Calls the creation good throughout the first six days, but the seventh day he calls holy

305

00:47:59.190 --> 00:48:06.360

Carl Racine: And the contrast between the good and the holiest something we'll talk about again when we look at various other parts of rabbinic teaching

306

00:48:06.870 --> 00:48:17.340

Carl Racine: The biblical answer to evil is not the good, but the holy. It's an attempt to raise man to a higher level of existence

where man is not alone when confronted with evil.

307

00:48:18.480 --> 00:48:41.430

Carl Racine: Living in the light of the face of God bestows upon man a power of love that enables him to overcome the powers of evil, and I would, I would suggest that the idea that just nice people are doing powerful acts of love like sister Teresa brother Bill mentioned

308

00:48:43.590 --> 00:48:45.990

Carl Racine: Simply as a failure to understand

309

00:48:49.050 --> 00:48:53.880

Carl Racine: who those people are. They're not just being nice. There's plenty of nice people in the world.

310

00:48:54.390 --> 00:49:06.270

Carl Racine: But but Mother Teresa, or lots of other end named people who are who are sacrificing themselves for others are more than nice they are living in the power of love.

311

00:49:07.110 --> 00:49:17.250

Carl Racine: The first book I ever read by Martin Luther King Jr was a little book of sermons published in 1963 and I might give my testimony about this at some point in this class.

312

00:49:18.510 --> 00:49:20.160

Carl Racine: Called strength to love.

313

00:49:21.450 --> 00:49:38.160

Carl Racine: It revolutionized my thinking about what it means to be a Christian and and about the concept of love to actually love to really love other people to love people who are as awful as some of the people in our world are to love people who are Trump supporters

314

00:49:39.180 --> 00:49:41.460

Carl Racine: requires tremendous strength.

315

00:49:42.660 --> 00:49:55.950

Carl Racine: And it's a strength, I would suggest that comes from God and and Heschel is saying the same thing here that living in light of the face of God. He's quoting Psalms there gives you

316

00:49:57.090 --> 00:49:59.850

Carl Racine: The potential to have that power.

317

00:50:00.870 --> 00:50:09.330

Carl Racine: To live in the world in a way that overcomes the powers of evil, but it's living in the light of the holy, not just of goodness

318

00:50:10.350 --> 00:50:22.650

Carl Racine: And I would suggest, and we're going to go on to talk about this next week that hassles involvement in the civil rights movement and the anti war movement was his personal response to the show.

319

00:50:23.820 --> 00:50:38.730

Carl Racine: And his bond with Martin Luther King, it came from his recognition of King as a genuine profit, through whom God was raging and I really like that, quote, God reaches through the prophets.

320

00:50:39.930 --> 00:50:52.230

Carl Racine: And that prophetic voice, we need in our time and and we need it in all times and Heschel cause us to find those profits.

321

00:50:53.310 --> 00:50:55.260

Carl Racine: In our day and then

322

00:50:56.610 --> 00:50:58.440

Carl Racine: See where they're taking us

323

00:51:00.360 --> 00:51:02.190

Carl Racine: So with that will will

324

00:51:04.470 --> 00:51:17.250

Carl Racine: Will draw to the end of the of the section where I was talking about hairstyles response to the to the Holocaust and we'll move on. Next week to talk about Heschel and the civil rights movement.

325

00:51:18.390 --> 00:51:30.870

Carl Racine: And his involvement with Martin Luther King, so we can go back to, to further questions and discussion of what we've been looking at today if anyone has more they would like to say or ask

326

00:51:33.840 --> 00:51:36.630

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, it's like a circle. I mean,

327

00:51:38.640 --> 00:51:43.440

Carole Copeland Thomas: Do you have faith that God will see us through

328

00:51:44.640 --> 00:51:45.870

Carole Copeland Thomas: With the belief that

329

00:51:47.580 --> 00:52:01.950

Carole Copeland Thomas: God's strength and power will take us through or do you struggle with evil in the world, and God not stopping the evil in the world. I, I don't know the answer. I'm just putting it out there that this is just a

330

00:52:03.720 --> 00:52:07.320

Carole Copeland Thomas: constant quest for are looking at

331

00:52:08.640 --> 00:52:09.810

Carole Copeland Thomas: How we believe

332

00:52:11.400 --> 00:52:11.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: And

333

00:52:13.200 --> 00:52:27.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: As I said, Brad by Krishna his book and a song by Carlton Pearson will understand that no farther along that's that that walked me through my darkest point in my life.

334

00:52:29.580 --> 00:52:33.180

Carole Copeland Thomas: When I buried by 17 year old son.

335

00:52:35.370 --> 00:52:50.100

Carole Copeland Thomas: And it is the answer that came to me at that time was this is this is a test of your faith, all that stuff. You've been saying and praying about all these years. Now it's put to the

test.

336

00:52:51.480 --> 00:52:52.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: And

337

00:52:53.310 --> 00:52:54.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: That's painful.

338

00:52:56.880 --> 00:53:11.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: And for some people it's so painful. They walk away. They change their ideology, they become angry and resentful, and they go in another direction. I, I went inward and

339

00:53:14.580 --> 00:53:17.370

Carole Copeland Thomas: Have gotten through subsequent

340

00:53:18.660 --> 00:53:25.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: Challenges in my life knowing if I made it through June 14 1997 I can make it through anything

341

00:53:26.700 --> 00:53:28.170

Carole Copeland Thomas: Because that was the that was

342

00:53:28.410 --> 00:53:30.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: That was the. That was the worst.

343

00:53:32.460 --> 00:53:42.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: No warning, nothing. It just is. And that's what happens in life stuff. Some things are they just are. Deal with it.

344

00:53:43.650 --> 00:53:47.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: And it does depend on these kind of conversations and discussions.

345

00:53:49.020 --> 00:53:55.890

Carole Copeland Thomas: And determining, you know, how are you going to be, how are you going to handle what life hands you

346

00:54:01.050 --> 00:54:01.470

James Williams: Not

347

00:54:01.920 --> 00:54:03.060

Carl Racine: Not to

348

00:54:05.670 --> 00:54:18.570

Carl Racine: Compare the severity of sister Carol's experience with my own, but when my sister died a few years ago from at age 55 from ovarian cancer. It was

349

00:54:19.770 --> 00:54:22.260

Carl Racine: A devastating blow to me personally.

350

00:54:25.350 --> 00:54:43.410

Carl Racine: But one of the things that came out of that for me was a completely new perspective on what other people are going through when they

351

00:54:44.940 --> 00:54:45.810

Carl Racine: Boss.

352

00:54:48.270 --> 00:54:50.700

Carl Racine: And that

353

00:54:51.780 --> 00:54:59.040

Carl Racine: Not to say that God cause this to happen. So I would be a better person, or any such foolishness is that

354

00:55:00.300 --> 00:55:00.780

Carl Racine: But

355

00:55:02.370 --> 00:55:11.190

Carl Racine: God used that in my life as a way of teaching me stuff.

356

00:55:12.390 --> 00:55:15.960

Carl Racine: That I probably couldn't have learned any other way.

357

00:55:18.150 --> 00:55:21.300

Carl Racine: It doesn't minimize the pain.

358

00:55:23.340 --> 00:55:25.590

Carl Racine: Or make it go away.

359

00:55:27.210 --> 00:55:29.520

Carl Racine: It simply says

360

00:55:31.230 --> 00:55:43.440

Carl Racine: In the midst of all of this, there is a God who is still working in in your life and showing you things and guiding you

361

00:55:45.330 --> 00:55:49.560

Carl Racine: Rabbi sacks says that faith is not certainty.

362

00:55:50.790 --> 00:55:54.150

Carl Racine: It's the courage to live with uncertainty.

363

00:55:55.800 --> 00:55:59.430

Carl Racine: And the kinds of issues we've been talking about today.

364

00:56:02.100 --> 00:56:09.390

Carl Racine: Give us a whole lot of uncertainty and the world around us certainly gives us a whole lot of uncertainty.

365

00:56:10.770 --> 00:56:19.890

Carl Racine: Faith allows us to live with it, not to accept it, but to live with it and to go on because the alternate

366

00:56:22.800 --> 00:56:26.550

Carl Racine: Alternate response to

367

00:56:27.750 --> 00:56:37.980

Carl Racine: The evil that's in the world around us, there can either be engagement, which is what Heschel encourages us to do, or there can be escape.

368

00:56:39.720 --> 00:56:45.150

Carl Racine: We sit back and say God's gonna rapture us out of all of

this and take us to a better place.

369

00:56:46.230 --> 00:56:48.840

Carl Racine: And so you just sit back and wait for that to happen.

370

00:56:49.770 --> 00:57:01.650

James Williams: Or self destruction. I mean, in Carol's situation. I've certainly seen folks that have lost something as precious as their child and and they just are no longer able to

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00:57:02.700 --> 00:57:19.260

James Williams: To cope in it's just like a self discretion thing. So either look to God or or it will damage every place will damage. I have a question. Did whereby sex or Rabbi Herschel that they have a quote anything from the New Testament.

372

00:57:23.250 --> 00:57:25.140

Carl Racine: Night usually know

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00:57:25.710 --> 00:57:28.740

James Williams: We said, not usually. I know that usually

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00:57:28.920 --> 00:57:29.370

James Williams: Didn't they

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00:57:30.660 --> 00:57:34.320

Carl Racine: I haven't read every everything they ever said

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00:57:37.980 --> 00:57:39.060

Carl Racine: But typically know

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00:57:39.900 --> 00:57:54.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: To tag on what brother James is saying in terms of the New Testament. What also getting me through that awful period and gets me through other periods, and this was what I had to learn was second Corinthians New Testament

378

00:57:55.020 --> 00:58:03.720

Carole Copeland Thomas: chapter one verses three through seven. And it says praise be to the God our Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of compassion.

379

00:58:04.140 --> 00:58:16.620

Carole Copeland Thomas: And the God of all comfort who comforts us in all of our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. So again, my lesson.

380

00:58:17.190 --> 00:58:24.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: Coming out of my dark period of time was yes. It was awful. It was bad, you're going to live with it. It's going to change your life.

381

00:58:25.140 --> 00:58:36.510

Carole Copeland Thomas: You're going to do all those things. But it's not just for you. Now you have the compassion to comfort others who are going to go through the exact same level of

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00:58:37.140 --> 00:58:50.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: Suffering when they lose their child or whatever, which I now can do because I've been through it and I know what it's like and I have friends and people I know who have lost two and three. So look at look at Joe Biden. He's lost two children.

383

00:58:51.180 --> 00:59:05.430

Carole Copeland Thomas: One wife so huge, huge Jesse has empathy because he he's experienced such loss, but he doesn't go inward with it he shares it and it's it's in his in his being

384

00:59:05.880 --> 00:59:18.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: In terms of the empathy. Empathy that he has and how he can relate to people talking about the empty chair at the at the table, and because of coven whereas he uses that metaphorical experience so

385

00:59:19.410 --> 00:59:43.470

Carole Copeland Thomas: It is. It's how you use all the awful stuff that happens to you, to help other people I've have a very dear friend who helped me immensely with a huge problem and her her message was Carol you your pain and your suffering becomes your story that then helps other people

386

00:59:47.040 --> 00:59:50.700

Carl Racine: I mean as pastors can either make you better. It can make you bitter.

387

00:59:52.020 --> 00:59:52.680

Bill Hughes: And

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00:59:55.020 --> 00:59:57.690

Carl Racine: But I think you I think you have a choice in that

389

00:59:58.860 --> 01:00:00.990

Carl Racine: But as Carol said.

390

01:00:02.010 --> 01:00:03.270

Carl Racine: If you go inward.

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01:00:06.990 --> 01:00:19.980

Carl Racine: Then you can get into that deep dark place. We can't get out of. And God blesses us. And again, this is hugely important message of the Bible. God blesses us with a community.

392

01:00:21.060 --> 01:00:31.710

Carl Racine: Port us password and talking about this this morning in the sermon, but the passage that he read talk about bearing one another's burdens as precisely these kinds of burdens.

393

01:00:32.820 --> 01:00:47.010

Carl Racine: That we have a responsibility to bear and in when when stuff happens to other people in the community and coming alongside those who are suffering and being willing to suffer with them.

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01:00:49.500 --> 01:00:52.530

Carl Racine: Is a hard thing to do.

395

01:00:53.610 --> 01:00:59.160

Carl Racine: That's not easy. That's not a life, you would want to embrace. It's not a life, you would want to choose.

396

01:01:00.180 --> 01:01:00.900

Carl Racine: But

397

01:01:02.160 --> 01:01:11.370

Carl Racine: It's the life that if we believe Rabbi Heschel and the rest of the Scriptures, the life that God wants us to choose.

398

01:01:12.690 --> 01:01:15.180

Carl Racine: To be a presence.

399

01:01:16.200 --> 01:01:24.090

Carl Racine: To suffer with those who suffered to mourn with those who mourn to weep with those who weep. Enter rejoice with those who rejoice

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01:01:39.840 --> 01:01:42.540

Carl Racine: Alright, I know these are heavy thoughts but

401

01:01:43.590 --> 01:01:48.900

Carl Racine: There's no point in having a Sunday school class where we talk about superfluous stuff.

402

01:01:50.070 --> 01:01:56.730

Bill Hughes: Well, just so that you don't feel like you know that you don't run, you know, like Elijah did

403

01:01:57.870 --> 01:02:05.940

Bill Hughes: And feel lonely in it. I think this is the most powerful class that we have ever had personally

404

01:02:07.320 --> 01:02:10.110

Bill Hughes: And this gets more to the heart of

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01:02:11.280 --> 01:02:20.670

Bill Hughes: What not only what we've been talking about here, but the whole the whole nature of what is, what is our Christian walk than

406

01:02:21.690 --> 01:02:31.470

Bill Hughes: Than anything that we, I mean, I think we've been going to this point and you've led us to this point so that we can understand that. And now I feel like you know personally

407

01:02:34.290 --> 01:02:38.010

Bill Hughes: And I was listening to Ecclesiastes, the other day, which

408

01:02:39.090 --> 01:02:44.790

Bill Hughes: On my wall and just listen to the whole book in in together. And it was just really powerful that

409

01:02:45.930 --> 01:02:48.120

Bill Hughes: What God was saying to me in terms of

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01:02:49.920 --> 01:02:57.780

Bill Hughes: The balance that he expects us to have and the humility that he expects us to have and walking this planet and

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01:02:59.700 --> 01:03:09.990

Bill Hughes: That you know i think that that when I read that social comments, you know, we're between this you know the truth fervor and despair. I mean, those, those were the words.

412

01:03:11.040 --> 01:03:22.380

Bill Hughes: I think the the balance point is, and the answer to the question is how does one live. The answer is, what did is that answered by the other question. What did Jesus do

413

01:03:23.580 --> 01:03:29.160

Bill Hughes: How did if Jesus was one of us was a human being.

414

01:03:30.240 --> 01:03:32.130

Bill Hughes: And yet he is the model.

415

01:03:33.840 --> 01:03:46.830

Bill Hughes: For human beings, because he actually was connected to the Father in a way that human beings are supposed to be connected with the Father. What did he do, how did he walk. And I think the answer to

416

01:03:48.840 --> 01:03:53.880

Bill Hughes: To the Heschel question which we never asked ourselves on a regular basis because it's too painful.

417

01:03:55.380 --> 01:04:04.950

Bill Hughes: Is to get to a point of Ultimate Despair like he didn't set, you know, like ultimate kind of almost confusion, say, my God, what, how, how do you live here.

418

01:04:06.060 --> 01:04:17.580

Bill Hughes: And then then to say, well, given how I feel. Given what I'm experiencing with Jesus. And I think that's our way through. And that's the difference between

419

01:04:18.090 --> 01:04:36.660

Bill Hughes: Us and those who have no hope, you know, and not to say we're good. They're bad but but just to sort of say, the hope is in that there is a model for how to walk that walk, you can try to figure it out on your own. Good luck for thousands of years, people had to. But God gave us Christ.

420

01:04:37.920 --> 01:04:45.930

Bill Hughes: And his walk so that we had a historical example of what he's talking about. Yeah.

421

01:04:47.040 --> 01:04:47.610

wyatt Jackson: I would, uh,

422

01:04:49.590 --> 01:04:52.500

wyatt Jackson: Well, first of all, it's great to see everybody. Haven't seen you in a while.

423

01:04:53.190 --> 01:04:53.640

Right.

424

01:04:54.930 --> 01:04:55.260

wyatt Jackson: Um,

425

01:04:56.640 --> 01:05:05.310

wyatt Jackson: I would say that the most meaningful times in fellowship at Bethel was when we had conversations about

426

01:05:06.360 --> 01:05:13.410

wyatt Jackson: Loss or about suffering. And I remember when Carl's sister passed.

427

01:05:15.330 --> 01:05:22.590

wyatt Jackson: Him choice. He could have come into the fellowship that we had on Tuesday and just said, yeah, I lost my system and, you know, pray for me, period.

428

01:05:23.910 --> 01:05:29.730

wyatt Jackson: But he engages in a question. He said, you know, a wonder if the Holy Spirit.

429

01:05:30.750 --> 01:05:44.250

wyatt Jackson: Missed this one if the Holy Spirit didn't get this one right. And man that had us all standing on our hands because we didn't know what that question where that was coming from. But it was a much deeper question he was asking.

430

01:05:46.410 --> 01:05:47.940

wyatt Jackson: And four weeks.

431

01:05:49.320 --> 01:06:01.410

wyatt Jackson: Weeks not couple of days, weeks, we would come in and listen to Carl wrestle with. So he was doing this in community. It wasn't just

432

01:06:01.950 --> 01:06:12.720

wyatt Jackson: He could have gone to the library down the street from his house and just sat there and read some books about it, or he could have gone to Barnes and Noble and try to find another good book to read. But he came

433

01:06:14.220 --> 01:06:15.180

wyatt Jackson: To a fellowship

434

01:06:16.260 --> 01:06:19.230

wyatt Jackson: With a bunch of other men who are dealing with their own stuff.

435

01:06:21.300 --> 01:06:31.740

wyatt Jackson: And he put that on the table and it mushrooms are blossomed into an incredible. I would say about maybe two months conversation, maybe more.

436

01:06:32.820 --> 01:06:33.300

wyatt Jackson: So,

437

01:06:34.650 --> 01:06:42.690

wyatt Jackson: I don't know how you can do any of this without community. I just don't know how you can do it. I think about Bill, I think about the conversations we've had

438

01:06:44.670 --> 01:06:47.760

wyatt Jackson: And, you know, this idea of sharing

439

01:06:49.500 --> 01:06:58.650

wyatt Jackson: Your own you're not so much your successes, because, you know, we could talk about all the successes, but sharing those moments that are really

440

01:06:59.910 --> 01:07:03.930

wyatt Jackson: Once again, where you're just you feel like your world is turned upside down.

441

01:07:05.370 --> 01:07:17.910

wyatt Jackson: And you need some clarity about what does this mean, and it only I think it only it meaning the healing and the blessings only happen when you come alongside people

442

01:07:19.770 --> 01:07:22.890

wyatt Jackson: Willing to open themselves up.

443

01:07:24.720 --> 01:07:31.590

wyatt Jackson: And not just get not just prescribe. So let me just say this last thing, there were there were people in these fellowships who just wanted to

444

01:07:33.480 --> 01:07:35.610

wyatt Jackson: Quickly give a solution.

445

01:07:36.120 --> 01:07:37.260

wyatt Jackson: read scripture

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01:07:39.960 --> 01:07:40.830

wyatt Jackson: Check out this book.

447

01:07:43.920 --> 01:07:46.590

wyatt Jackson: You know, go to this conference, and you should be fine.

448

01:07:47.910 --> 01:07:49.620

Carole Copeland Thomas: For 30 days you'll get over it.

449

01:07:50.040 --> 01:07:52.200

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right. What's the biggest one, right.

450

01:07:52.500 --> 01:07:53.340

wyatt Jackson: Those people

451

01:07:53.820 --> 01:08:00.390

wyatt Jackson: Left because they didn't get the immediate gratification of knowing that they helped someone in a quick way.

452

01:08:01.980 --> 01:08:15.810

wyatt Jackson: Like, oh you all to you all think too much, man. Just do this and that you should be, but it was the people who stuck around and who came in, week after week, month after month and wrestled with the questions.

453

01:08:18.390 --> 01:08:19.170

wyatt Jackson: Culture that

454

01:08:21.510 --> 01:08:22.020

Carole Copeland Thomas: Man.

455

01:08:26.070 --> 01:08:28.410

Carl Racine: Alright, well, we'll continue to wrestle with some more.

456

01:08:28.740 --> 01:08:29.250

Questions.

457

01:08:31.920 --> 01:08:32.400

Carl Racine: And

458

01:08:34.350 --> 01:08:36.030

Carl Racine: In community and

459

01:08:39.060 --> 01:08:41.520

Carl Racine: Yeah, we don't have easy answers here.

460

01:08:43.020 --> 01:08:43.320

But

461

01:08:44.340 --> 01:08:46.470

Carl Racine: Just ask them. The questions is

462

01:08:48.360 --> 01:08:53.730

Carl Racine: Worth doing things. So with let someone like to close us out in prayer, please.

463

01:08:58.860 --> 01:09:00.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: Brother jack. Can you close this out.

464

01:09:03.720 --> 01:09:04.620

wyatt Jackson: Sure, I will

465

01:09:05.700 --> 01:09:10.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: Know that jet Jackson, so I will have brother jack the next time. Go on, go on. Wyatt gone

466

01:09:11.130 --> 01:09:11.640

wyatt Jackson: Oh, no.

467

01:09:11.910 --> 01:09:12.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: I don't know.

468

01:09:12.960 --> 01:09:14.340

Carl Racine: Jack go away.

469

01:09:16.620 --> 01:09:23.220

Carole Copeland Thomas: Okay, and let's have both of them will have to to prayers go on, brother. Why, and then brother jack. Gotcha.

470

01:09:25.500 --> 01:09:27.270

wyatt Jackson: Lord, we just want to say thank you for

471

01:09:29.460 --> 01:09:31.200

wyatt Jackson: This incredible reminder that

472

01:09:33.090 --> 01:09:40.500

wyatt Jackson: You really do want us to wrestle with our faith in a way that serves you, and serves our community.

473

01:09:41.580 --> 01:09:47.640

wyatt Jackson: So we ask in Jesus name that all of what was talked about, even though I came in late. I'm sure there was more

474

01:09:48.690 --> 01:09:52.890

wyatt Jackson: That I could have learned we thank you that all the was talked about

475

01:09:54.090 --> 01:09:55.800

wyatt Jackson: Can really go into a place of

476

01:09:57.120 --> 01:10:05.880

wyatt Jackson: thinking and pondering and praying about what this all means in our lives. So God we just thank you bless you and praise you for

477

01:10:07.110 --> 01:10:07.620

wyatt Jackson: Our brother.

478

01:10:08.640 --> 01:10:20.190

wyatt Jackson: Carl in many, many, many, many ideas that he has that could help us to think about who we are in you and who we are in community.

479

01:10:25.560 --> 01:10:26.670

Jack Melvin: Holy Father.

480

01:10:28.080 --> 01:10:31.440

Jack Melvin: We pray that you might grant us wisdom.

481

01:10:32.850 --> 01:10:35.880

Jack Melvin: Who understand the suffering in this world.

482

01:10:37.740 --> 01:10:44.160

Jack Melvin: Learn from our experiences and to be able to minister to those around us who are suffering.

483

01:10:45.270 --> 01:10:46.080

Jack Melvin: Especially

484

01:10:47.100 --> 01:10:53.160

Jack Melvin: Suffering at the at the possibility of death for

485

01:10:54.300 --> 01:10:59.100

Jack Melvin: Or death. It has happened and terrible suffering that occurs with that.

486

01:11:00.150 --> 01:11:02.250

Jack Melvin: Lord God, we pray that that

487

01:11:03.570 --> 01:11:04.200

Jack Melvin: We might

488

01:11:05.730 --> 01:11:13.410

Jack Melvin: Be able to alleviate the pain and and to help those who need help in a way that that is meaningful.

489

01:11:14.430 --> 01:11:26.790

Jack Melvin: And we pray that that we might also remember that after death comes the resurrection and that you are our only hope in Jesus name we pray amen

490

01:11:27.390 --> 01:11:28.500

Carl Racine: Amen. Amen.

491

01:11:29.070 --> 01:11:29.520

Amen.

492

01:11:30.630 --> 01:11:33.000

Carole Copeland Thomas: God bless everybody. See you next week.

493

01:11:33.780 --> 01:11:35.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: Lessons, God bless. Thank you.