

WEBVTT

1

00:00:04.950 --> 00:00:06.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'll pray us in

2

00:00:06.720 --> 00:00:07.109

Okay.

3

00:00:08.639 --> 00:00:24.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: Dear Lord in Heaven, we are so thankful that you have brought us to this point these many months past the beginning of our lockdown experience and our virtual experience. So with Bethel as result of coven

4

00:00:25.680 --> 00:00:35.280

Carole Copeland Thomas: Lord, I am thankful so thankful. Because even though we've been in this predicament for a number of months that those of us who are here on the line.

5

00:00:35.760 --> 00:00:44.130

Carole Copeland Thomas: It's a blessing to that we're gathering. This way, we are so thankful for what you have done and how you have carried us through these many months.

6

00:00:44.610 --> 00:00:59.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: Through all the difficulties and the areas of endangerment and uncertainty and so much more. Lead, we have faced but yet you are a good god and a great God and one of power and grace and mercy.

7

00:01:00.000 --> 00:01:06.240

Carole Copeland Thomas: And those Lord who have been affected afflicted or stricken with covert or other diseases.

8

00:01:06.810 --> 00:01:17.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: We know, Lord, that you are still on the throne and still the God of grace and mercy. Please take care of our families, take care of our past stores are leaders of this great church.

9

00:01:17.880 --> 00:01:31.890

Carole Copeland Thomas: We pray Lord that the distribution of the vaccine or vaccines will be efficient and we pray that those who need to get the vaccines first will be at the front of the line followed by

10

00:01:32.340 --> 00:01:44.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: A series of other levels of priorities that will take place between now and well into next year, Lord. It's not just about vaccines for the United States, but for clearly 200 countries.

11

00:01:45.270 --> 00:01:52.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Around the world who will need to be vaccinated. In order for us to be safe and secure from this deadly disease.

12

00:01:52.770 --> 00:02:10.200

Carole Copeland Thomas: Thank you, Lord, for all that you continue to do for us and with us and we pray, Lord, for our worship leader tonight. Pastor Hammond that he will have a word from you to us to inspire motivate encourage and lead us forward this we ask in your precious name Amen

13

00:02:11.790 --> 00:02:26.970

Ray Hammond: I bless you all, and great to see each and every one of you. Thank you for taking time out very busy season on a really cold night here as the which thankfully we don't have to go out into an order to be in Bible study. So, praise the Lord for that.

14

00:02:27.990 --> 00:02:43.410

Ray Hammond: As we start. Let me just take a moment or just thank Robin Carrington, who has done, just as we come to the end of this year just such a great job with our Bible study was over a year ago that he came in and said that he really like to give me some

15

00:02:43.410 --> 00:03:03.360

Ray Hammond: Help knowing the basis. I was trying to cover and he's really come in and done a phenomenal job I think of reinvigorating and and bringing new dimensions to the to the Bible study. They've just been phenomenal. And then in the middle, you know, in the middle of March.

16

00:03:04.620 --> 00:03:13.320

Ray Hammond: To have to swivel as we all did to a pandemic that

required us to master new technologies come at this in different ways.

17

00:03:13.860 --> 00:03:25.200

Ray Hammond: And I think he's just done a phenomenal job and of course with the incredible Partnership and Co hosting have a sister Carol couple Thomas, I just want to say thank you, Sister cow.

18

00:03:26.760 --> 00:03:29.130

Ray Hammond: And this is another case where again.

19

00:03:30.780 --> 00:03:40.410

Ray Hammond: The what perhaps the enemy wants to work for evil god has some were working good in it. It's not only that we're able to do this, virtually which has allowed us to reach far more people

20

00:03:41.010 --> 00:03:56.400

Ray Hammond: It's that we have an archive, which we've never had before so I couldn't be here last week was under strict instructions to celebrate my birthday. But I could go to the archives. Was it Wednesday night teaching is that that calm.

21

00:03:57.780 --> 00:03:58.290

Ray Hammond: And

22

00:03:58.350 --> 00:04:00.750

Ray Hammond: And pick up. So anytime you miss

23

00:04:00.780 --> 00:04:02.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah. Wednesday teach it. I'll put it

24

00:04:02.910 --> 00:04:04.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: On Wednesday, teaching calm.

25

00:04:05.520 --> 00:04:08.700

Ray Hammond: Great place to go and pick up any study that you've missed

26

00:04:08.760 --> 00:04:18.630

Ray Hammond: And they get an opportunity to be refresh. So again, my thanks and no she's not here tonight but Reverend Leslie so thankful

for her participation and sharing as well.

27

00:04:19.830 --> 00:04:24.060

Ray Hammond: Oh, I want to begin by asking, maybe for

28

00:04:25.170 --> 00:04:26.310

Ray Hammond: I know last week.

29

00:04:27.810 --> 00:04:43.200

Ray Hammond: Where we character and laid out what we were trying to do in the context of this other side of Advent, looking at other aspects of what's going on. We all know pretty much the traditional Christian the Christmas story, it's not that. What we know is it wrong or is wrong.

30

00:04:44.460 --> 00:04:52.200

Ray Hammond: Rather, we want to just make sure that what we know is balanced, what we know is as full picture as possible.

31

00:04:53.520 --> 00:05:04.560

Ray Hammond: I seen that particularly maybe the last 10 or 20 years wonderful books like Christmas. The good, the bad, the ugly Bishop. I think I mentioned specific would witness

32

00:05:05.190 --> 00:05:17.400

Ray Hammond: Because you want to say this wonderful things here. But in our whole you know in a hurry to to to celebrate in a beautiful baby born in a manger, you know, angels singing a song.

33

00:05:17.970 --> 00:05:31.920

Ray Hammond: We forget the bad stuff terrible stuff that also happens in this contract and the downright ugly stuff, all of which reminds us precisely why Jesus came right so

34

00:05:33.300 --> 00:05:39.600

Ray Hammond: We want to do some time in this space to really take a look at that. Other side of Advent.

35

00:05:41.190 --> 00:05:46.650

Ray Hammond: And this week, we're going to be focusing, to some extent, on the character of Joseph last week we get some wonderful

36

00:05:47.700 --> 00:05:56.160

Ray Hammond: Material from Pastor Carrington on the person of Mary the mother of Jesus, the woman who says yes to God for

37

00:05:56.970 --> 00:06:00.300

Ray Hammond: A pretty tough assignment, as we'll talk about in just a moment.

38

00:06:00.870 --> 00:06:11.370

Ray Hammond: Now let's begin. Also, as we did last week last week, pass the card and ask you to just put in the chat and affirmation, you have coming into 2021

39

00:06:11.700 --> 00:06:25.050

Ray Hammond: Something you are believing God for change in yourself in others in the situation and our families community nation world creation, you know, we think is big or small, as you'd like to

40

00:06:25.980 --> 00:06:46.290

Ray Hammond: The question is, what am I believing God for and this is a great time to do it in many ways because as we prepare to go into January we talk about the vision for the coming year. It's important to know what we're believing God for what are we looking to God for okay

41

00:06:52.920 --> 00:06:53.610

Ray Hammond: Amen.

42

00:06:54.810 --> 00:06:55.530

Ray Hammond: See

43

00:07:04.500 --> 00:07:10.800

Ray Hammond: Welcome, one and all, we're just putting in the chat. What we're believing God for what we're affirming

44

00:07:12.090 --> 00:07:22.230

Ray Hammond: As a prayer request those make note make known to God. All your prayer request one of those prayer requests, just one of them. We're going to have four weeks so you can get at least for mouth but

45

00:07:22.830 --> 00:07:29.220

Ray Hammond: But this week is the second one, you may have done one last week one of those prayer requests and your family to God.

46

00:07:39.600 --> 00:07:41.760

Ray Hammond: That if you don't mind just typing them into the chat.

47

00:07:53.880 --> 00:08:03.780

Ray Hammond: Okay, sister. Felicia is believing God for continued financial stewardship and I heard her testimony about the blessing. The Lord has given them in this season that

48

00:08:05.130 --> 00:08:09.570

Ray Hammond: Says you know you can you can save an awful lot with a know where to go to eat out and

49

00:08:11.490 --> 00:08:22.740

Ray Hammond: And dry cleaning is this dried up, as it were, and bunch of other things. So data discovering that they're even better situation.

50

00:08:23.640 --> 00:08:38.400

Ray Hammond: For KS mother recover from coven it. Praise God. Absolutely, and ask you to please be in prayer for brother James Williams, who's tested positive and ask the whole church to be in prayer for him. Please keep them in prayer.

51

00:08:39.450 --> 00:08:43.890

Ray Hammond: Got some other Bethel members at least seven that I know of who

52

00:08:45.060 --> 00:08:48.090

Ray Hammond: Are tested tested positive got a call from

53

00:08:49.440 --> 00:08:55.230

Ray Hammond: A member of five members of their family Cobra possum. One of them in the hospital right now.

54

00:08:56.670 --> 00:09:07.200

Ray Hammond: So let's, let's, that's a that's an area deep prayer and God knows that will not be ending in January. We're over the first of the year we will still be praying for that. Any other prayer requests.

55

00:09:07.530 --> 00:09:15.210

Ray Hammond: For better relationship with God with family and friends. Amen. Right stronger community anything else.

56

00:09:23.130 --> 00:09:34.860

Ray Hammond: Praise God. Let's continue to do that. Thank you for sharing it. Oh yes, let's thank God for Pat sister pattern okay success we came for surgery for mastectomy now at home.

57

00:09:35.280 --> 00:09:44.550

Ray Hammond: And recuperating that definitely give God the praise to that amen stronger prayer life commitment. Praise God. We're going to be touching on that just in a moment here.

58

00:09:45.930 --> 00:09:47.790

Ray Hammond: Well, let's let's launch

59

00:09:48.990 --> 00:09:54.960

Ray Hammond: From that platform. I just want to take a moment to review some of the things that

60

00:09:56.190 --> 00:10:14.580

Ray Hammond: Pastor Carrington shared about Mary as the mother of Jesus and maybe one or two people, two or three people, if you could share a highlight a point that really stuck for you from last week studied with regard to to marry.

61

00:10:20.190 --> 00:10:21.690

Ray Hammond: just unmute yourself and

62

00:10:23.130 --> 00:10:27.390

Ray Hammond: Share what what what from that study on the person of Mary

63

00:10:29.580 --> 00:10:30.720

Ray Hammond: Really came home for you.

64

00:10:35.820 --> 00:10:36.870

I think for me.

65

00:10:38.040 --> 00:10:47.040

Felicia Wiltz: It goes beyond just the fact that she was a virgin and I and our sort of notion of what that means.

66

00:10:48.330 --> 00:10:51.090

Felicia Wiltz: That she was committed

67

00:10:51.630 --> 00:10:53.010

Ray Hammond: Hmm, and

68

00:10:54.270 --> 00:10:58.080

Felicia Wiltz: That God knew she was committed that was part of her character God knew her character.

69

00:10:59.220 --> 00:10:59.970

And so

70

00:11:01.080 --> 00:11:04.170

Felicia Wiltz: Reverend Carrington sort of pointed out how

71

00:11:05.490 --> 00:11:18.150

Felicia Wiltz: She was committed through the pregnancy through the birth, all the way you know to his death on the cross, she was there and committed and even afterwards, going to the tomb. She was committed

72

00:11:19.290 --> 00:11:30.540

Felicia Wiltz: So it's more than just her being a virgin and and that's the only you know reason that God would cheat chooser but really looking at her level of commitment.

73

00:11:31.230 --> 00:11:34.800

Ray Hammond: And everyone else. Thank you so much for your

74

00:11:36.960 --> 00:11:41.100

Ray Hammond: Point that really came home for you, maybe as an insight

you hadn't seen before.

75

00:11:50.730 --> 00:11:52.080

TANYA MILLER: Oh wow, you saw that

76

00:11:52.620 --> 00:11:53.100

Well, yeah.

77

00:11:54.960 --> 00:11:56.970

TANYA MILLER: I would just agree that like

78

00:11:58.020 --> 00:12:00.330

TANYA MILLER: Separating her from the

79

00:12:01.560 --> 00:12:07.560

TANYA MILLER: Idea of this you know state because she's a virgin or she's so pure

80

00:12:08.940 --> 00:12:12.300

TANYA MILLER: And just placing her in the midst of

81

00:12:15.030 --> 00:12:17.430

TANYA MILLER: The faith that that that was kind of

82

00:12:19.020 --> 00:12:26.730

TANYA MILLER: childlike or adolescent. Like, if you will, and the fact that it came from the stories of hearing the stories of her past

83

00:12:27.840 --> 00:12:30.450

TANYA MILLER: Because and how that you know

84

00:12:32.280 --> 00:12:47.670

TANYA MILLER: Humbled her um and allowed her to just, like, you know, step out and say this is the God that my ancestors told me about and I just believe what he says, you know, and the fact that that

85

00:12:49.470 --> 00:12:51.420

TANYA MILLER: She didn't

86

00:12:53.640 --> 00:12:54.930

TANYA MILLER: Say, she did it. I'm

87

00:12:56.040 --> 00:13:01.770

TANYA MILLER: A God just loved her because of who she was, it wasn't attached to that she was

88

00:13:02.850 --> 00:13:16.680

TANYA MILLER: Noble, I had this notoriety. She was like a young lady who just grew up with the stories of her past trusted God and was used by God because of her obedience to that message.

89

00:13:18.840 --> 00:13:28.200

TANYA MILLER: I think separating that from the, from the fact that we kind of idolized her as being this great saint because she was a virgin was powerful.

90

00:13:29.070 --> 00:13:32.340

Ray Hammond: Amen. Amen. Well, let me say I

91

00:13:33.750 --> 00:13:36.390

Ray Hammond: Definitely want to underscore those points as you wrote

92

00:13:38.040 --> 00:13:52.650

Ray Hammond: Noted them and and let me share with you. And let me give you the heads up for us to be this Bible study is brought to you by the letter C. Almost all of our points are going to begin with the letter C. I didn't actually plan it that way. Really, this I know I'm guilty sometimes of

93

00:13:54.450 --> 00:14:02.760

Ray Hammond: Over the top alliteration. But in this case, it just kind of worked out that way. So I want to suggest at least five things about Mary that are fascinating.

94

00:14:03.690 --> 00:14:17.850

Ray Hammond: The first of which is she in pastor character really highlighted this beautifully, there is a role for her, not just as a mother, but in many ways a mentor as a presence.

95

00:14:18.240 --> 00:14:26.250

Ray Hammond: In the ministry of Jesus, like other women. And this is one of the powerful things about the whole Gospel story is kind of crucial and an

96

00:14:27.480 --> 00:14:37.290

Ray Hammond: Amazing role that women play so she isn't. She's a carrier in the beginning of life. Right. She carries this child.

97

00:14:38.340 --> 00:14:44.640

Ray Hammond: And will say that and you might even say courageous carrier, as we'll talk about in just a moment. Right.

98

00:14:47.370 --> 00:15:08.520

Ray Hammond: She is a catalyst at the beginning of that ministry, as you recall, we talked about. She's the one who instigates kind of the first miracle, who calls out the need to Jesus, right, and then begins to put others in a place where God can do a miracle.

99

00:15:09.600 --> 00:15:15.960

Ray Hammond: She is also a comforter at the end all she can do is be there, but she's there.

100

00:15:17.430 --> 00:15:23.520

Ray Hammond: You know, quite rightly, will be understood from mother at that point that is no way I could go to my own child's crucifixion.

101

00:15:24.570 --> 00:15:27.990

Ray Hammond: But she's there to be the comforting presence.

102

00:15:29.190 --> 00:15:41.220

Ray Hammond: And, and, as you say, Pastor go used to say this all the time. If you're a serious parent, you weren't born that way, but you will die that way you will never stop being a parent.

103

00:15:42.690 --> 00:15:51.300

Ray Hammond: And so she's the comforter at the end, we know from the biblical record in Acts that she is a congregant in the upper room.

104

00:15:51.900 --> 00:16:04.470

Ray Hammond: She's present among the groups that are praying. So, even

after her son has left the mission. The sun has undertaken the mother is still supporting she's in that upper room.

105

00:16:05.970 --> 00:16:13.440

Ray Hammond: Part of that group that's praying waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. That's going to give birth. Now to the church.

106

00:16:13.740 --> 00:16:29.310

Ray Hammond: She gave birth to the founder. The Holy Spirit is now about to give birth to the church, the body of the founder. All right. And last but not least, and somebody tell me why I'm saying this. She is a chronicler of the gospel.

107

00:16:31.200 --> 00:16:37.770

Ray Hammond: Now, there's no gospel of Mary that we know, written by Mary. But why do I call it are a chronicler of the gospel.

108

00:16:51.390 --> 00:16:52.830

TANYA MILLER: Are you alluding to.

109

00:16:53.910 --> 00:16:58.650

TANYA MILLER: The word she spoke when at the baby leaped in her and she was with me.

110

00:16:58.740 --> 00:17:02.340

Ray Hammond: As well yes and Elizabeth says to her, but think for a minute.

111

00:17:04.770 --> 00:17:08.940

Ray Hammond: Who wrote the story of the Nativity and so on.

112

00:17:13.470 --> 00:17:13.980

TANYA MILLER: Luke.

113

00:17:14.370 --> 00:17:17.070

Ray Hammond: Yeah. Where did he get that information from

114

00:17:21.120 --> 00:17:21.600

TANYA MILLER: Mary

115

00:17:23.310 --> 00:17:24.330

Ray Hammond: Who else is he gonna get it.

116

00:17:26.430 --> 00:17:28.860

Ray Hammond: Ain't nobody else there when Gabriel showed up.

117

00:17:31.170 --> 00:17:37.440

Ray Hammond: Right, nobody else knew all the words. The Gabriel said right here. Not that

118

00:17:38.700 --> 00:17:44.970

Ray Hammond: You know God's favor you're highly woman is highly favored right then, you know, so

119

00:17:47.040 --> 00:17:57.540

Ray Hammond: You know, as far as we can tell, actually, by the time that Jesus is born, his father's not. I mean, by the time his ministry weekends, Joseph is not mentioned quite likely he died.

120

00:17:58.320 --> 00:18:14.250

Ray Hammond: It doesn't say anywhere in the text, but it's very likely that he's died at that point and we have reason to believe again he's older than Marion. So again, it would not be unusual for him to have died by that point. So the person who got all these details is

121

00:18:16.170 --> 00:18:16.770

Felicia Wiltz: It's Mary

122

00:18:17.250 --> 00:18:28.170

Ray Hammond: Mary right Luke is recording the oral story of Mary. Mary chronicles the beginning of this Gospel story.

123

00:18:30.270 --> 00:18:31.440

Ray Hammond: And Luke writes it down.

124

00:18:32.820 --> 00:18:42.900

Ray Hammond: All right, so she is a major figure in this whole process, not just as the mother who gives life.

125

00:18:44.160 --> 00:18:51.990

Ray Hammond: But as best character and said, a woman who plays a critical role in the whole unfolding of this Gospel story.

126

00:18:53.700 --> 00:18:58.560

Ray Hammond: And indeed, as he said the story of Mary is filled with hope and miracles and intimacy with

127

00:18:58.560 --> 00:18:59.160

God

128

00:19:00.450 --> 00:19:03.510

Ray Hammond: But as we said, it's also filled with what

129

00:19:07.080 --> 00:19:08.280

Carole Copeland Thomas: Pain and suffering.

130

00:19:09.570 --> 00:19:15.990

Ray Hammond: suffering and sorrow and I think past Kennedy went on to say that, in fact, perhaps hope.

131

00:19:17.040 --> 00:19:23.190

Ray Hammond: Is the thing that that you find at the intersection of joy and pain.

132

00:19:24.810 --> 00:19:34.710

Ray Hammond: joy and sorrow joy and suffering. Right. Part of what happens as those things intersect can be doesn't have to be. But it can be hope. Right.

133

00:19:35.970 --> 00:19:45.030

Ray Hammond: Now, what we also learned from the life of Mary and what we're looking here at in Matthew and of course it's really Matthew and Luke, who are major

134

00:19:45.510 --> 00:19:50.700

Ray Hammond: chroniclers of what we would call the Christmas story. Mark don't have a word to say about it really.

135

00:19:51.420 --> 00:20:04.260

Ray Hammond: And John's whole picture is theological in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was flesh and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning. All things were made by Him, and on and on and on. Right.

136

00:20:05.280 --> 00:20:24.990

Ray Hammond: So there's nothing in terms of the story elements. He had the, the human side of the story for that we are wholly dependent on both Matthew and Luke. And of course, much of Luke focuses on Mary and and more of Matthew, to some extent, focuses on Joseph

137

00:20:27.120 --> 00:20:35.940

Ray Hammond: And both of them in both those sections. What you you learn is that when God shows up there are decisions to be made.

138

00:20:36.510 --> 00:20:44.910

Ray Hammond: So I always used to say again, be careful what you pray for because you might get it. And when you ask God to show. God, I want you to show up.

139

00:20:45.390 --> 00:20:59.760

Ray Hammond: Right, but know what you asked him for because when God shows up stuff's going to get shaken up things are going, sometimes get turned upside down and I guarantee you, everybody is going to have to make some decisions.

140

00:21:01.980 --> 00:21:06.990

Ray Hammond: Right, so just very quickly. What's the decision that Mary has to make

141

00:21:10.980 --> 00:21:20.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: It. Well, she's not married, you know that the type of Putin. So how's this gonna take place in this conservative society. I mean that's that's a very

142

00:21:22.080 --> 00:21:24.360

Carole Copeland Thomas: Beginning choice to make.

143

00:21:24.840 --> 00:21:26.760

Ray Hammond: So she's got to make a decision.

144

00:21:26.790 --> 00:21:33.120

Ray Hammond: To say yes to this invitation. Yeah, right, to be called out of her name.

145

00:21:34.770 --> 00:21:36.240

Ray Hammond: Right, right.

146

00:21:37.290 --> 00:21:38.340

Ray Hammond: We're all clear about that.

147

00:21:39.750 --> 00:21:40.110

Ray Hammond: Right.

148

00:21:41.160 --> 00:21:52.980

Ray Hammond: And it ain't gonna go away. There's a passage, and I was just meant to look it up. The show there's a passage where the Pharisees say to Jesus. We know who our father is

149

00:21:55.740 --> 00:22:03.900

Ray Hammond: And there the way that it said suggests that the story of Jesus paternity

150

00:22:05.070 --> 00:22:10.980

Ray Hammond: Was still being pushed around and doubted when he started his ministry.

151

00:22:14.850 --> 00:22:19.380

Ray Hammond: So, that ain't going away 30 years later, that's that story is still out there.

152

00:22:20.490 --> 00:22:20.940

Ray Hammond: Alright.

153

00:22:22.350 --> 00:22:24.420

Ray Hammond: Joseph has a decision. What's the decision.

154

00:22:26.910 --> 00:22:37.050

Felicia Wiltz: Whether to quietly divorce her and put her away or to follow what the angel is telling them to do and

155

00:22:38.400 --> 00:22:39.930

Felicia Wiltz: commit to doing this to

156

00:22:39.990 --> 00:22:41.040

Ray Hammond: Absolutely actually has a

157

00:22:41.040 --> 00:22:42.300

Ray Hammond: third choice to

158

00:22:51.690 --> 00:22:53.370

Ray Hammond: Anyone know what the third choices.

159

00:22:55.500 --> 00:22:59.670

Linda Mells: I think it would be to raise Jesus as his own, and train him.

160

00:23:00.780 --> 00:23:02.400

Linda Mells: train him in in a faith.

161

00:23:03.390 --> 00:23:06.840

Ray Hammond: Well, yes, I'm gonna I'm gonna append that to the

162

00:23:07.320 --> 00:23:11.640

Ray Hammond: To the second one. But there's a third one is not as nice as that.

163

00:23:13.200 --> 00:23:14.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: Killer and stoner to death or

164

00:23:15.030 --> 00:23:19.230

Ray Hammond: Daddy, right, yeah. Emily's publicly shamed her

165

00:23:20.190 --> 00:23:22.980

Ray Hammond: Okay, at worst kill her.

166

00:23:25.560 --> 00:23:25.980

Ray Hammond: Right. Alright.

167

00:23:27.570 --> 00:23:28.380

Ray Hammond: That's allowed

168

00:23:29.760 --> 00:23:32.850

Ray Hammond: It's still allowed. Anybody heard of honor killings.

169

00:23:34.290 --> 00:23:34.620

Marie Doubleday: Yeah.

170

00:23:35.580 --> 00:23:37.950

Ray Hammond: My second trip to Israel. We were in a

171

00:23:38.910 --> 00:23:59.340

Ray Hammond: In northern Israel at a home youth home for children and there were several of the girls who were there, they could never go back to their village that I've gotten pregnant or had become sexually active. And when the family found out their brothers were duty bound to kill them.

172

00:24:01.980 --> 00:24:02.520

Ray Hammond: honor killing

173

00:24:05.250 --> 00:24:14.220

Carole Copeland Thomas: Just watch all the Netflix movies that are based in the Middle East. And yeah, it's an all the acid that slowly women's faces.

174

00:24:14.280 --> 00:24:30.240

Ray Hammond: Oh, after and it's it's still across southern South Asia, the Middle East, in parts of Africa, you can still see the phenomena very much at work. All right. So shepherds their decision.

175

00:24:36.990 --> 00:24:43.110

Felicia Wiltz: To leave what they were where we're supposed to be doing attending the flocks and follow

176

00:24:44.250 --> 00:24:45.840

Felicia Wiltz: This star and find this baby.

177

00:24:46.260 --> 00:24:49.560

Ray Hammond: Excellent homeowner in in owner decision.

178

00:24:51.840 --> 00:24:52.320

Marie Doubleday: Tomorrow,

179

00:24:53.850 --> 00:24:54.360

Ray Hammond: What was that

180

00:24:55.170 --> 00:25:02.250

Ray Hammond: Yeah, and and and we can we can be nicer on the homeowner or the in owner, because

181

00:25:03.540 --> 00:25:07.050

Ray Hammond: It's not likely that they put them out.

182

00:25:08.730 --> 00:25:15.780

Ray Hammond: If you go through the text activates more likely they simply put them in the house with the animals which tended to be on the first floor.

183

00:25:16.830 --> 00:25:19.740

Ray Hammond: But the question is, what accommodation. The my God given

184

00:25:21.720 --> 00:25:22.110

Ray Hammond: Right.

185

00:25:23.340 --> 00:25:37.500

Ray Hammond: Is the same issue we face all the time. Am I giving God, the first floor, along with the rest of the stuff in my life. Where does God get the best accommodation. The first place right how about the Wiseman their decision.

186

00:25:41.100 --> 00:25:42.810

Ray Hammond: To tell them, and what else

187

00:25:45.150 --> 00:25:46.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: Telling the truth.

188

00:25:46.650 --> 00:25:47.040

Ray Hammond: You go

189

00:25:48.660 --> 00:25:49.980

Ray Hammond: To I go back to Herod.

190

00:25:50.280 --> 00:25:52.320

Ray Hammond: Like my pay, I get paid.

191

00:25:54.330 --> 00:25:54.810

Ray Hammond: Right.

192

00:25:55.110 --> 00:25:56.370

Christine Sinclair: Or they could have not believed

193

00:25:58.140 --> 00:26:01.380

Ray Hammond: Absolutely. So the first is to believe the second, as you say, is to

194

00:26:01.380 --> 00:26:05.880

Ray Hammond: Find or follow and then do I betray him or not.

195

00:26:07.320 --> 00:26:10.500

Ray Hammond: Right, because if I go back and tell her I'm gonna get paid.

196

00:26:12.930 --> 00:26:16.890

TANYA MILLER: I'm Pastor a innkeepers or the

197

00:26:18.750 --> 00:26:19.170

TANYA MILLER: Data

198

00:26:20.400 --> 00:26:27.420

TANYA MILLER: Are you suggesting. When you say give them the first floor or something more. Are you suggesting that there was no room.

199

00:26:27.780 --> 00:26:33.150

Ray Hammond: Yeah, there's probably an upper room where most of the family stayed with a nicer accommodations were

200

00:26:35.190 --> 00:26:43.710

Marie Doubleday: Weren't. It wasn't a census of something going on right had to go back to the place of birth or something.

201

00:26:44.280 --> 00:26:44.880

Ray Hammond: That's right.

202

00:26:45.360 --> 00:26:49.230

Marie Doubleday: So wouldn't be in the app to be filled.

203

00:26:49.440 --> 00:27:08.880

Ray Hammond: Oh, absolutely. No, no, understand me. I'm. That's what I'm saying. Um, we, I think we sometimes unfair to the homeowner or in owner right but there wasn't choice for somebody to give up their own space for a pregnant woman to deliver right

204

00:27:09.330 --> 00:27:09.870

Gotcha.

205

00:27:10.920 --> 00:27:13.050

Ray Hammond: And that's what I'm talking about in terms of the priorities.

206

00:27:14.670 --> 00:27:17.280

TANYA MILLER: Right there was. It was a culture of hospitality.

207

00:27:17.340 --> 00:27:19.080

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. Mm hmm.

208

00:27:21.300 --> 00:27:24.960

Ray Hammond: Herod had a choice and had to make a decision. What was that

209

00:27:26.850 --> 00:27:30.600

Marie Doubleday: To murder or not to murder the babies babies.

210

00:27:30.960 --> 00:27:31.500

Okay.

211

00:27:32.760 --> 00:27:36.240

Ray Hammond: And ultimately Caesar has a choice.

212

00:27:37.800 --> 00:27:38.460

Ray Hammond: Why is that

213

00:27:41.340 --> 00:27:51.600

Felicia Wiltz: Because these are as the Roman leader could have made the choice to say that. And he said, This man has done nothing wrong find nothing wrong with him. He could have made the choice that like, ya know, let him go.

214

00:27:53.220 --> 00:27:56.760

Ray Hammond: And that this is incense sees his power, represented by punches pilot

215

00:27:57.870 --> 00:28:02.670

Ray Hammond: But even at that point. Here's an interesting point. And you may have heard this, but just to remind you,

216

00:28:03.210 --> 00:28:20.010

Ray Hammond: Remember that part of the reason the early Trish understood the risk and what they were doing was that they were calling Jesus, Son of God, when most of the or many of the Caesars called themselves the Son of God.

217

00:28:22.680 --> 00:28:24.570

Ray Hammond: So you are proclaiming this

218

00:28:25.620 --> 00:28:43.980

Ray Hammond: Carpenter Jewish Carpenter from this backwater Palestine Galilee place is his Son of God, at the very time that the most powerful person in that part of the world. I mean a whole empire is also calling themselves the Son of God.

219

00:28:46.200 --> 00:28:49.170

Ray Hammond: So the question is, who's the real Son of God.

220

00:28:51.720 --> 00:28:52.440

Ray Hammond: All right.

221

00:28:53.670 --> 00:29:04.020

Ray Hammond: When God shows up. They're going to be decisions that have to be made and what we all know is that those decisions always have serious consequences. Am I correct

222

00:29:05.280 --> 00:29:08.880

Ray Hammond: And we celebrate Mary's I completely agree with you, not

223

00:29:10.020 --> 00:29:17.220

Ray Hammond: Solely Remax primarily because she's a virgin. We celebrate married because she is a risk taker.

224

00:29:18.630 --> 00:29:20.550

Ray Hammond: Mary risks her love.

225

00:29:21.990 --> 00:29:24.720

Ray Hammond: Because she's gonna lose Joseph if she says yes to God.

226

00:29:26.880 --> 00:29:29.820

Ray Hammond: That she doesn't lose Joseph is a miracle.

227

00:29:31.860 --> 00:29:34.380

Ray Hammond: So she puts her love on the line.

228

00:29:35.490 --> 00:29:41.940

Ray Hammond: And she puts her life on the line. And I would say that that's true for at least three reasons.

229

00:29:43.380 --> 00:29:46.800

Ray Hammond: To be pregnant is to put your life on the line for another

230

00:29:48.390 --> 00:29:54.090

Ray Hammond: Particularly in that day and time. And as we all know, now it's still true maternal

231

00:29:55.860 --> 00:30:01.380

Ray Hammond: Mortality is much better than it wasn't Mary's day but is still a big issue.

232

00:30:03.600 --> 00:30:10.020

Ray Hammond: Secondly, to as we talked about already. There was the potential community reprisal

233

00:30:11.070 --> 00:30:25.320

Ray Hammond: She could be the victim of an honor killing and although she's not as clear about it. But when you listen to her song she understands that the coming of this Savior is going to disrupt the present order.

234

00:30:26.670 --> 00:30:29.940

Ray Hammond: She talks about the Mighty and the high being brought down.

235

00:30:31.050 --> 00:30:47.040

Ray Hammond: And so she's got reason to believe that she doesn't know the details that there are political reprisals. And by the time that child is just about a toddler she sees it, she has to leave home become a refugee to protect her child.

236

00:30:51.540 --> 00:31:02.100

Ray Hammond: Alright, so we rightly celebrate married as as someone who literally puts it all on the line first for God.

237

00:31:02.760 --> 00:31:15.060

Ray Hammond: And then for this child and this calling and this ministry that God has given her this choice that God has given her this decision that God has called it to me. She puts everything on the line for it.

238

00:31:16.530 --> 00:31:22.290

Ray Hammond: All right. Let's talk now if we can also about her partner in this a man by the name of Joseph

239

00:31:23.580 --> 00:31:35.250

Ray Hammond: And I want to suggest that if we look at the scriptures and I've asked everybody to read 118 to 25 and Can somebody read that for us right now.

240

00:31:37.740 --> 00:31:39.510

Ray Hammond: Volunteer short

241

00:31:40.680 --> 00:31:42.660

TANYA MILLER: Which which book. Are we in. Did you say

242

00:31:43.110 --> 00:31:44.700

Ray Hammond: Matthew chapter one.

243

00:32:02.910 --> 00:32:03.450

Ray Hammond: I gotta read

244

00:32:06.630 --> 00:32:08.370

Ray Hammond: Verses 18 to 25

245

00:32:09.270 --> 00:32:09.990

Felicia Wiltz: Yeah but Tanya.

246

00:32:12.180 --> 00:32:13.230

Linda Mells: I have I have it.

247

00:32:13.830 --> 00:32:17.130

Linda Mells: Okay. Laughter 118 to 25

248

00:32:17.160 --> 00:32:18.840

Ray Hammond: Yes. And what translation. Are you eating.

249

00:32:19.560 --> 00:32:20.460

Linda Mells: It's an IV.

250

00:32:20.730 --> 00:32:21.900

Ray Hammond: IV. That's great. Go ahead.

251

00:32:24.150 --> 00:32:32.130

Linda Mells: The birth of Jesus Christ. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph

252

00:32:32.580 --> 00:32:46.980

Linda Mells: But before they came together. She was found to be the child through the Holy Spirit because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace. He had in mind to divorce her quietly.

253

00:32:48.330 --> 00:32:58.470

Linda Mells: But after he had considered this an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.

254

00:32:58.920 --> 00:33:07.500

Linda Mells: Because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you want to give him the name Jesus

255

00:33:08.010 --> 00:33:19.620

Linda Mells: Because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son.

256

00:33:20.640 --> 00:33:21.240

Linda Mells: And they

257

00:33:23.370 --> 00:33:42.990

Linda Mells: Will call him Emmanuel, which means God with us with Joseph woke up, he did what an angel. What the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife, but he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son and he gave him the name Jesus. Okay.

258

00:33:43.950 --> 00:33:50.610

Ray Hammond: Now, so in six sure eight. I'm sorry, eight short verses. I want to suggest we learn

259

00:33:53.400 --> 00:34:04.110

Ray Hammond: Six crucial things about the character and the nature of a man named Joseph and I hope you have time to get through all them, I'ma give them all to you right now and let's try to see if we can get through them and

260

00:34:04.920 --> 00:34:08.100

Ray Hammond: I want to suggest that Joseph is a man of commitment.

261

00:34:11.310 --> 00:34:13.830

Ray Hammond: Joseph is a man of correctness.

262

00:34:17.520 --> 00:34:19.440

Ray Hammond: Joseph is a man of compassion.

263

00:34:23.460 --> 00:34:25.620

Ray Hammond: Joseph is a man of communication.

264

00:34:28.860 --> 00:34:30.780

Ray Hammond: He's a man of compliance.

265

00:34:33.060 --> 00:34:34.260

Ray Hammond: And he's a man of courage.

266

00:34:35.430 --> 00:34:39.960

Ray Hammond: Honestly, I did not look out I didn't run around looking for the seat.

267

00:34:41.520 --> 00:34:42.150

Ray Hammond: In the chat.

268

00:34:45.750 --> 00:34:46.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: Pastor what

269

00:34:47.250 --> 00:34:49.320

Carole Copeland Thomas: What age was Joseph at this time.

270

00:34:49.560 --> 00:34:55.890

Ray Hammond: It's a good question. And we don't know. It is not a lot in the texts that would necessarily tell us, but there's some in

271

00:34:56.970 --> 00:34:59.370

Ray Hammond: Both by the fact that he's not there later, which

272

00:34:59.370 --> 00:35:01.050

Ray Hammond: Suggested to some people. He might

273

00:35:01.080 --> 00:35:04.230

Ray Hammond: Might have been older and the fact that we know it was not uncommon.

274

00:35:05.130 --> 00:35:06.720

Ray Hammond: For older men and by

275

00:35:06.750 --> 00:35:10.020

Ray Hammond: Older here, Mary is, you know,

276

00:35:11.040 --> 00:35:12.060

Ray Hammond: 1516

277

00:35:12.270 --> 00:35:17.880

Ray Hammond: Really a teenager he could well have been in his mid 20s or even 30 early 30s.

278

00:35:18.900 --> 00:35:23.490

Ray Hammond: And given that the average life expectancy was about 40 to 45 years

279

00:35:24.720 --> 00:35:25.470

Ray Hammond: You don't have long

280

00:35:26.940 --> 00:35:33.750

Ray Hammond: Right now, people could live to a ripe old age is. But that was not the averages, just because of infectious diseases other

281

00:35:34.680 --> 00:35:44.460

Ray Hammond: Conditions and so on. So, and as I say, the fact that he's not mentioned at all. Later in the ministry of Jesus suggests that he he died by that wasn't married was a widow.

282

00:35:45.420 --> 00:35:53.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: At that time, where they just. He was a Jew, what was the practice just to have one wife.

283

00:35:55.830 --> 00:36:00.480

Ray Hammond: Well, most people couldn't afford more than one. Okay.
Yeah, right.

284

00:36:02.100 --> 00:36:04.680

Ray Hammond: He will whatever you want to do. You couldn't afford it.

285

00:36:04.710 --> 00:36:05.190

So,

286

00:36:06.210 --> 00:36:16.440

Ray Hammond: So, you certainly could have it was more, it seems, even among the kings and other people, they tended to have at least one wife at a time.

287

00:36:19.260 --> 00:36:24.990

Ray Hammond: So that that practice of sort of polygamy seems to have been less frequent at that point.

288

00:36:26.460 --> 00:36:26.820

Ray Hammond: And is

289

00:36:27.150 --> 00:36:27.960

Ray Hammond: not unheard of.

290

00:36:29.700 --> 00:36:33.480

TANYA MILLER: But what this have been his like second or third wife. I mean, you

291

00:36:33.600 --> 00:36:35.640

TANYA MILLER: You thinking that he's 30 or 20

292

00:36:36.330 --> 00:36:38.460

Ray Hammond: Not necessarily. It might have been his first

293

00:36:40.710 --> 00:36:44.580

Ray Hammond: You know, people certainly men could get married younger, but they didn't necessarily

294

00:36:45.840 --> 00:36:47.550

TANYA MILLER: Oh commitment issues. Even then,

295

00:36:48.240 --> 00:36:48.600

Sorry.

296

00:36:49.650 --> 00:36:50.730

TANYA MILLER: Just joking are

297

00:36:52.170 --> 00:36:58.560

Marie Doubleday: Part of the culture that that men were typically twice the agent women.

298

00:37:00.270 --> 00:37:08.850

Ray Hammond: Yeah. Well, I mean, again, depending on the place in which you work. So, for example, one of the challenge for men. Some time is it, you had to have

299

00:37:09.870 --> 00:37:16.770

Ray Hammond: Before a father would give you his daughter's hand. You had to have some you have some indication that you were stable, you had a job.

300

00:37:17.760 --> 00:37:29.430

Ray Hammond: You had a house or a farm or something. In some cases, you could provide a dowry. This is a problem because it's gone. I thought about this on somewhere where where

301

00:37:29.880 --> 00:37:36.870

Ray Hammond: It was a real challenge for a lot of young men to get married because they didn't have a another dowry, and you've got to be able to

302

00:37:37.440 --> 00:37:49.620

Ray Hammond: You know, show that you've got some substance. So again, it wasn't uncommon for men to be further along because they had to actually jump through a few hoops before they were considered marriageable

303

00:37:54.150 --> 00:38:06.030

Ray Hammond: So here's Joseph I call him a man of commitment because the fact that he was as a script is decided to be trolled that

304

00:38:07.200 --> 00:38:08.910

Ray Hammond: To marry already says a lot

305

00:38:10.530 --> 00:38:17.790

Ray Hammond: As. Let me read to you what one scholars written up to our Western way of thinking the relationships in this passage are very bewildering.

306

00:38:18.180 --> 00:38:28.440

Ray Hammond: But they represented the normal Jewish marriage procedure that time, which had three steps. There was engagement and that could occur when the couple were only children.

307

00:38:29.250 --> 00:38:38.910

Ray Hammond: Often concluded by parents or even through a professional matchmaker. Step one. Then there was betrothal

308

00:38:39.540 --> 00:38:51.630

Ray Hammond: At this point, and again. All of this could have various conditions associated with it, and so on. There was betrothal at this point the engagement could be broken up. The girl was unwilling to go on with it.

309

00:38:52.200 --> 00:39:02.310

Ray Hammond: But once the betrayal that was entered into. He was absolutely binding it lasted for one year during that you have a couple is known as man and wife.

310

00:39:03.750 --> 00:39:19.560

Ray Hammond: And they could and often did share the same living quarters, but they were not to have sexual relationships until. Step three. And facets of this actually even if you go to look at marriage practices, even in early New England.

311

00:39:21.210 --> 00:39:27.450

Ray Hammond: There are similar things where once people that are in the troll. They can actually move one could move into the parents house.

312

00:39:27.840 --> 00:39:36.570

Ray Hammond: But if they set them the bed. There was a bed board between them and all that kind of stuff. So these are not as I say, old, old practices.

313

00:39:37.410 --> 00:39:47.250

Ray Hammond: They were not to have sexual relationships is still step three, which was the marriage proper and that took place at the end of the year of the travel so they are in step two.

314

00:39:47.820 --> 00:40:02.610

Ray Hammond: Of the process. So he's made a commitment in the sense that they've gone through engagement. He's now in a binding relationship there in that one year period prior to the marriage proper

315

00:40:03.780 --> 00:40:09.210

Ray Hammond: And it's clear that Joseph had committed to it was very much committed to it.

316

00:40:10.680 --> 00:40:12.750

Ray Hammond: You know with all of his heart.

317

00:40:14.910 --> 00:40:27.810

Ray Hammond: So on that basis we can really say this is a guy who didn't suffer from their problem. Tanya which which which I concur is sometimes a real challenge, right, but others have real struggle with this.

318

00:40:29.100 --> 00:40:36.270

Ray Hammond: But we know from God's vantage point, this is powerful and critical. So in Psalm 1825

319

00:40:37.650 --> 00:40:39.150

Ray Hammond: To the faithful

320

00:40:40.470 --> 00:41:00.120

Ray Hammond: To the committed to those who stick with it, you show yourself faithful to the blameless you show yourself blameless. Some one on one, six even more clearly. My eyes will be on the faithful in the land that they may dwell with me the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me.

321

00:41:01.350 --> 00:41:09.690

Ray Hammond: Now, or first Corinthians four verse two, it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful

322

00:41:11.070 --> 00:41:11.400

Right.

323

00:41:12.840 --> 00:41:26.340

Ray Hammond: And Joseph comes to this relationship with a commitment and the text says he's been he's he's held up his end of the bargain. He's looking forward to a relationship. Now here's the deal.

324

00:41:28.200 --> 00:41:34.620

Ray Hammond: Remember, Mary gets the message, go see your sister, your cousin, Elizabeth.

325

00:41:35.940 --> 00:41:45.450

Ray Hammond: Mary. Now we, it doesn't. The way that the text reads it doesn't suggest at all that there's any conversation between her and Joseph

326

00:41:46.050 --> 00:41:59.940

Ray Hammond: Prior to her departure, although that might have been maybe, maybe it was maybe they had some conversation. But in any case, she goes up to Elizabeth. Elizabeth affirms the message and then she comes back home.

327

00:42:01.200 --> 00:42:04.920

Ray Hammond: And I have no idea what the conversation was between them.

328

00:42:06.510 --> 00:42:16.890

Ray Hammond: I don't know what Mary said to Joseph. I don't know what she came back and said, well, Joseph. I just can't tell you what great news. I have for you.

329

00:42:17.970 --> 00:42:32.490

Ray Hammond: I am with child by the Holy Spirit. And I just, I know I've been gone but I just got back from from Elizabeth house and I am with child by the Holy Spirit to which Joseph response would be, what

330

00:42:41.280 --> 00:42:43.710

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is Bible study. So we really can't say

331

00:42:45.150 --> 00:42:46.680

Carole Copeland Thomas: What a black man would say

332

00:42:49.590 --> 00:42:54.660

Ray Hammond: Organized version of would be. I was born at night, but not last night.

333

00:42:57.570 --> 00:42:58.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah.

334

00:42:59.610 --> 00:43:00.060

Ray Hammond: Right.

335

00:43:03.600 --> 00:43:20.400

Ray Hammond: Just for a minute. Put yourself in Joseph shoes, the person, the woman to whom you've been patrol. Now you're you're in this committed and binding relationship in the middle of it shows up and tells you, I'm pregnant. And it's the Holy Ghost.

336

00:43:24.150 --> 00:43:39.240

TANYA MILLER: What do you have even listen to her. I mean, given that age and she's a woman like what do you have actually listened to her. What do you, I mean to kairos point he might have said some choice words. But what do you be like what he listened. She's

337

00:43:42.090 --> 00:43:43.650

Ray Hammond: Well, ask yourself, would you listen

338

00:43:46.620 --> 00:43:46.860

TANYA MILLER: No.

339

00:43:47.310 --> 00:43:47.850

No.

340

00:43:52.830 --> 00:43:55.860

Ray Hammond: Say, she's a grown woman right so she's your age. Right.

341

00:43:55.920 --> 00:43:56.760

Ray Hammond: Would you listen

342

00:43:59.280 --> 00:44:02.790

TANYA MILLER: Know that that's why I asked, she's not a grown woman and

343

00:44:04.050 --> 00:44:07.950

TANYA MILLER: She's a woman and she's a child. And I know that whole time I've been like

344

00:44:09.000 --> 00:44:10.320

TANYA MILLER: Maybe you lost your mom.

345

00:44:10.800 --> 00:44:11.430

Ray Hammond: There you go.

346

00:44:13.200 --> 00:44:16.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: To die. And boy, she's dying. Laughing

347

00:44:24.810 --> 00:44:25.140

Ray Hammond: Right.

348

00:44:25.710 --> 00:44:32.310

Joyce Marshall: He might have been really hurt to. I mean, you might have been really angry, but he might have just been really hurt that she would do that to them.

349

00:44:32.580 --> 00:44:43.050

Ray Hammond: Yeah, well, look, first I'm upset I'm committed and I've been committed myself to this really for first off you come up pregnant.

350

00:44:45.900 --> 00:44:48.120

Ray Hammond: You tell me this story about it. The

351

00:44:53.400 --> 00:44:54.360

Ray Hammond: Buddha for

352

00:44:55.440 --> 00:44:56.940

Felicia Wiltz: farfetch. It really does.

353

00:44:59.730 --> 00:45:00.180

Ray Hammond: Right.

354

00:45:02.190 --> 00:45:04.860

Ray Hammond: So you don't just come back from Elizabeth

355

00:45:05.310 --> 00:45:06.210

Felicia Wiltz: I don't know where you been

356

00:45:07.320 --> 00:45:08.100

Ray Hammond: Where you been

357

00:45:09.540 --> 00:45:10.710

Linda Mells: What you've been doing

358

00:45:11.010 --> 00:45:12.660

Ray Hammond: Right, and who you've been doing it with

359

00:45:16.350 --> 00:45:19.230

Ray Hammond: All right, so put yourself with second in his place.

360

00:45:21.390 --> 00:45:22.950

Ray Hammond: And ask yourself now.

361

00:45:24.540 --> 00:45:32.340

Ray Hammond: Could I, how would I have responded, If the person to whom I'm betrothed and engage showed up with that story.

362

00:45:33.540 --> 00:45:34.560

Ray Hammond: Or that situation.

363

00:45:36.960 --> 00:45:38.760

Ray Hammond: And this is why I think

364

00:45:40.650 --> 00:45:47.550

Ray Hammond: Joseph in his own way is is also very extraordinary and very different

365

00:45:49.350 --> 00:45:57.240

Ray Hammond: Right. And the Bible says this in a couple different ways. And let me just read it, I want to share a couple of translations here with you.

366

00:45:58.860 --> 00:46:00.450

Ray Hammond: We heard the end IV.

367

00:46:01.740 --> 00:46:02.820

Ray Hammond: Thank you for that.

368

00:46:05.040 --> 00:46:09.870

Ray Hammond: Let's see. And that's to be found in side just coming down. Okay, so

369

00:46:13.650 --> 00:46:14.070

All right.

370

00:46:18.240 --> 00:46:21.810

Ray Hammond: All right. Um, so it says here, because

371

00:46:30.660 --> 00:46:31.860

TANYA MILLER: What version. Are you looking at

372

00:46:32.160 --> 00:46:34.980

Ray Hammond: I'm looking at the nav for is just to read to reiterate that

373

00:46:35.430 --> 00:46:38.460

Ray Hammond: Was Joseph her husband was faithful to the law.

374

00:46:38.880 --> 00:46:49.260

Ray Hammond: And yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, which is what the law required, up to and including public stoning

375

00:46:50.640 --> 00:46:51.090

Ray Hammond: Right.

376

00:46:52.830 --> 00:46:55.980

Ray Hammond: He had in mind to divorce require

377

00:46:57.570 --> 00:46:58.080

Ray Hammond: All right.

378

00:46:59.370 --> 00:47:03.990

Ray Hammond: If you go over to the good news translation. It reads this way.

379

00:47:10.590 --> 00:47:14.160

Ray Hammond: Joseph was a man who always did what was right.

380

00:47:17.640 --> 00:47:26.550

Ray Hammond: But he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly. So he made plans to break the engagement privately.

381

00:47:28.650 --> 00:47:29.100

Ray Hammond: All right.

382

00:47:30.570 --> 00:47:32.370

Ray Hammond: If you, if you look at the

383

00:47:34.200 --> 00:47:34.740

Just trying

384

00:47:36.210 --> 00:47:37.890

Ray Hammond: Mind these verses. All right.

385

00:47:41.370 --> 00:47:54.240

Ray Hammond: In fact, that listen away the message reads at the birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph before they came to the marriage bed Joseph discovered she was pregnant.

386

00:47:55.140 --> 00:48:11.400

Ray Hammond: It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that Joseph chagrined but noble determined to take care of things quietly. So Mary would not be disgrace and then and the NR is fi. It says

387

00:48:12.960 --> 00:48:19.530

Ray Hammond: Her husband Joseph being a righteous man and unwilling to expose it a public disgrace plan to dismiss her quietly.

388

00:48:24.120 --> 00:48:38.370

Joyce Marshall: How is he going to dismiss her privately or quietly. I mean, everybody knows they're they're engaged. How would he do that quietly and then would he would he be in any trouble for not following the rules that he's supposed to follow.

389

00:48:40.110 --> 00:48:46.860

Ray Hammond: That I can't tell you exactly how do we use to take care of these quietly in the past. Anybody remember

390

00:48:47.850 --> 00:48:50.130

TANYA MILLER: You sent her to live with somebody else.

391

00:48:51.060 --> 00:48:52.440

Ray Hammond: Right, what happens

392

00:48:53.700 --> 00:48:53.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: And

393

00:48:54.180 --> 00:48:57.360

Carole Copeland Thomas: She's and then the baby gets adopted by somebody in the

394

00:48:57.360 --> 00:48:58.860

Ray Hammond: Family where you go.

395

00:48:59.010 --> 00:49:00.180

Ray Hammond: And come back with a cousin.

396

00:49:00.480 --> 00:49:02.040

Felicia Wiltz: Yeah, MAC, MAC,

397

00:49:02.820 --> 00:49:04.020

Carole Copeland Thomas: Immaculate Conception.

398

00:49:04.260 --> 00:49:07.080

Felicia Wiltz: Right, we should come back without a baby.

399

00:49:07.170 --> 00:49:08.850

Felicia Wiltz: So wouldn't know that

400

00:49:09.120 --> 00:49:09.810

Carole Copeland Thomas: She was actually

401

00:49:10.680 --> 00:49:15.480

Ray Hammond: There you go. That's how you handle this quietly. That's how it is used to get handled. Amen.

402

00:49:16.200 --> 00:49:21.450

Ray Hammond: Still gets handled. Sometimes it's done that way sometimes and you don't find out till the funeral.

403

00:49:22.860 --> 00:49:23.280

Felicia Wiltz: Right.

404

00:49:26.040 --> 00:49:27.810

Ray Hammond: Like to lie in the obituary

405

00:49:29.040 --> 00:49:32.040

Felicia Wiltz: DNA. Now, you find out now that john

406

00:49:34.290 --> 00:49:35.400

Ray Hammond: 23 and me and

407

00:49:35.400 --> 00:49:36.690

Carole Copeland Thomas: All that's right, yeah.

408

00:49:36.720 --> 00:49:40.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: That's why some people are totally traumatized

by those

409

00:49:41.820 --> 00:49:43.110

Ray Hammond: DNA test. That's true.

410

00:49:43.140 --> 00:49:44.970

Joyce Marshall: That's exactly right. No, but I mean,

411

00:49:45.120 --> 00:49:47.190

Ray Hammond: In some ways to handle this.

412

00:49:47.190 --> 00:49:47.970

Quietly

413

00:49:48.990 --> 00:49:58.050

Joyce Marshall: Well, in this case, though, she would be going to. I mean, other neighbor who had might not know that she was pregnant, but the family would know.

414

00:49:58.770 --> 00:50:09.630

Ray Hammond: I mean, yeah, preferably the family would not do an honor killing or something like that terribly shamed and disgrace, but they wouldn't want to be publicly exposed either

415

00:50:10.110 --> 00:50:12.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know, speaking of that, too. And my father died.

416

00:50:13.980 --> 00:50:26.100

Carole Copeland Thomas: In his hometown newspaper. This was 1991 we had to put an ad. My brother and I had to put an ad in the paper of his death in just in case he had some other children.

417

00:50:27.030 --> 00:50:41.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: And so I'm just going along with all the surprises that you can have. He didn't have any other children, but just thinking about all the surprises funeral announcements and other ways where people find out that your cousin really is your baby sister or whatever.

418

00:50:45.270 --> 00:50:50.460

Ray Hammond: Well, I used in this case I use the term correctness because of the had to see in it.

419

00:50:51.060 --> 00:50:55.170

Ray Hammond: But, but, but the other thing that I really want to emphasize

420

00:50:56.310 --> 00:51:07.350

Ray Hammond: Is, is it goes along with that third see have compassion, because from the biblical vantage point, you cannot be holy and be unloving

421

00:51:12.030 --> 00:51:14.100

Ray Hammond: So the measure of Joseph's

422

00:51:16.470 --> 00:51:22.890

Ray Hammond: Holiness was not that he observed every line and

423

00:51:25.350 --> 00:51:30.810

Ray Hammond: You know footnote of the law because the law said he could publicly expose her and ever kill

424

00:51:31.830 --> 00:51:42.630

Ray Hammond: It was that his love for the law and the truth of God was combined with his love for her and the God who made her

425

00:51:44.010 --> 00:51:45.660

Ray Hammond: That's holiness.

426

00:51:46.830 --> 00:51:57.990

Ray Hammond: And that's what we often miss in the church. There is no holiness without love. There is no righteousness without compassion.

427

00:52:01.500 --> 00:52:02.250

Ray Hammond: Go ahead, I'm sorry.

428

00:52:02.610 --> 00:52:11.310

Ray Hammond: No, no today just to the point. People say, and you were not absolved from that because you're hurt.

429

00:52:12.510 --> 00:52:12.780

Right.

430

00:52:13.950 --> 00:52:24.570

Ray Hammond: Right and and it was every reason to believe he would be deeply hurt and he should have been he should have felt that with nothing wrong with it, but you're not absolved from compassion because you're hurt.

431

00:52:26.370 --> 00:52:27.180

Ray Hammond: I'm sorry, Tanya.

432

00:52:27.630 --> 00:52:29.160

TANYA MILLER: That's okay. Um,

433

00:52:31.260 --> 00:52:41.910

TANYA MILLER: It's so I've always was, like, like if he's such a holy man. Why did he wanted to force, sir. I'm like, why didn't he just stick with her from the beginning.

434

00:52:42.420 --> 00:52:46.920

Ray Hammond: Oh yeah, that's the question. No, no. You follow that through because I'm gonna ask everybody about that.

435

00:52:48.120 --> 00:52:51.300

TANYA MILLER: Well, that's just my question. I mean, like we we

436

00:52:51.630 --> 00:52:52.800

TANYA MILLER: Put him out there.

437

00:52:53.010 --> 00:52:59.730

TANYA MILLER: And I'm not saying like, I appreciate that he wanted to do it quietly, you know, Joseph could have been

438

00:53:01.620 --> 00:53:06.930

TANYA MILLER: His his cousins twin Elizabeth, could have had twins, but she didn't. Thankfully, I'm

439

00:53:07.980 --> 00:53:13.860

TANYA MILLER: So what, but why didn't he just stick with it. Like, why didn't he make up his mind to stick with her.

440

00:53:14.460 --> 00:53:15.540

TANYA MILLER: Because she would have been

441

00:53:16.710 --> 00:53:17.550

TANYA MILLER: Without money.

442

00:53:18.600 --> 00:53:19.560

Ray Hammond: Why should he do that.

443

00:53:20.580 --> 00:53:21.330

TANYA MILLER: Why should

444

00:53:21.420 --> 00:53:25.350

Ray Hammond: Hit I've kept my end of the bargain. I've been faithful in this relationship.

445

00:53:26.760 --> 00:53:32.640

Ray Hammond: You showed a pregnant and you're telling me some story about the Holy Ghost doing this.

446

00:53:34.290 --> 00:53:36.120

TANYA MILLER: Because she's a woman and because

447

00:53:37.470 --> 00:53:40.380

TANYA MILLER: She would have, you know, not been on

448

00:53:40.470 --> 00:53:41.880

Ray Hammond: You can go back to your family.

449

00:53:43.680 --> 00:53:55.200

Felicia Wiltz: But wouldn't, wouldn't that also if he said, Okay, I'm gonna stick with her, she gets pregnant. They haven't reached that third stage of marriage proper

450

00:53:55.920 --> 00:54:05.760

Felicia Wiltz: Then, wouldn't the community even be looking at him like, dude, so you slept with her because the second the patrol stay. You're not supposed to sleep with her.

451

00:54:07.080 --> 00:54:10.650

Ray Hammond: Right, so he's suspect to but I'm just saying this is why the whole thing's gotta get him.

452

00:54:10.680 --> 00:54:12.570

Ray Hammond: Quietly, she got to go back to back to

453

00:54:12.630 --> 00:54:13.710

Felicia Wiltz: Back to Elizabeth

454

00:54:14.580 --> 00:54:15.690

Ray Hammond: Had a baby.

455

00:54:15.780 --> 00:54:16.320

Felicia Wiltz: Hey, come on.

456

00:54:17.400 --> 00:54:18.360

Ray Hammond: Back with her cousin.

457

00:54:18.540 --> 00:54:19.290

Felicia Wiltz: Yeah yeah

458

00:54:20.730 --> 00:54:26.820

Christine Sinclair: It isn't. But it is a natural response, maybe

459

00:54:28.320 --> 00:54:34.560

Christine Sinclair: Maybe for most Tanya to your question, I, why didn't he just stick with her from the beginning like

460

00:54:36.060 --> 00:54:42.390

Christine Sinclair: It's a natural response to to be like, What is going on here. Right. What are you talking about

461

00:54:43.530 --> 00:54:43.950

Christine Sinclair: Right.

462

00:54:45.210 --> 00:54:48.870

Christine Sinclair: But we'll see. But even after the matter is that he's still

463

00:54:49.170 --> 00:54:50.130

Christine Sinclair: Stuck with her.

464

00:54:50.940 --> 00:54:53.040

Ray Hammond: All right, now I'm, I'm gonna flip this a little bit.

465

00:54:53.100 --> 00:54:53.610

Felicia Wiltz: Because I think

466

00:54:54.390 --> 00:54:54.900

Felicia Wiltz: I think I'm

467

00:54:55.410 --> 00:54:56.370

Ray Hammond: Good. I'm so sleepy.

468

00:54:56.700 --> 00:54:58.020

Felicia Wiltz: I think also pastor like

469

00:54:59.100 --> 00:55:05.970

Felicia Wiltz: It's Sean were to come to me and say, well, my girlfriend says she's pregnant and she got pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

470

00:55:07.590 --> 00:55:08.310

Ray Hammond: ALL RIGHT, MAMA.

471

00:55:08.340 --> 00:55:09.420

What you gonna tell Shawn

472

00:55:10.650 --> 00:55:12.420

Felicia Wiltz: Ray, you need to get a

473

00:55:12.420 --> 00:55:13.110

DNA.

474

00:55:14.970 --> 00:55:16.920

Ray Hammond: All right, Mama, which will tell, Sean.

475

00:55:16.950 --> 00:55:23.220

Felicia Wiltz: Seriously, because I'd be like, Okay. Is this some kind of trap and then the real father long show up later and

476

00:55:24.660 --> 00:55:25.650

Felicia Wiltz: So much a mess.

477

00:55:26.700 --> 00:55:29.970

Ray Hammond: And if the DNA come back at today Sean, what you gonna say mama.

478

00:55:30.060 --> 00:55:31.440

Felicia Wiltz: Exactly. You ain't married this girl.

479

00:55:32.550 --> 00:55:45.180

Felicia Wiltz: Me marry this guy. So to me it's like I'm remember I think all of this occurs before Joseph has the dream before the that the angel comes to him.

480

00:55:45.330 --> 00:55:51.030

Felicia Wiltz: Absolutely. Oh, he's trying to process this on his own, which I give him a lot of credit

481

00:55:51.810 --> 00:56:03.630

Felicia Wiltz: For not jumping to the conclusion of okay she's misleading somebody else that's just stoner he didn't jump there. And that's a testament to not only his compassion. But how much he actually cares about this woman.

482

00:56:05.040 --> 00:56:11.700

Felicia Wiltz: That he cares about her enough to just do it quietly in a quiet way where she would not be harmed.

483

00:56:13.140 --> 00:56:20.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: Me. Anyway, you look at this also is his name

is now going to be in many ways, dragged in the mud.

484

00:56:20.340 --> 00:56:32.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: Exactly, because of what happened to his patrols to his wife to be his fiance. So I mean, even if he threw away and didn't marry her, there would still be that stigma.

485

00:56:33.420 --> 00:56:52.200

Carole Copeland Thomas: That may have carried through his entire life. Obviously hers, but his entire life. Those are close communities there and one choice can stay with you. Reputation wise for the rest of your life. And remember those women had very few options. Very few.

486

00:56:54.090 --> 00:57:04.170

TANYA MILLER: Yeah, I guess the reason why I want him to just marry her, and not think about divorcing her is because I want him to be a superhero man like we made

487

00:57:04.890 --> 00:57:16.620

TANYA MILLER: I'm married to be a superhuman woman because of her virginity. But if you divorce that virginity. The sainthood that we put to marry, then you can't add anything to Joseph either

488

00:57:16.980 --> 00:57:21.090

Ray Hammond: Well, and let me ask this question. I mean, I really am throw this out as a question.

489

00:57:22.980 --> 00:57:33.090

Ray Hammond: Is what Joseph doing here. The wives course if someone you ain't heard nothing from God about know virgin birth.

490

00:57:35.400 --> 00:57:42.120

Ray Hammond: And somebody you love. In fact, let's flip this because the system has been talking to brother. Y'all got to get in this conversation right

491

00:57:43.440 --> 00:57:46.650

Ray Hammond: Let me just throw this out you patrol.

492

00:57:48.390 --> 00:57:49.470

Ray Hammond: You've been

493

00:57:50.610 --> 00:58:03.870

Ray Hammond: Sticking by your part of the bargain. Your midway through this suddenly your man shows up and says, sweetheart. I love you. I want to spend my life with you.

494

00:58:06.510 --> 00:58:08.160

Ray Hammond: But what happened was,

495

00:58:11.790 --> 00:58:13.800

Ray Hammond: I was I was over.

496

00:58:14.100 --> 00:58:15.810

Ray Hammond: At my cousin's place.

497

00:58:17.070 --> 00:58:18.210

Ray Hammond: In the hill country.

498

00:58:18.420 --> 00:58:19.080

Felicia Wiltz: You're done.

499

00:58:20.910 --> 00:58:22.590

Ray Hammond: And I ran into this woman.

500

00:58:23.850 --> 00:58:25.500

Ray Hammond: And I didn't mean to get into

501

00:58:25.950 --> 00:58:26.580

Felicia Wiltz: Your dad.

502

00:58:26.850 --> 00:58:34.680

Ray Hammond: Your dad but but i don't before I know it you know you know that woman. She was just just moving up on man.

503

00:58:34.800 --> 00:58:35.160

Felicia Wiltz: Uh huh.

504

00:58:35.250 --> 00:58:38.730

Ray Hammond: And the next thing I know that girl is pregnant.

505

00:58:38.970 --> 00:58:39.180

Felicia Wiltz: No.

506

00:58:39.210 --> 00:58:42.600

Ray Hammond: You're done. Just one time baby was just one time.

507

00:58:42.630 --> 00:58:43.920

Ray Hammond: Just one time.

508

00:58:45.360 --> 00:58:45.840

Ray Hammond: Right.

509

00:58:46.020 --> 00:58:48.150

Felicia Wiltz: And you're one dime one one time done

510

00:58:48.180 --> 00:58:48.480

Don't

511

00:58:50.550 --> 00:58:50.910

Ray Hammond: Know,

512

00:58:52.740 --> 00:58:57.420

Ray Hammond: Why not. Let's be a superhero here. Come on, tell me why shouldn't you marry him.

513

00:58:58.140 --> 00:58:58.530

Not

514

00:59:00.300 --> 00:59:01.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: Malicious thinking about her son.

515

00:59:05.280 --> 00:59:06.300

Felicia Wiltz: I can't trust you.

516

00:59:07.620 --> 00:59:12.000

Felicia Wiltz: I'm just asking what what is going to just happen in

the future. No.

517

00:59:12.060 --> 00:59:15.480

Felicia Wiltz: No, dude, your, your, your

518

00:59:16.740 --> 00:59:19.890

Felicia Wiltz: Your whole character now is called into question.

519

00:59:20.370 --> 00:59:22.620

Ray Hammond: So I'm that's why I'm basing the question.

520

00:59:24.540 --> 00:59:31.830

Ray Hammond: Would if Joseph had made this decision with out the word from God.

521

00:59:32.010 --> 00:59:38.220

Ray Hammond: Hmm. Would that have been compassion, enabling or foolishness.

522

00:59:43.410 --> 00:59:47.370

Felicia Wiltz: I still think the fact that before he even heard from God.

523

00:59:48.570 --> 00:59:52.440

Felicia Wiltz: He had decided to not go the route of tradition.

524

00:59:54.150 --> 00:59:58.740

Felicia Wiltz: And just basically throw her to to the winds and let her

525

00:59:58.830 --> 01:00:00.150

Ray Hammond: Own. Absolutely.

526

01:00:00.180 --> 01:00:11.340

Felicia Wiltz: I think that shows to me, I'm a part of his character. And I think that shows how much he loved her and cared about her. He must have really cared about her.

527

01:00:12.960 --> 01:00:20.310

Felicia Wiltz: In order to walk into something that could potentially damage his own reputation.

528

01:00:21.690 --> 01:00:24.240

Felicia Wiltz: To give her a chance to even live

529

01:00:25.980 --> 01:00:30.810

Felicia Wiltz: I think that show strength of character of him because he had not heard from the Lord yet.

530

01:00:31.290 --> 01:00:39.000

Felicia Wiltz: Mm hmm. But he's still made the decision not to go the route that he could have gone as as a Jewish man.

531

01:00:40.980 --> 01:00:44.340

Ray Hammond: All right, nod. Other thoughts on this. I

532

01:00:45.360 --> 01:00:52.620

Ray Hammond: Love that state me just make this a fleet, but let other people. Come on, throw throw then someone folks who haven't said anything. Come on. What do you think

533

01:00:54.210 --> 01:00:56.070

Ray Hammond: If Joseph had married her.

534

01:00:57.210 --> 01:01:00.660

Ray Hammond: Without a word from the Lord, would that have been wisdom.

535

01:01:01.710 --> 01:01:02.790

Ray Hammond: Or foolishness.

536

01:01:07.260 --> 01:01:17.430

Joyce Marshall: Well, without I think without a word from the Lord would have been foolishness. But even after he heard from the Lord. He still had to put up with the rest of the people that wouldn't believe.

537

01:01:17.550 --> 01:01:18.210

Ray Hammond: That's exactly

538

01:01:19.830 --> 01:01:24.810

Ray Hammond: Cuz people that people can count right there real clear but

539

01:01:24.840 --> 01:01:31.980

Joyce Marshall: Wasn't she like six months along but when she when she told him because she went to Elizabeth

540

01:01:33.090 --> 01:01:34.500

Joyce Marshall: For three months or something.

541

01:01:34.710 --> 01:01:35.040

Ray Hammond: Right.

542

01:01:35.070 --> 01:01:37.140

Ray Hammond: And then let's say she probably into a third month

543

01:01:38.370 --> 01:01:42.540

Joyce Marshall: But didn't it didn't say she's okay she stayed with her for three months and then came

544

01:01:43.170 --> 01:01:46.920

Ray Hammond: Back right so okay zoomable if that's the water, she would have been about

545

01:01:48.000 --> 01:01:50.040

Ray Hammond: To start maybe the show.

546

01:01:50.490 --> 01:01:51.210

Okay.

547

01:01:52.890 --> 01:02:00.240

TANYA MILLER: Yeah I know, it would have been foolish this because my cousin told me about some about a woman who said

548

01:02:00.990 --> 01:02:10.410

TANYA MILLER: He had a child with and I was just like, did you get the DNA test. So I do know it's foolishness. However, I do want him to, like I said, show up as

549

01:02:11.370 --> 01:02:21.960

TANYA MILLER: A hero. I know that that actually is insane. What I'm saying, but it just seems like there's a high level that women are called to at sometimes their men.

550

01:02:22.590 --> 01:02:29.130

Ray Hammond: Know, and I would agree with me and I'm challenging women not to do that bad decision.

551

01:02:30.840 --> 01:02:33.090

TANYA MILLER: Right. Oh, no, no. I know it's a bad decision.

552

01:02:34.380 --> 01:02:35.250

Ray Hammond: I'm doing

553

01:02:35.760 --> 01:02:44.910

Ray Hammond: That I'm not disagreeing with you. I'm just saying all of us when God shows you certain things don't ignore them.

554

01:02:46.530 --> 01:02:50.820

Ray Hammond: And don't make your excuse I love them.

555

01:02:54.300 --> 01:02:54.720

Ray Hammond: Right.

556

01:02:56.280 --> 01:02:59.580

Ray Hammond: God is both a God of love and a god of truth.

557

01:03:01.620 --> 01:03:11.730

Ray Hammond: So if a person has proven on reliable on faithful on committed

558

01:03:13.050 --> 01:03:19.380

Ray Hammond: Your love is not going to make them faithful committed or reliable.

559

01:03:27.210 --> 01:03:34.440

Ray Hammond: Now you don't have to pull high grits on them. You don't

have to, you know, Busta windows in their car.

560

01:03:35.970 --> 01:03:36.990

Ray Hammond: You got do not in it.

561

01:03:38.790 --> 01:03:50.040

Ray Hammond: But you also don't have to put yourself in a relationship with someone who has not yet demonstrated you. It's like casting pearls before swine.

562

01:03:53.100 --> 01:04:04.320

Ray Hammond: So again, I'm not, I'm not giving this as a definitive answer, but I, in some respects, I think Joseph's approach is a really good model.

563

01:04:05.790 --> 01:04:09.510

Ray Hammond: That says right now I don't have the basis for trust.

564

01:04:11.700 --> 01:04:18.090

Ray Hammond: But that doesn't relieve me of the obligation to show love and compassion. So I'm going to do that.

565

01:04:19.680 --> 01:04:28.200

Ray Hammond: But I gotta roll with what I see and understand unless I hear something different from the Lord.

566

01:04:33.570 --> 01:04:35.640

Ray Hammond: And I'm sorry, Tanya. I didn't mean interrupt you. Go ahead.

567

01:04:36.720 --> 01:04:38.970

TANYA MILLER: No, that's, that's a word you can preach on that.

568

01:04:42.450 --> 01:04:44.370

TANYA MILLER: No, I, I totally get it.

569

01:04:44.940 --> 01:04:52.320

Ray Hammond: Right. And there's an old saying that used to have trust extends to the limit of truth and no farther

570

01:04:58.050 --> 01:05:09.840

Ray Hammond: It's the basis on which Jesus says to the Pharisees. If you are truly repentant I'm sorry me john the baptist do the works that are appropriate for repentance.

571

01:05:11.700 --> 01:05:20.910

Ray Hammond: So don't just tell me how sorry you are. Let me see the evidence of change and transformation in heart and mind and behavior.

572

01:05:23.670 --> 01:05:39.540

Ray Hammond: And on that basis, maybe we can we build trust you don't just throw trust out there when people have not demonstrated that they're worthy of the trust you are setting them up for failure and yourself up for heartbreak.

573

01:05:45.420 --> 01:05:46.620

Ray Hammond: Questions, comments.

574

01:05:49.080 --> 01:05:50.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, this is moved into a therapy session.

575

01:05:58.290 --> 01:05:58.860

Ray Hammond: Okay.

576

01:06:01.980 --> 01:06:05.010

Ray Hammond: Get through all this. And let me just touch on these last few points here.

577

01:06:07.170 --> 01:06:10.860

Ray Hammond: Any other comments, I don't want to cut it off if anybody else has a thought or

578

01:06:13.410 --> 01:06:14.610

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, it

579

01:06:16.470 --> 01:06:30.660

Carole Copeland Thomas: It just, it speaks to the character of people that you see throughout. I'll use an example. This is not a political statement. But when you look at the character of Joe Biden.

580

01:06:31.410 --> 01:06:44.700

Carole Copeland Thomas: And all that he's been through. I really think that he's it's like 40 years in the making for him to get to this moment to be the leader of our country when our country is just in shambles. In many ways, but it's all of

581

01:06:45.330 --> 01:07:00.030

Carole Copeland Thomas: who he is and what he's been through that's taken him to this point, versus the man who won't leave the White House who has to leave by June by January 20 and look at them in terms of character. It's like night and day.

582

01:07:00.720 --> 01:07:07.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: Where you have no character at all. And you have someone who has a fairly high level of character.

583

01:07:09.090 --> 01:07:14.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: So as as a basis of comparison when you're looking at Joseph, who clearly had a high level of character.

584

01:07:16.770 --> 01:07:24.930

Ray Hammond: And we'll talk about. We may get to a little bit later, in many respects, Joseph swims against the culture of his day.

585

01:07:26.310 --> 01:07:33.540

Ray Hammond: And ultimately all serious followers of Christ are going to swim against the culture, they're dead.

586

01:07:35.400 --> 01:07:37.470

Ray Hammond: That's just the nature of the beast.

587

01:07:39.390 --> 01:07:47.310

Ray Hammond: Right, because the world. I'm not saying completely but but but under pressure.

588

01:07:48.660 --> 01:07:52.500

Ray Hammond: The world defaults to what the world defaults to

589

01:07:53.640 --> 01:07:59.940

Ray Hammond: Meeting us for no more me, myself and I it's. That's the

way the world moves.

590

01:08:01.020 --> 01:08:03.270

Ray Hammond: And when someone moves in a counter way.

591

01:08:05.700 --> 01:08:12.150

Ray Hammond: That they're really swimming against the culture and he's swimming against a culture again where women.

592

01:08:14.310 --> 01:08:25.500

Ray Hammond: Could be could be divorced for burning the toast could be stone for being unfaithful. This is a very different place, and he responds in a very different way.

593

01:08:27.240 --> 01:08:38.760

Ray Hammond: Let me suggest also at the heart of partly what of why he is perhaps the man he is is that I said amount of communication, but you might sell so man of prayer.

594

01:08:41.490 --> 01:08:56.850

Ray Hammond: And it's clear that he receives this word, and he's used to hearing from God. You don't hear a guy here who's blowing it off taking it lightly.

595

01:08:58.230 --> 01:09:03.780

Ray Hammond: He's got some questions and that's okay as Mary did when an ANGEL APPEARS TO HER.

596

01:09:05.280 --> 01:09:15.360

Ray Hammond: But you get the impression. This is not someone unfamiliar with God. It says already. He was a man who who lived a right life.

597

01:09:17.280 --> 01:09:17.670

Right.

598

01:09:19.470 --> 01:09:28.380

Ray Hammond: And so in conversation with God. He gets what you would call the second word. The first word was Mary

599

01:09:29.850 --> 01:09:32.160

Ray Hammond: What is in me is from the Holy Spirit.

600

01:09:33.450 --> 01:09:39.480

Ray Hammond: For its first Corinthians 13 one that says in the mouth of two or three witnesses show every word be established. Right.

601

01:09:40.620 --> 01:09:53.430

Ray Hammond: And this is where I see saints going wrong all the time we go on the basis of a word, we've read even a word. Some a prophet may have given us that's never enough.

602

01:09:55.560 --> 01:10:00.960

Ray Hammond: There's always a confirming process for God and it usually involves two or three words.

603

01:10:02.490 --> 01:10:06.120

Ray Hammond: And in this case, you might say the second word

604

01:10:07.170 --> 01:10:13.260

Ray Hammond: The word that confirms and then changes the his understanding of the first word that he heard

605

01:10:14.790 --> 01:10:16.920

Ray Hammond: Is one that comes directly from God.

606

01:10:22.350 --> 01:10:23.670

Ray Hammond: And so again,

607

01:10:25.350 --> 01:10:28.110

Ray Hammond: This is, this is a guy who knows how to hear from God.

608

01:10:30.300 --> 01:10:33.750

Ray Hammond: And as a guest. This is not a first time experience for him at all.

609

01:10:36.090 --> 01:10:47.070

Ray Hammond: And when he hears it, the reason that I call him a man of compliance is it says in this all of the scriptures. Look at make this point very strongly.

610

01:11:00.660 --> 01:11:09.480

Ray Hammond: When Joseph awoke from sleep. He did is the angel of the Lord commanded him. He took her as his wife.

611

01:11:10.620 --> 01:11:16.590

Ray Hammond: But had no marital relations with her until she had one son, which was the completion, you know, of the

612

01:11:18.480 --> 01:11:32.280

Ray Hammond: Of the betrayal and and and he named him as the angel instructed, just as the angel had instructed Zachariah, with regard to the naming of John he named him Jesus

613

01:11:37.290 --> 01:11:42.510

Joyce Marshall: Could he have lost his inheritance. Inheritance. I can't say that word.

614

01:11:43.530 --> 01:11:44.460

Joyce Marshall: Inheritance.

615

01:11:46.080 --> 01:11:47.130

Ray Hammond: In one sense.

616

01:11:47.310 --> 01:11:51.810

Joyce Marshall: I mean, because if his family didn't believe

617

01:11:52.890 --> 01:11:58.620

Joyce Marshall: that Mary was telling the truth. And he went ahead and, you know, married her anyway. And, you know,

618

01:11:58.650 --> 01:12:12.030

Ray Hammond: Well, again, the likelihood here. We don't know. And it doesn't say, did he go to his family and say, look, I got a problem and we got to do this quietly and the need all your other. Come on, you know, it isn't that clear about that.

619

01:12:14.970 --> 01:12:19.920

Ray Hammond: Whether he kept all of this between him and Mary and just went along.

620

01:12:20.940 --> 01:12:23.370

Ray Hammond: And let people decide what they wanted to decide.

621

01:12:25.140 --> 01:12:27.000

Ray Hammond: Maybe people decided, you know,

622

01:12:28.230 --> 01:12:30.390

Ray Hammond: I guess he married just couldn't wait

623

01:12:33.780 --> 01:12:35.040

Ray Hammond: I'm sure that happened.

624

01:12:37.290 --> 01:12:40.290

Ray Hammond: You know, people walk down the aisle with a little baby bump.

625

01:12:42.840 --> 01:12:51.780

Ray Hammond: Or a baby right let me so. So again, I think it doesn't say exactly how they handle it from there.

626

01:12:52.950 --> 01:12:59.760

Ray Hammond: But I'm sure the rest of the community could figure out that baby had to have come

627

01:13:01.380 --> 01:13:05.580

Ray Hammond: Before that baby had to have been conceived before they were married.

628

01:13:09.150 --> 01:13:11.490

Ray Hammond: And we don't know. He may have just taken a hit on that one.

629

01:13:14.520 --> 01:13:25.200

Ray Hammond: Which would be a lot easier than trying to explain to the rest of the community. Now I know y'all think that we just couldn't wait but I just want to be clear, this baby is from the Holy Ghost.

630

01:13:27.210 --> 01:13:32.430

Ray Hammond: Concede just before Mary went up to visit Elizabeth in the hill country.

631

01:13:33.930 --> 01:13:37.200

Ray Hammond: And an angel came to me and told me that this baby's from the Holy Ghost.

632

01:13:38.940 --> 01:13:41.220

Ray Hammond: How likely would people believe that

633

01:13:46.230 --> 01:13:47.700

Aaron T: But pastor. I have a question.

634

01:13:47.940 --> 01:13:49.200

Ray Hammond: Sure, if

635

01:13:49.230 --> 01:14:08.220

Aaron T: I'm if it was true that they that they went about and just said that this is a situation where, you know, we couldn't wait then you said earlier that you know there were kind of accusations against Jesus saying that we know who our father is which would suggest that

636

01:14:09.330 --> 01:14:18.930

Aaron T: There was suspicion as to in other people's minds to whether or not. Joseph, you know, was really his father. So would that suggest that they were telling people

637

01:14:19.800 --> 01:14:28.560

Aaron T: A story that might not have made sense. And then they assume that it was a story that they were just making up well. The real story was

638

01:14:28.590 --> 01:14:38.550

Ray Hammond: Yeah, good question, and I don't know. We have a good answer for other than to say what may have raised the question was the fact that she was gone for three months.

639

01:14:42.420 --> 01:14:54.750

Ray Hammond: Okay. You see, I'm saying, so I don't know. I mean, it doesn't give you a lot. And as I say there's just that one little passage where the Pharisees say that Jesus we know who our father, he

is

640

01:14:57.930 --> 01:14:58.260

Ray Hammond: Right.

641

01:15:00.690 --> 01:15:10.170

Ray Hammond: So again it just suggest we don't know for sure, but it just suggest is kind of this story that may have been circulating around for years.

642

01:15:13.050 --> 01:15:23.820

Ray Hammond: You know, man. I don't know. Let me see. Nine months where was Mary nine months ago. Well, she was in the village, like that. And you know that they're standing around the well they're talking about this.

643

01:15:25.530 --> 01:15:28.860

Ray Hammond: Well, it wasn't it when she just went up to Elizabeth, please.

644

01:15:29.880 --> 01:15:33.420

Ray Hammond: He wouldn't even hear it in who girl.

645

01:15:37.050 --> 01:15:45.240

TANYA MILLER: Was it commonplace that once you enter the process of patrol patrol that you stay with that person only

646

01:15:46.350 --> 01:15:54.690

Ray Hammond: You could say, I don't know how frequent that was. I mean, we know it did, it did happen. It did occur that that that

647

01:15:56.010 --> 01:15:59.550

Ray Hammond: One of the other might move into the household of the other person.

648

01:16:00.840 --> 01:16:16.650

TANYA MILLER: I guess what, what I'm asking. Was that like normative of the culture to say I'm betrothed to us. So now we're living together. I'm not taking any vacations. I don't know if they took vacations, like we did that would make it more suspect that she was gone, that three months.

649

01:16:18.300 --> 01:16:32.730

Ray Hammond: Well, I'm just thinking of it in terms of the time. So, as I say, if a baby shows up nine months later. And what we know is the first three months and I had Joseph is the is the is the daddy.

650

01:16:33.840 --> 01:16:37.830

Ray Hammond: Because they've been betrayals all this time. Maybe they will live in. Again, we don't know. But, you know,

651

01:16:39.030 --> 01:16:43.440

Ray Hammond: But, but then we're saying to ourselves, well wait, the first three months, he was gone.

652

01:16:44.760 --> 01:16:45.810

Ray Hammond: Who did Daddy now.

653

01:16:49.980 --> 01:16:54.750

Ray Hammond: She get pregnant, just before she left. What if something happened up in the hill country.

654

01:17:02.280 --> 01:17:02.850

Ray Hammond: All right.

655

01:17:05.610 --> 01:17:13.440

Ray Hammond: Last thing I want to throw out that we don't have time to really explore this i i find Joseph to be a an amazing

656

01:17:14.700 --> 01:17:20.040

Ray Hammond: Character and it's one that I use, not just around Christmas and do a lot in men's workshops

657

01:17:21.570 --> 01:17:25.950

Ray Hammond: Exploring the character of Joseph because I see Joseph

658

01:17:28.140 --> 01:17:33.810

Ray Hammond: David is called a man after God's own heart. And that's, that's absolutely true.

659

01:17:35.040 --> 01:17:39.300

Ray Hammond: David is at best a very flawed man after God's own heart.

660

01:17:42.150 --> 01:17:43.830

Ray Hammond: Joseph is the real deal.

661

01:17:46.050 --> 01:18:01.050

Ray Hammond: I didn't stop to save the last point was the courage, because, and it's another indicator of Joseph ability to hear God there's a threat that comes against his child and his family from Herod.

662

01:18:02.910 --> 01:18:14.070

Ray Hammond: Which he first hears about again in a dream that tells them, they're coming to seek the child's life after the wise men come and at this point. Jesus is no longer babies, probably a toddler.

663

01:18:15.240 --> 01:18:21.240

Ray Hammond: Because you remember Herod sent soldiers with instructions to kill everyone under two

664

01:18:22.800 --> 01:18:36.120

Ray Hammond: That's how long it had been since the wise men and come makes a lot of sense, however, would have waited. He didn't know how long it took them to find the child. And finally, after he's waited long enough, and he's realized these guys are coming back.

665

01:18:37.560 --> 01:18:49.170

Ray Hammond: He then says every child under two. So he's figuring based on their thing that this, this must be a toddler or younger, the child had not yet been born when they came

666

01:18:49.500 --> 01:18:57.360

Ray Hammond: He doesn't know how soon after that the child was born a toddler or younger. So the instructions are kill all children under two

667

01:19:00.600 --> 01:19:03.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: Whatever the wise men are they ever

668

01:19:05.010 --> 01:19:08.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: Punished at all for giving wrong directions or

giving false

669

01:19:09.000 --> 01:19:10.890

Ray Hammond: They just went back to their country where they were from

670

01:19:11.520 --> 01:19:19.020

Ray Hammond: You know, and that's that was not parents territory. He's only he's only got jurisdiction. So basically they cross state lines.

671

01:19:19.080 --> 01:19:22.290

Ray Hammond: Escaped an NGO extradition treaty rights.

672

01:19:22.860 --> 01:19:23.790

That's the reality.

673

01:19:25.140 --> 01:19:25.740

Ray Hammond: So,

674

01:19:27.330 --> 01:19:48.960

Ray Hammond: So at this point, he's wanted a dream. This is all outlined in Matthew to and again he hears from God. So that's why I'm saying this is a man who knows he he's no these are novice at this and the says to him leave this is leave your career, leave your community.

675

01:19:50.070 --> 01:19:52.290

Ray Hammond: And go to a foreign country.

676

01:19:54.450 --> 01:20:10.890

Ray Hammond: Different language different customs everything he can probably make money. He's a tech time is a kind of a handyman slash Carpenter, we use. We often translated Carpenter, but it's kind of closer almost a handyman or general

677

01:20:12.150 --> 01:20:24.330

Ray Hammond: You know, not just carpentry you might do masonry and other things like that. Right, so he can find work probably there but he's got to give up a business who knows how long he spent building that

678

01:20:25.890 --> 01:20:27.090

Ray Hammond: But if God says it

679

01:20:29.250 --> 01:20:32.010

Ray Hammond: career goals community goals.

680

01:20:34.800 --> 01:20:47.040

Ray Hammond: And the measure of my commitment is that I'm doing this one because God says it and to because I am called to serve and protect my family.

681

01:20:49.890 --> 01:21:05.520

Ray Hammond: And when God says go back, we go back and then when he heard that the son of Herod was still ruling in the air that would have gone back to. He says, just for an added major safety, we want to move

682

01:21:06.780 --> 01:21:07.650

To a different area.

683

01:21:09.360 --> 01:21:18.600

Ray Hammond: All right, so here's a guy who, in many ways, as I said checks all the boxes on a man after God's own heart.

684

01:21:19.680 --> 01:21:24.720

Ray Hammond: And and often talk about him as the antidote to toxic masculinity.

685

01:21:25.740 --> 01:21:28.650

Ray Hammond: He represents everything

686

01:21:29.910 --> 01:21:39.510

Ray Hammond: That Heals what's killing men. It's killing people, but it's really killing men right and left.

687

01:21:44.070 --> 01:21:47.760

Ray Hammond: It's not an accident that the that the that

688

01:21:49.260 --> 01:22:10.500

Ray Hammond: That the violence is higher. It's not an accident that prisons are 70 80% men on accident that the life expectancy is

shorter, not an accident that the groups in which the life expectancy is going backwards are an educated

689

01:22:11.910 --> 01:22:14.070

Ray Hammond: When uncomplicated, I'm sorry.

690

01:22:15.390 --> 01:22:17.310

Ray Hammond: Middle aged white males.

691

01:22:18.450 --> 01:22:19.980

Ray Hammond: We could go on and on.

692

01:22:21.420 --> 01:22:34.980

Ray Hammond: The and this is not a function so much of the, the, the Y chromosome as it is the way we acculturated and train boys and men to be

693

01:22:37.440 --> 01:22:38.820

Ray Hammond: And it's killing them.

694

01:22:40.050 --> 01:22:44.700

Ray Hammond: And Joseph is really the antidote to that toxic masculinity.

695

01:22:48.660 --> 01:22:49.950

Ray Hammond: Questions, comments.

696

01:22:55.020 --> 01:22:57.060

Pass. I think that's fascinating because

697

01:22:58.830 --> 01:23:06.660

Felicia Wiltz: During this season we often don't tend to think about Joseph, we, we, you know, we think about

698

01:23:07.680 --> 01:23:20.130

Felicia Wiltz: The infant Jesus, and we think about Mary and her sacrifices and what she did. And, and we don't often think about Joseph, and Joseph is the epitome of I think what a man should be he

699

01:23:21.450 --> 01:23:35.880

Felicia Wiltz: Took every measure to not only protect his patrolled in the beginning, but then protect his family, a child that is not his biologically and and as you say he's leaving

700

01:23:37.110 --> 01:23:45.030

Felicia Wiltz: To go to a foreign land to be a foreigner in that land we has no connections, even though he's a handyman, it would take him a while to get

701

01:23:46.260 --> 01:23:54.390

Felicia Wiltz: Settled right to be like, who's gonna hire a handyman that just moved in. They don't know anything about them. I would assume

702

01:23:55.440 --> 01:24:10.290

Felicia Wiltz: That in his home, you know, this might have been kind of a family tradition and he had a long standing connection in this in the community as being a handyman or a carpenter or whatever. So, you know, people would know to call on Joseph

703

01:24:11.400 --> 01:24:15.600

Felicia Wiltz: But to have to leave and he he never he never questioned.

704

01:24:16.860 --> 01:24:25.740

Felicia Wiltz: He never questioned and that and we don't tend to focus on that during the, during the holidays. We don't tend to focus on his role.

705

01:24:28.740 --> 01:24:30.210

Ray Hammond: And part of this is, you know,

706

01:24:31.320 --> 01:24:35.550

Ray Hammond: And again, as I say, I mean certainly Mary absolutely deserves.

707

01:24:36.360 --> 01:24:42.030

Ray Hammond: The kudos, and we don't. And as we think you talked about last week. Sometimes we don't give you the kudos for the right reason. Right.

708

01:24:42.420 --> 01:24:56.610

Ray Hammond: Right. I mean, it's all about her virginity and purity and so on from and I'm not in any way discounting that what matters is her faith and her courage. That's, that's the thing that stands out for me. Right.

709

01:24:58.110 --> 01:25:01.770

Ray Hammond: Is that this is this is a woman who

710

01:25:03.120 --> 01:25:10.380

Ray Hammond: This is a young woman, a young woman whose faith isn't it's not her parents faith is hurting. Right.

711

01:25:10.890 --> 01:25:23.460

Ray Hammond: It's not her parents relationship with God is her relationship with God. Yeah, it's not our parents decision it's her decision and and she understands the cost and she still makes the choice. Yeah.

712

01:25:24.960 --> 01:25:26.220

Ray Hammond: So it's a real

713

01:25:27.390 --> 01:25:34.680

Ray Hammond: She deserves that. Very much so. But you're right, as is often the case, we just we you know we just we

714

01:25:34.950 --> 01:25:35.790

Felicia Wiltz: rush over

715

01:25:35.850 --> 01:25:42.660

Ray Hammond: We yeah we get we get we get sort of honed in on certain things. And this is true in many areas right

716

01:25:43.500 --> 01:25:58.290

Ray Hammond: But and miss the fullness of the Good News of this story is full. Good news. And the amazing thing is that this good news, good news happens in the midst of a lot of tragedy. Yeah. And a lot of pain and and even death later.

717

01:26:00.540 --> 01:26:09.630

Ray Hammond: And that's what the good news is supposed to do. It's supposed to come where there is pain and suffering and even death and change things.

718

01:26:14.910 --> 01:26:26.970

TANYA MILLER: Um, but to to the to the facts of like kind of unpacking Joseph as the antidotes toxic max masculinity.

719

01:26:28.320 --> 01:26:36.840

TANYA MILLER: I think it also moves the story from just being people that were used by God to being people that

720

01:26:37.890 --> 01:26:44.700

TANYA MILLER: Demonstrate the characteristics that God wants us to to model because I think if you look at

721

01:26:45.990 --> 01:26:46.950

TANYA MILLER: Joseph

722

01:26:48.570 --> 01:26:58.320

TANYA MILLER: To be honest, I never thought about him in this way, as we discussed him tonight, but to look at Joseph in this manner also sets the tone for how Jesus

723

01:26:59.670 --> 01:27:00.810

TANYA MILLER: Interacts with women.

724

01:27:05.310 --> 01:27:06.540

TANYA MILLER: Yes, Father does

725

01:27:08.970 --> 01:27:15.720

TANYA MILLER: Ya know, I think that that's something that we we really do need to discuss because it's you get a lot of

726

01:27:18.180 --> 01:27:34.440

TANYA MILLER: I mean, I think the Bible doesn't create jobs because showing all the sides of people, but we don't often bring them to light and and in this manner. You know, it brings to light a man and a woman that flood because they're human

727

01:27:34.650 --> 01:27:41.580

TANYA MILLER: But still model the characteristic that crisis, trying to get us to display. Absolutely. Absolutely.

728

01:27:42.000 --> 01:27:44.100

Ray Hammond: That's a great point because I think

729

01:27:46.500 --> 01:27:48.510

Ray Hammond: Very much in keeping us as as

730

01:27:55.410 --> 01:28:02.340

Ray Hammond: As character Carrington alluded to, last week we tend to think of the word just being flashing and he just, he just

731

01:28:02.910 --> 01:28:15.630

Ray Hammond: grows up and is on track, but God puts him in a particular kind of household. Yeah, with a particular kind of mother who's going to be there for the long haul.

732

01:28:16.230 --> 01:28:27.840

Ray Hammond: And in the early days, a particular kind of father. Yes, who, at the very least, is going to protect that child when when the political forces come to destroy

733

01:28:28.980 --> 01:28:44.130

Ray Hammond: And may well have. We don't know. Well, we know he's around the 12 because it's Mary and Joseph going up to Jerusalem. Right, so is hit. So Jesus is at least there with his father through the earlier years of his life.

734

01:28:45.240 --> 01:28:49.590

Ray Hammond: So again you see him coming up in a household

735

01:28:50.670 --> 01:28:53.100

Ray Hammond: Where he's really got people

736

01:28:54.600 --> 01:29:04.110

Ray Hammond: You know who are actually living out this faith. Yes. Right. So, and, and the Scriptures talk about them and him have him growing

737

01:29:05.310 --> 01:29:12.570

Ray Hammond: In wisdom and knowledge and some piece of that is this household in which he's coming out. Yes.

738

01:29:16.350 --> 01:29:20.340

Gloria White-Hammond: I and I love that Tanya, you're making that point and

739

01:29:21.690 --> 01:29:35.460

Gloria White-Hammond: In in obviously Luke in particular picks up on these interactions that Jesus women that I never thought about that is the modeling that chil says actually did.

740

01:29:36.270 --> 01:29:48.150

Gloria White-Hammond: And and and I've thought about, you know, we obviously we had prior arrangements last week with pastor rates birthday but I from what I've heard. I appreciate

741

01:29:50.430 --> 01:30:00.240

Gloria White-Hammond: You all looking last week at the complexity of Mary and the extent to which you know I think one of the biggest challenges for

742

01:30:00.810 --> 01:30:09.300

Gloria White-Hammond: From parents that I'll say this as mothers in particular is discovering the identity of the child, you carry

743

01:30:09.840 --> 01:30:16.200

Gloria White-Hammond: Because you as you're carrying them. There are a lot of things that you're imagining and even as you're raising them. They're just

744

01:30:16.620 --> 01:30:32.490

Gloria White-Hammond: They are, there's a, you know, you're trying to shape them in certain ways and and there are the what I've appreciate is that we can contribute to a child's identity, but we can't define them right. We can't determine

745

01:30:33.930 --> 01:30:46.200

Gloria White-Hammond: Their identity and and so what Mary and that the whole thing of her pondering even from the beginning, when the wise

men are in the shepherds are coming

746

01:30:48.030 --> 01:30:56.100

Gloria White-Hammond: peeping that that there was hardship on the way and and you see things in your children that you

747

01:30:57.480 --> 01:31:05.130

Gloria White-Hammond: I'm still pondering things that I saw when my children were young piecing together.

748

01:31:06.360 --> 01:31:16.920

Gloria White-Hammond: What I saw and they become and and so Mary pondering and then when she sees when she encounters Simeon

749

01:31:18.270 --> 01:31:21.240

Gloria White-Hammond: And that whole text about how

750

01:31:23.640 --> 01:31:40.350

Gloria White-Hammond: Well gosh that she's going to pierce the heart. Yeah, that yeah that that a sword shall pierce through her son was going to he was going to do a lot of piercing and and in that sword was even going to pierce her heart.

751

01:31:41.550 --> 01:31:52.380

Gloria White-Hammond: This is what you're saying over my my infant right that's not that it's that he's gonna he's going to create hell and it's going to create health for YouTube

752

01:31:53.580 --> 01:31:53.970

Gloria White-Hammond: And

753

01:31:55.890 --> 01:32:08.820

Gloria White-Hammond: But, but, but, so there there isn't sacredness about what they did. Right. I mean, there is a knowing they weren't they didn't just fall into this. I appreciate God giving them the heads up. So in a sense, and and

754

01:32:09.630 --> 01:32:19.320

Gloria White-Hammond: Again, we can't know everything about our children, but he if we have if we're willing to we'll see some things will keep some things and not all of them will be pleasant.

755

01:32:20.970 --> 01:32:30.900

Gloria White-Hammond: But that's we flow with it in the confidence of God's got a plan. I did. I didn't do I could I have to, I have some witnesses in the house to you just a

756

01:32:30.900 --> 01:32:31.680

Human

757

01:32:33.180 --> 01:32:33.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: Man.

758

01:32:36.990 --> 01:32:37.650

Aaron T: Oh, man.

759

01:32:38.010 --> 01:32:38.280

Gloria White-Hammond: I'm

760

01:32:38.580 --> 01:32:54.540

Ray Hammond: I'm giving the passively. The last word here is do we're a little over time, but ask you to just ponder that just two last things I asked you to do. One of which is to know that these are also wonderful models, not just for parenting. He's a model for disciple and

761

01:32:56.340 --> 01:33:06.240

Ray Hammond: You will have the privilege of helping literally the word to become fleshing in someone's life.

762

01:33:07.770 --> 01:33:08.820

Ray Hammond: And then

763

01:33:10.440 --> 01:33:16.200

Ray Hammond: Look at these models as you understand how to help them grow and flourish.

764

01:33:17.370 --> 01:33:20.280

Ray Hammond: You'll have this opportunity in the context of mentoring.

765

01:33:21.990 --> 01:33:36.840

Ray Hammond: Those of you who are educated you are doing this all the time. In many ways, maybe only four season, maybe one grade to grade, whatever. But all of this really is part of that that that that

766

01:33:38.010 --> 01:33:51.870

Ray Hammond: Process and Mary and Joseph I think just powerful models of what it takes to become those to whom God can make his word flesh in others.

767

01:33:52.950 --> 01:33:57.060

Ray Hammond: And as each of us take that seriously. I

768

01:33:58.410 --> 01:34:00.600

Ray Hammond: As we're thinking about that affirmation.

769

01:34:01.650 --> 01:34:05.520

Ray Hammond: I would just encourage you to think in this Christmas season.

770

01:34:08.190 --> 01:34:08.670

Ray Hammond: Who

771

01:34:09.840 --> 01:34:13.050

Ray Hammond: As a child in your life of a

772

01:34:15.120 --> 01:34:20.700

Ray Hammond: Biological adopted auntie uncle whatever relationship, who

773

01:34:22.170 --> 01:34:27.960

Ray Hammond: As a disciple that God has entrusted to your care who as a mentee.

774

01:34:29.220 --> 01:34:35.100

Ray Hammond: needs from you the same things God is highlighting here.

775

01:34:36.360 --> 01:34:37.710

Ray Hammond: In the parents of Jesus.

776

01:34:38.730 --> 01:34:42.120

Ray Hammond: And to whom is God called you to give that gift.

777

01:34:43.680 --> 01:34:47.970

Ray Hammond: And how do you want to grow in sharing that gift.

778

01:34:49.110 --> 01:34:51.780

Ray Hammond: So I just encourage you to think about it.

779

01:34:52.890 --> 01:34:58.800

Ray Hammond: As, as we go through this season because that will be a powerful gift, not only to that person, but really to God.

780

01:35:00.150 --> 01:35:03.870

Ray Hammond: And the most incredible impact.

781

01:35:05.910 --> 01:35:13.200

Gloria White-Hammond: And that's what makes your, your job and calling right that's what makes

782

01:35:14.910 --> 01:35:18.030

Gloria White-Hammond: The thing that you that we do every day so sacred

783

01:35:21.210 --> 01:35:23.580

Gloria White-Hammond: Christine had a nutrition class or

784

01:35:24.780 --> 01:35:30.090

Gloria White-Hammond: A gym class that I i still belong to. But I'm not going back to the gym anytime soon, but

785

01:35:31.140 --> 01:35:45.300

Gloria White-Hammond: And I just watched how tender. You were with these women, you just talked about fats and carbs and all of that stuff. But there was a way that you did that, that make that experience.

786

01:35:46.680 --> 01:35:47.430

Sacred

787

01:35:48.840 --> 01:35:49.230

Gloria White-Hammond: And

788

01:35:51.000 --> 01:36:09.210

Gloria White-Hammond: So yeah, that's that that's that's and that's part of, you know, obviously, what makes Christmas so special, but thank you honey for pointing that out. It's not just a biological relationship. It's not even the biology that makes it sacred. It's this spiritual thing.

789

01:36:12.240 --> 01:36:28.020

Ray Hammond: Praise God. Well, thank you all with a key. Next week we'll continue the other side of Advent. Right, we're going to continue to try to go a little bit deeper. Just to Father. What a great gift.

790

01:36:29.430 --> 01:36:30.540

Ray Hammond: This gospel. This

791

01:36:32.580 --> 01:36:38.370

Ray Hammond: What the word called incarnation is for us and for all the world, and indeed fall creation.

792

01:36:40.080 --> 01:36:48.090

Ray Hammond: Thanks again, the sister, Carol, and thank you to all of you. And let's just close out with a word of prayer. We got to know volunteer.

793

01:37:03.570 --> 01:37:06.720

Carole Copeland Thomas: How about one of our brothers since I prayed. You guys in

794

01:37:10.710 --> 01:37:18.510

Gloria White-Hammond: I can do it. God, I thank you for this conversation just how powerful it is and for what you

795

01:37:19.770 --> 01:37:26.310

Gloria White-Hammond: shown us about ourselves through the person of Joseph and the way

796

01:37:27.450 --> 01:37:31.020

Gloria White-Hammond: Yeah, we've just a new way of looking

797

01:37:33.990 --> 01:37:43.080

Gloria White-Hammond: At this man who oftentimes is just kind of a bit character with very, very clearly so powerful in the way that he ministered to

798

01:37:44.430 --> 01:37:53.700

Gloria White-Hammond: His Son, the Son. Thank you God for this Christmas season that in the fullness of time God when you were ready you sent your Son

799

01:37:54.960 --> 01:37:55.590

Gloria White-Hammond: Born

800

01:37:56.760 --> 01:37:57.660

Gloria White-Hammond: Of a woman.

801

01:37:58.890 --> 01:38:02.640

Gloria White-Hammond: To under the law to redeem those of us.

802

01:38:04.110 --> 01:38:18.690

Gloria White-Hammond: Who you would call your children and we thank you God for being counted among your children continue to bless us throughout this holiday season. Throughout this Christmas season guys keep us healthy keep us whole we pray. Amen.

803

01:38:19.980 --> 01:38:21.570

Ray Hammond: Amen. God bless you.

804

01:38:21.720 --> 01:38:23.820

Gloria White-Hammond: I see. Well, CNN me

805

01:38:24.180 --> 01:38:25.350

Felicia Wiltz: Thank you, pastor

806

01:38:26.550 --> 01:38:28.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: Great message. Thank you very much.

807

01:38:28.380 --> 01:38:29.220

Joyce Marshall: Thank you.

808

01:38:29.460 --> 01:38:31.710

Carole Copeland Thomas: Bless. Good night, everybody.

809

01:38:32.010 --> 01:38:32.520

Joyce Marshall: Good night.

810

01:38:33.660 --> 01:38:34.470

Linda Mells: Good night.