

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.840 --> 00:00:06.690

Carole Copeland Thomas: brother James Williams. We're just so grateful that you're with us. And yes, and

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00:00:08.220 --> 00:00:10.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: Through your, your covert situation.

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00:00:10.740 --> 00:00:20.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: But you shared with us a little bit earlier about loose ends. Can you just talk to us about that. I asked you the question where you think you picked up this virus.

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00:00:21.540 --> 00:00:28.200

James Williams: Well, you know, as I said, I hit on I've been very diligent doing this supposed to be doing, and

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00:00:29.430 --> 00:00:38.580

James Williams: There was no, there was this project we're working on in my office and all you guys may think I'm a really nice guy, but sometimes that can be a real pill and so

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00:00:39.810 --> 00:00:48.180

James Williams: I was complaining at my assistant and she was, you know, pushing back and yelling at me. And so I had left the office.

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00:00:49.050 --> 00:00:58.530

James Williams: Because I had something else to attend to the next day I had this dry cough. The next day, where did Bible study in the church, and I

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00:00:59.040 --> 00:01:10.920

James Williams: Reached out to CBS to do on those drive by test. Come to find out I was positive. I told my wife Beverly and she tested. She was negative my assistant was positive. So,

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00:01:11.850 --> 00:01:28.110

James Williams: And going through all that I had seven days of absolute misery at home and three days of a blessing at the hospital and all kind of things are happening with me, but in hindsight, I

think my loose and was is if my assistant. She's to run like eight miles a day.

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00:01:29.250 --> 00:01:30.270

James Williams: And she um

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00:01:31.290 --> 00:01:39.960

James Williams: She would wear a mask during that time. So when we were yelling at each other. I'm not sure whether I got it from her. She got to know how it happened.

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00:01:43.080 --> 00:01:54.990

James Williams: So I don't know how I got it. But I think that may have been the loo send her just yelling at me and me yelling at her and that virus at the very next day I was had this dry cough.

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00:01:56.100 --> 00:01:59.730

James Williams: And so that's the thing about loose ends that trying to

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00:02:00.750 --> 00:02:15.270

James Williams: Encourage people to look out for, because most people know they're wearing a mask and they go out. They do this thing. But sometimes a family member or somebody who doesn't appear to have it or you don't think has it and you let them into your space. And that's the Lucien

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00:02:19.620 --> 00:02:26.670

Carole Copeland Thomas: Just so grateful that you're that you're able to share with us that and yes what you've been through, and

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00:02:27.990 --> 00:02:34.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: just hoping that there's no lingering effects and no organ damage issues or any those kind of things that

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00:02:35.520 --> 00:02:37.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know, we hope will stay away from your body.

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00:02:38.430 --> 00:02:53.850

James Williams: Attacks so many things. At first they thought it was

like, I'm not a diabetic, but like the insulin thing my things going all out of whack. So they gave me something to eat. And that took care of that. And then I had this atrial fibrillation, or my heart was beating

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00:02:55.890 --> 00:03:01.830

James Williams: It consistently or something like that. And if it keeps going on, you'd have a stroke, and they gave you this drug time so rainbow.

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00:03:02.880 --> 00:03:09.510

James Williams: Then I had low salt low electrolytes low potassium. It was just attacking all these different things and

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00:03:11.790 --> 00:03:17.130

James Williams: I had a team of three women doctors and I tell you what they were some angels war.

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00:03:17.670 --> 00:03:29.520

James Williams: I was just praising God. Praise God. Praise God. The whole time these women were unbelievable and how they helped me through this and you know and i am i put me they put me in the room. This brother Richard Richardson was in there.

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00:03:30.150 --> 00:03:30.780

James Williams: And he had from

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00:03:31.350 --> 00:03:32.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: St. Paul.

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00:03:32.400 --> 00:03:34.500

James Williams: No, no, no. His name is Richard versus it but it

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00:03:34.500 --> 00:03:35.610

Carole Copeland Thomas: Wasn't ok

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00:03:35.670 --> 00:03:42.720

James Williams: So I thought, why would they put me in a room with somebody with the with the virus, but I had the buyer, so it doesn't much matter.

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00:03:43.380 --> 00:03:52.200

James Williams: And he was telling me his parent got his mother and she had died. And so the funeral was like the next day. We're going to do a zoom funerals.

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00:03:52.980 --> 00:04:05.400

James Williams: And he had siblings that also had it. It was like this family setting. They had a family home and I don't know how it happened. But everybody you know was impacted your mama died. This guy was was ruled worse off than I am.

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00:04:06.510 --> 00:04:13.860

James Williams: And so the next day I had a cousin. That was send me some some scriptures on my cell phone here in the South, I can see

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00:04:14.610 --> 00:04:24.480

James Williams: zip, zip, zip and so I doctors will tell me about some of the things I was feeling better and as reading the scriptures. It was really kind of making me feel better.

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00:04:25.050 --> 00:04:28.740

James Williams: And so that was 430 in the morning at six in the morning I holler at this

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00:04:29.400 --> 00:04:42.690

James Williams: At this guy and tell him that I've gotten some scriptures and I could read them to you or to pray, because he's getting me to do a zoom thing, but it wasn't a Christian, so you don't want me to read them to him. He's want me to pray and I get a ray ham and pray, pray

34

00:04:44.220 --> 00:04:55.410

James Williams: Pray for his mama. I pray for brother and sister I prayed for me for him for those doctors for the anointing to come down for our community. I was on a mission. I was just a prayer warrior.

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00:04:55.920 --> 00:05:02.220

James Williams: So of course, he said. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. But then when he did the zoom with his family members. It just works better for him.

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00:05:02.880 --> 00:05:12.720

James Williams: He was able to minister to his brothers and sisters, he was able to just kind of get a better grip on things and I kind of wonder if God allowed me to get deal so I can be there for that.

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00:05:13.020 --> 00:05:15.480

James Williams: And because you know those doctors weren't gonna pray them up like that.

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00:05:16.020 --> 00:05:27.390

James Williams: To the doctor stuff, but they work on prem up like that. And so you kind of wonder like, well, I know that God was just working on this thing. It was such a blessing such a blessing.

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00:05:27.960 --> 00:05:29.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: Amen. Amen. Amen.

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00:05:29.700 --> 00:05:31.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: Amen. Thank you for that testimony.

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00:05:32.460 --> 00:05:37.950

James Williams: Man. Thank you for listening and sharing that. Nope. We're praying for me. I appreciate you all

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00:05:39.780 --> 00:05:50.010

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yes, we were. Yes, sir. Man Well brother, Carl, we won't turn it over to you. Now we've gotten we had our testimony time

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00:05:51.090 --> 00:05:53.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: So now it's time. Time to start Sunday school

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00:05:53.910 --> 00:05:54.480

Yes.

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00:05:57.390 --> 00:05:57.960

Carl Racine: All right.

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00:05:59.340 --> 00:06:00.540

Carl Racine: Good morning, everybody.

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00:06:01.020 --> 00:06:01.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: Morning.

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00:06:01.980 --> 00:06:05.730

Carl Racine: Me just see who was on the thing. Okay, um,

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00:06:08.190 --> 00:06:09.870

Carl Racine: Welcome to the new year.

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00:06:10.950 --> 00:06:15.000

Carl Racine: My motto for this year is lowered expectations.

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00:06:19.080 --> 00:06:19.710

Carl Racine: I've learned from

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00:06:19.740 --> 00:06:23.910

Carl Racine: Pastor, is that the lower your expectations, the less will be disappointed.

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00:06:27.360 --> 00:06:27.990

Carl Racine: So,

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00:06:29.160 --> 00:06:35.010

Carl Racine: If I can get a vaccine, then I can get a haircut and go to the dentist and I'm good.

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00:06:40.710 --> 00:06:44.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: Susan, we're glad you had your vaccine. Number one, yay.

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00:06:45.750 --> 00:06:49.200

Carl Racine: Yeah, that was a real bright spot this week to just

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00:06:50.280 --> 00:06:57.720

Carl Racine: You know you've been reading about it, but everybody sitting around wondering when am I gonna get it and to actually know someone that got it.

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00:07:02.280 --> 00:07:02.850

Carl Racine: It's a great

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00:07:03.600 --> 00:07:04.920

Carl Racine: It gives us some hope.

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00:07:07.860 --> 00:07:20.220

Carl Racine: All right, let's open in prayer. Lord God, we thank you for this day. We thank you for this community. We thank you for this new year. We thank you for this opportunity to continue to study your word to seek guidance and as pastor

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00:07:21.930 --> 00:07:41.130

Carl Racine: Reminded us this morning that the January and Bethel is vision month to to reassess and and look hard at what your vision is for each of us in this coming near how you want us to serve you, how you want us to be a light to the world.

62

00:07:42.510 --> 00:07:43.680

Carl Racine: And we pray that

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00:07:44.850 --> 00:07:52.050

Carl Racine: This discussion will help people in part of that process in Jesus name Amen

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00:07:54.900 --> 00:07:56.070

Carl Racine: So we've been looking at the

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00:07:56.070 --> 00:07:59.160

Carl Racine: Sabbath, and we're getting there.

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00:08:01.080 --> 00:08:01.830

Carl Racine: We've been

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00:08:03.360 --> 00:08:08.130

Carl Racine: Thinking about what the Sabbath means we've seen that in Judaism.

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00:08:09.480 --> 00:08:18.720

Carl Racine: Sabbath is a gift from God that is not simply about what you can't do or what you shouldn't do, but it's also about what you should do about

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00:08:19.020 --> 00:08:32.580

Carl Racine: Living One day a week a different way of life, focusing on different things doing different kinds of things, the things that really matter in and and celebrating those things in your life.

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00:08:33.240 --> 00:08:47.610

Carl Racine: And we also saw that the Sabbath is is a is a unique institution unique to Judaism that we take it for granted because we've inherited it. But this idea of a seven day week didn't exist in any of the surrounding pagan cultures.

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00:08:48.210 --> 00:08:54.240

Carl Racine: The seven day week doesn't correspond to anything in nature and and pagan cultures.

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00:08:55.200 --> 00:09:14.850

Carl Racine: Are based on the look at the world based on the cycles of nature. The, the seasons that planting and harvesting time the days. The, the months the sun, moon and stars pastor mentioned this morning that were were Abrams father settled they they worship the moon god

73

00:09:16.230 --> 00:09:23.520

Carl Racine: in Canaan. In the Old Testament, the main God bail is the storm god the rain God

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00:09:26.100 --> 00:09:34.500

Carl Racine: The, the Syrian and Babylonian cultures celebrated the astral God's the sun, the moon, and the stars.

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00:09:35.160 --> 00:09:50.100

Carl Racine: God has seen in nature. God had seen the cycles of nature, the Sabbath challenges all of that the seven day week is is unique because it doesn't correspond anything in nature and stands in sharp contrast to those pagan ways of thinking about the world.

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00:09:51.360 --> 00:09:56.880

Carl Racine: God of Israel is not a God who is part of those cycles of nature is not down by those



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00:09:57.660 --> 00:10:09.300

Carl Racine: He's not a God who can be represented in physical objects in idols in graven images god he's not a God who can be contained in one space or is simply the God of one particular nation.

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00:10:09.900 --> 00:10:21.570

Carl Racine: Rather as a God who is free to act in time and who reveals himself by those actions in time and the Sabbath is is a direct

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00:10:23.340 --> 00:10:30.330

Carl Racine: Acknowledgement of Israel following the pattern that God established in Genesis one.

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00:10:32.550 --> 00:10:48.720

Carl Racine: So with reference to the meaning of the Sabbath, the significance of the Sabbath Rabbi sacks points out something very interesting about the literary structure of the book of Exodus and we've talked about this already.

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00:10:50.700 --> 00:10:57.420

Carl Racine: In the book of Exodus after giving the law from Mount Sinai in Chapter 20

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00:10:58.890 --> 00:11:14.130

Carl Racine: The last third of the book chapters 25 to 40 are detailed instructions for the building of the tabernacle, followed by detailed description of the Israelites following those

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00:11:15.360 --> 00:11:24.240

Carl Racine: Instructions and it's it's kind of long and kind of boring. We don't usually look at it. But there's a whole lot of interesting theological stuff that comes out of that.

84

00:11:26.460 --> 00:11:27.510

Carl Racine: And we saw the

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00:11:28.560 --> 00:11:36.810

Carl Racine: In between those two. The two parts of that final section, the part where God gives the instructions.

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00:11:37.290 --> 00:11:54.960

Carl Racine: And the part where they follow the instructions in between is a separate story this the shocking incident of the golden calf where Israel, despite having just had this encounter with God at Mount Sinai constructs a golden idol and worships it

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00:11:56.340 --> 00:11:58.380

Carl Racine: And many scholars have rightly

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00:12:01.260 --> 00:12:07.650

Carl Racine: Pointed out that this literary structure this kind of envelope structure where you have the two parts of the tabernacle.

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00:12:09.180 --> 00:12:21.600

Carl Racine: Story and in the middle is the golden calf story that that it's a it's a way of contrasting true worship the worship of God in the tabernacle with the false worship of the idolatry.

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00:12:22.920 --> 00:12:26.430

Carl Racine: But Rabbi sex notices something additional here.

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00:12:28.080 --> 00:12:34.470

Carl Racine: God has given the 10 commandments, including the Sabbath commandment. In chapter 20 but here.

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00:12:36.480 --> 00:12:57.450

Carl Racine: When you come to the story of the golden calf right before that story begins and Exodus 31 and it's an immediately after the story ends of the golden calf, you have a reiteration a repetition, a reminder of the Sabbath commandment, just that commandment.

93

00:12:58.500 --> 00:13:08.010

Carl Racine: And it's a little bit odd. Why does God repeat this commandment, two times in the middle of all this other stuff.

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00:13:08.640 --> 00:13:19.920

Carl Racine: And we saw that one implication of this was that the Sabbath rest resting on the Sabbath is to take precedence even overdoing God's work, even when you're building a temple for God.

95

00:13:20.490 --> 00:13:32.910

Carl Racine: You stop and rest you don't allow the idea that God has asked me to do this and I'm doing this for God keep you from obeying the commandment to rest on the Sabbath.

96

00:13:33.990 --> 00:13:52.020

Carl Racine: But Rabbi sex also argues that framing the story of the golden calf with the commandment for the Sabbath teaches us that Shabbat the Sabbath is the antidote to the golden calf and if we could look at slide number 15 please

97

00:13:52.230 --> 00:13:52.620

Share

98

00:14:14.460 --> 00:14:20.010

Carl Racine: Great. So Shabbat is the antidote to the golden calf and

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00:14:28.470 --> 00:14:38.370

Carl Racine: This Sabbath is the day we learn not to make an idol of gold, not to make an idol of the work of our hands, not to make an idol of the power of wealth of

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00:14:38.370 --> 00:14:39.900

Carl Racine: Created things

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00:14:41.010 --> 00:14:47.730

Carl Racine: Because idolatry puts the creation and created things in the place of God.

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00:14:48.360 --> 00:14:58.260

Carl Racine: And I want to look briefly here at two aspects of this that I think are prominent in our society today. We often think of idolatry is something in the past where our society.

103

00:14:58.680 --> 00:15:09.120

Carl Racine: Is completely idolatrous in many ways, and in specific with reference to the Sabbath, the idolatry of things and the idolatry of work.

104

00:15:09.960 --> 00:15:28.050

Carl Racine: And somebody some brilliant person online made up this wonderful graphic here where you have the golden calf and you have the Wall Street bull side by side as parallel parallel parallel realities and I think that's a great image for our society.

105

00:15:29.640 --> 00:15:39.510

Carl Racine: Ever since Adam and Eve ate the mango in the garden and I would argue strongly that it was a mango and not an apple, because who would give up everything just for an apple.

106

00:15:40.230 --> 00:15:47.880

Carl Racine: Pastor argues pastor argues that is it's a watermelon watermelon don't grow on trees. So I think I'm right and pastors wrong.

107

00:15:50.820 --> 00:15:56.490

Carl Racine: Anyway, whatever fruit they ate that gorgeous, beautiful luscious tempting fruit.

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00:15:56.940 --> 00:16:06.720

Carl Racine: Ever since a Adam and Eve ate that fruit, humans have been tempted to consume things to grab hold of all the beautiful fruit in the world, in the hope.

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00:16:07.050 --> 00:16:28.740

Carl Racine: That it will satisfy our desires and make us like God, that it will elevate our status and our sense of self worth, and our culture, in particular presses us to buy more and more stuff and define personal satisfaction and meaning in shopping and what's been called retail therapy.

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00:16:29.970 --> 00:16:41.940

Carl Racine: A good friend of mine used to say that advertising is actually reverse or negative therapy. It's designed to make you feel unhappy and discontented

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00:16:42.390 --> 00:16:50.460

Carl Racine: And Rabbi Sachs agrees. He says here, and you see the quote on your screen through constant creation of dissatisfaction.

112

00:16:50.910 --> 00:17:05.250

Carl Racine: The consumer society is in fact a highly sophisticated mechanism for the production and distribution of unhappiness Shabbat is our refuge from a consumer culture, which is the new religion.

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00:17:06.570 --> 00:17:26.700

Carl Racine: And the consumer culture is indeed an idolatrous religion that ultimately, ultimately makes slaves of its followers. And again, I love this other graphic. The second picture here. I think it's from Brazil of mindless shoppers worshipping at the altar of consumerism.

114

00:17:28.170 --> 00:17:37.500

Carl Racine: And ravenous X goes on to argue that as we are increasingly finding out in our world, the enslavement to consumerism is unsustainable.

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00:17:38.310 --> 00:17:52.080

Carl Racine: economically, environmentally and psychologically, the most important contribution of Shabbat, he says to the late capitalist societies of the 21st century is that it reintroduces the idea of limits.

116

00:17:52.590 --> 00:18:06.360

Carl Racine: There are limits to our striving limits to our labors our consumption of the Earth's finite resources any culture that loses its sense of limits eventually self destruct.

117

00:18:09.720 --> 00:18:21.270

Carl Racine: And as we will see, when we talk about the kosher laws. Next one of the ways in which Torah is training and righteousness is that it imposes necessary limits on what humans can do

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00:18:24.990 --> 00:18:35.250

Carl Racine: It imposes limits, especially on what we can do with regard to the physical world that's been entrusted to us. And as we've been, as we've seen in recent months.

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00:18:35.640 --> 00:18:44.640

Carl Racine: Plenty of people are unwilling to accept any limits on their behavior on their freedom, even if it leads to serious illness and death.

120

00:18:46.110 --> 00:19:01.500

Carl Racine: Shabbat teaches us to limit our attachment to things. Shabbat is the antidote to the prosperity gospel that's America is true religion, a false gospel that's infected even churches like Bethel.

121

00:19:06.420 --> 00:19:10.860

Carl Racine: Chabad also declares a limit to our idolatry of work.

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00:19:12.600 --> 00:19:17.940

Carl Racine: In America, we're all defined and given social status by our jobs.

123

00:19:19.050 --> 00:19:30.330

Carl Racine: First and foremost, people understand who we are, on the basis of what we do for a living. And this is what I call the cocktail party question that I hate. What do you do for a living.

124

00:19:33.060 --> 00:19:47.790

Carl Racine: I hate it because my situation is very different from most people, but people will ask a child, what do you want to be when you grow up, and if a precocious child were to respond. I want to be a loving servant to the poor.

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00:19:48.870 --> 00:19:56.670

Carl Racine: The questioning adult would be mystified. No, no. That's not what I meant. I meant, what kind of a career. Do you want to have

126

00:19:57.990 --> 00:20:02.040

Carl Racine: Children are pushed to be something. What do you want to be.

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00:20:03.180 --> 00:20:09.270

Carl Racine: Children are pushed to be something as defined by a career by a job by how they make money.

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00:20:10.590 --> 00:20:21.750

Carl Racine: And that notion is deeply ingrained in our culture, in our way of thinking about other people, and about ourselves jobs define us they categorize us they give us social position and respect and meaning.

129

00:20:22.200 --> 00:20:31.080

Carl Racine: And if we lose our job, or even think we're in danger of losing it, we lose our self confidence or self respect our sense of value, a sense of who we are.

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00:20:32.190 --> 00:20:46.290

Carl Racine: And people who lose jobs, even if they have enough to live on often suffer severe depression, they've lost their sense of self and their anchor in life and I first discovered this decades ago at a men's group in our former church.

131

00:20:48.210 --> 00:21:05.430

Carl Racine: I realized that the discussion there kept coming back to people who had had lost their jobs in the neck time of economic downsizing and who were floundering personally. It wasn't simply that they had had difficulty paying their bills. They didn't know who they were.

132

00:21:09.000 --> 00:21:15.390

Carl Racine: The prophet Isaiah warns us about this idolatry of work. And if we could go to the next slide number 16 please

133

00:21:17.670 --> 00:21:33.000

Carl Racine: Isaiah says their land is full of silver and gold. There's no end to their treasures their land is full of horses, there's no end to their chariots their land is full of idols, they bowed down to the work of their hands to what their fingers have made.

134

00:21:34.260 --> 00:21:38.100

Carl Racine: This is the cost is the profit for God's judgment on the nation.

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00:21:39.810 --> 00:21:49.380

Carl Racine: How often do we make an idol of our own work. How often do our jobs come first, when it comes to making choices in establishing priorities in our lives.

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00:21:50.280 --> 00:22:00.210

Carl Racine: What do we miss out on in life because of our obsession with our jobs do we sacrifice our families, our children, our friends, even our mental and physical health because of our careers.

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00:22:01.290 --> 00:22:09.270

Carl Racine: The very quality of life that people think they are pursuing through their work gets lost because of their devotion to that work.

138

00:22:11.490 --> 00:22:25.290

Carl Racine: When I was growing up, I don't think I hear this quite as much anymore. But when I was growing up. We spoke of the clergy as full time Christian ministers full time Christian ministers, because they had a paid job doing ministry.

139

00:22:25.920 --> 00:22:33.150

Carl Racine: They were career Christians professional servants of the Lord, and by inference. All the rest of us were second classes in the church.

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00:22:34.110 --> 00:22:46.770

Carl Racine: People often go into the ministry, just because they think that's a way to be serious about their faith, those who aren't professional clergy usually don't see themselves as ministers at all. And it was interesting in the coffee hour this morning.

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00:22:47.790 --> 00:22:51.090

Carl Racine: People don't know what to call me because I'm not ordained

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00:22:51.480 --> 00:23:01.170

Carl Racine: And some people actually call me Reverend Carl and Mr guy they got to give me a title, I have to have some sort of jobs status. I can't just simply be a servant of Jesus.

143

00:23:01.470 --> 00:23:13.440

Carl Racine: Whose spiritual gifts, have led him into teaching Sunday school class so earning money even defines for us what it means to be a real minister of Christ.

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00:23:14.370 --> 00:23:26.760

Carl Racine: And Shabbat teaches us that our existence and personal value as human beings and as children of God cannot be defined by or made dependent on our careers even careers serving God.

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00:23:28.260 --> 00:23:34.200



Carl Racine: Work as the Book of Ecclesiastes. He says cannot give you ultimate meaning and purpose in life.

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00:23:35.040 --> 00:23:48.090

Carl Racine: Work is a good thing, unnecessary thing and we may achieve a certain level of satisfaction from our accomplishments and Rabbi Heschel Carl's or attention to this verse in Exodus 20 that's part of the Sabbath commandment.

147

00:23:49.620 --> 00:24:06.330

Carl Racine: Six days you shall labor and do all your work and hassle points out that work is indeed one of God's commandments and we've seen humans replaced in the Garden of Eden Eden and given given work to do work says Heschel has a divine dignity.

148

00:24:07.380 --> 00:24:13.860

Carl Racine: But the Sabbath teaches us how to live with a certain amount of independence from our need to work.

149

00:24:15.060 --> 00:24:26.670

Carl Racine: The faith of the juices Heschel is not a way out of this world, but a way of being within and above this world and it's precisely the detachment from the enslavement to work.

150

00:24:27.120 --> 00:24:41.760

Carl Racine: And the sense that work is what really defines us that constitutes part of the joyful gift of the Sabbath the Sabbath is the antidote to the idolatry of things and the idolatry of work.

151

00:24:42.600 --> 00:25:01.320

Carl Racine: And I love this rabbinic commentary Rabbi Ishmael from the second century on exodus 29 he looks at the verse, and it says six days show you work and Rabbi Ishmael says, Now, is it possible for someone to do their work in six days.

152

00:25:02.610 --> 00:25:12.060

Carl Racine: The meaning is rather rest as if all your work had been done. Alternatively, rest from thoughts of work.

153

00:25:13.260 --> 00:25:21.630

Carl Racine: We can't ever really get all our work done in six days, it always remains incomplete and the Sabbath teaches us that that is

okay.

154

00:25:22.380 --> 00:25:38.070

Carl Racine: The world depends on God, not on us to keep going. Your boss can get along without you, whether you believe that or not even the work we are doing for God must stop one day in seven

155

00:25:39.360 --> 00:25:43.710

Carl Racine: And I'm going to pause there and let people comment reflect

156

00:25:45.150 --> 00:25:58.050

Christine Rose: Well, that just resonated with me is just to rest as if I have completed everything, you know, so I'm really, really going to be thinking that and not worrying about everything else that I need to do.

157

00:26:00.630 --> 00:26:07.200

Carl Racine: Is it possible to spend one day naughty naughty not working, but not thinking about your work. Yeah.

158

00:26:07.620 --> 00:26:22.470

Christine Rose: It's gonna take some time. Some just read which retraining my brain. The moment I start thinking about it is done, Christine, let it go. You take care of it tomorrow and don't focus on it, enjoy the moment. Grab the Bible and do something else.

159

00:26:23.490 --> 00:26:23.730

Christine Rose: With

160

00:26:23.850 --> 00:26:24.690

James Williams: When I was I'm

161

00:26:26.040 --> 00:26:31.140

James Williams: Dealing with young people and me and Alex to teaching Sunday school. We often talk about

162

00:26:32.190 --> 00:26:38.370

James Williams: We talked about careers and and what they were going to do for work. But more importantly, we will try to focus on

163

00:26:39.570 --> 00:26:42.690

James Williams: The God given gift and how

164

00:26:44.070 --> 00:26:57.240

James Williams: If you align your work with your gift and you're doing for somebody, and how you'll, you'll be blessed. It won't seem like work and I know for me, you know,

165

00:26:58.290 --> 00:27:15.660

James Williams: I'm a CPA and I've been doing this so like 40 years and it's not like I'm a rocket scientist at all and most times when people in my space. We're not talking entirely about debits credits or assets and liabilities about work we're talking about other things like

166

00:27:17.550 --> 00:27:33.210

James Williams: It was a good book. You guys know me, I run my mouth a lot. And so we couldn't be talking about youth. We could be talking about marriage. We can be talking about something and because I've been added so long I often would have some positive things there. But it was kind of like

167

00:27:34.620 --> 00:27:39.780

James Williams: A ministry, I would say, you know, and, you know, a good example will be passed to him and he was a surgeon

168

00:27:40.830 --> 00:27:41.220

James Williams: And

169

00:27:42.690 --> 00:27:49.860

James Williams: He chose to go full time in the ministry and not to fulfill you know 60 keep it the surgery and a lot of the ministry would be

170

00:27:51.840 --> 00:28:00.450

James Williams: Like with the search like say for example, a lot of times you know somebody's leaving something like that and they're going berserk. And it's like, oh, it's not as

171

00:28:01.320 --> 00:28:09.450

James Williams: Pressing is all that there was this this logical

method that we have you know you but you know whatever you have you do about it. Maybe that's not a good example, but

172

00:28:10.680 --> 00:28:17.310

James Williams: It's it's figuring out what God's gift is for you and how you can

173

00:28:18.390 --> 00:28:20.400

James Williams: Go to use that. And oftentimes

174

00:28:21.630 --> 00:28:31.080

James Williams: You can take care of yourself to doing whatever this gift is and I think that's where we should be is we should be figuring out our gifts and applying it.

175

00:28:32.370 --> 00:28:37.410

James Williams: It's supposed to cheeks and the doll. Because a lot of times people that chase the dollar, they're not happy. They're not happy. Oh. Oh.

176

00:28:40.470 --> 00:28:40.800

James Williams: That's it.

177

00:28:42.750 --> 00:28:43.230

James Williams: I'm

178

00:28:45.870 --> 00:28:46.620

James Williams: All right, I'm done.

179

00:28:51.360 --> 00:28:52.200

Carole Copeland Thomas: I've been

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00:28:53.220 --> 00:28:56.370

Carole Copeland Thomas: Meaning an entrepreneur, as long as I've been

181

00:28:58.770 --> 00:29:05.010

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know I'm always in and out of this space and asking that question rhetorically because

182

00:29:06.060 --> 00:29:11.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: There is a need for me to do what I do to keep a roof over my head.

183

00:29:12.510 --> 00:29:33.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: And balancing that with all of the volunteer work that I love to do, including the church work and I for me. I have to pull myself back because I get so involved in the volunteer work that it can out place and overshadow the paid work I have to do.

184

00:29:35.220 --> 00:29:37.290

Carole Copeland Thomas: And Christine knows cuz she's an entrepreneur, so

185

00:29:38.340 --> 00:29:42.000

Carole Copeland Thomas: So that's the dilemma that I find myself in

186

00:29:44.250 --> 00:29:56.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: And and that's something I'm mean, my two words. This year, our consistency and discipline, because that's what I need to concentrate on to complete what I need to do every month.

187

00:29:58.140 --> 00:30:10.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: To meet my financial goals to stay in this House and to do all those things and then have enough time for all of the other things that I like to do that are just not revenue generating

188

00:30:13.950 --> 00:30:20.010

James Williams: Now, when I first opened my office I was working with another account and I really never met him.

189

00:30:21.060 --> 00:30:30.900

James Williams: And so he has sold his business and I will, and I made an appeal to the person who sold it to. And it wasn't really going to happen. So I was going to back away from him.

190

00:30:32.190 --> 00:30:39.000

James Williams: So me and another friend of mine had purchased the building down the hall and this for future business future

191

00:30:40.320 --> 00:30:41.220  
James Williams: You know, future

192  
00:30:42.300 --> 00:30:46.470  
James Williams: And so I was, I was going around the POC walking and I was praying to God as to

193  
00:30:47.550 --> 00:30:56.400  
James Williams: What I would do, and how I would do it. I know, I know it's gonna be an account but opening at my own office was was a formidable task and I was kind of intimidated.

194  
00:30:57.960 --> 00:30:59.490  
James Williams: So I pray to God that um

195  
00:31:00.540 --> 00:31:02.070  
James Williams: I would be able to sustain

196  
00:31:03.510 --> 00:31:11.520  
James Williams: And it was interesting because sustaining was never the challenge. The challenge was, is can you handle the onslaught.

197  
00:31:12.870 --> 00:31:22.380  
James Williams: Most times I am just overwhelmed with stuff and I have to find I have to figure out what Avenue. I'm going to be in because I can't do everything for everybody but

198  
00:31:24.000 --> 00:31:25.440  
James Williams: It's just incredible how

199  
00:31:26.520 --> 00:31:33.630  
James Williams: It's been just such a blessing. Like sometimes I'm working with somebody and sometimes they don't even have any funds and you know i said i won't charge

200  
00:31:34.860 --> 00:31:43.830  
James Williams: But I'll help them maneuver through something and not because of trickery or or not doing it properly, but just applying the law as opposed to

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00:31:44.370 --> 00:31:56.580

James Williams: It is just such a tremendous feeling when I see how happy they are, and sometimes at the end of the day, you know, I get these people hugs you know and it's oftentimes we're getting the hook and I'm getting paid. And it's just been

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00:31:58.110 --> 00:32:00.240

James Williams: It's just been truly a blessing to, uh,

203

00:32:01.620 --> 00:32:02.460

James Williams: To find

204

00:32:04.620 --> 00:32:11.190

James Williams: giftedness and being able to apply it in and to stay consistent with your, with your, with your Christian walk

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00:32:13.230 --> 00:32:19.320

Susan Racine: One of the lessons that I was really still struggling to learn is a lesson from Carl's

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00:32:21.180 --> 00:32:27.570

Susan Racine: Uncle cousin, Jim, who's been at spend his life working to

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00:32:29.010 --> 00:32:32.970

Susan Racine: spread the gospel in East one Thailand.

208

00:32:34.140 --> 00:32:36.630

Susan Racine: And he said, Can you all hear me.

209

00:32:38.040 --> 00:32:52.200

Susan Racine: Okay, and he said that he spent all his life, working, working, working, working, trying to do stuff for God trying to please God trying to, and he always felt like he was on a treadmill and

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00:32:53.250 --> 00:33:04.140

Susan Racine: All of a sudden he realized that the God is just delighted with him as he is, and he doesn't. He's going to work. But that doesn't define

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00:33:04.860 --> 00:33:15.840

Susan Racine: His relationship with God that God is loving him just for who he is and it's because you know it has nothing to do. We may have something to do with the word

212

00:33:15.870 --> 00:33:16.620

James Williams: He sent it right

213

00:33:16.680 --> 00:33:26.850

Susan Racine: That's not why that's not the the reason for God's love and he's really learned to be resting and in confident in that

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00:33:27.870 --> 00:33:32.520

Susan Racine: We're always looking to what do I need to do next. And how can God use me here. And I think it's

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00:33:33.810 --> 00:33:37.230

Susan Racine: Very healthy to just take that Sabbath rest and say,

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00:33:38.550 --> 00:33:41.970

Susan Racine: I'm here, I'm a creature of God. I'm a child of God. He loves

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00:33:43.050 --> 00:33:43.290

Susan Racine: Me.

218

00:33:45.450 --> 00:33:51.810

Susan Racine: And we are, we're not gonna be able to prove ourselves because he is all that and we are just little creatures.

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00:33:53.190 --> 00:33:54.750

James Williams: Did you ever read the book, The Shack.

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00:33:56.580 --> 00:33:58.560

James Williams: Now, did you see the movie version of it.

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00:34:00.030 --> 00:34:04.230

James Williams: Well, the movie version really is interesting because

222



00:34:05.790 --> 00:34:10.710

James Williams: In the story, you know, the man loses a child and he's kind of he's real angry.

223

00:34:11.880 --> 00:34:17.460

James Williams: And so he goes back to the shack and he has this encounter any meets up with

224

00:34:19.170 --> 00:34:33.780

James Williams: The trial he meets up with with God the Father, the Holy Spirit in Jesus and in the conversation that happens with this encounter is just, it's just like what you were saying, Susan, where

225

00:34:35.040 --> 00:34:36.540

James Williams: You don't know. I mean,

226

00:34:37.890 --> 00:34:43.980

James Williams: You will go along with what you're doing. And it may seem ordinary or not enough or whatever but

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00:34:45.150 --> 00:35:03.360

James Williams: In fact is enough in it's just really interesting how they play it out. And of course, God is a woman, a black woman to it's really interesting because I love the book and then when I saw the movie. It's like a whole different kind of perspective. So I would highly recommend that

228

00:35:05.730 --> 00:35:11.220

James Williams: Just to just read or watch the movie because it was just, it was just good, it was good. It was good.

229

00:35:12.660 --> 00:35:13.650

Wyatt Jackson: Yeah, I am.

230

00:35:15.300 --> 00:35:22.590

Wyatt Jackson: I have a different angle on it. This work. Work idea because I remember a few years ago call her back this up and

231

00:35:24.930 --> 00:35:26.670

Wyatt Jackson: It's interesting, like Chris theme.

232

00:35:27.810 --> 00:35:33.840

Wyatt Jackson: I'm in the business of, you know, getting people off of their work.

233

00:35:35.040 --> 00:35:45.210

Wyatt Jackson: Mindset and having them be entertaining for a few hours, like the entertainment world and the massage therapy world in a lot of ways are similar.

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00:35:47.010 --> 00:35:48.000

Wyatt Jackson: Because you're

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00:35:49.440 --> 00:35:51.000

Wyatt Jackson: giving people a break.

236

00:35:52.560 --> 00:36:14.070

Wyatt Jackson: From their six days they come and see you perform or they come to get a massage or they come to do a yoga class and they're really taking it easy. They're in a whole nother space and you share that space with them, you understand it. So the lines can get a little blurry.

237

00:36:15.330 --> 00:36:19.890

Wyatt Jackson: Because you're thinking, well, I'm helping them to relax and I'm relaxed.

238

00:36:20.940 --> 00:36:22.380

Wyatt Jackson: Or I'm enjoying what I do.

239

00:36:24.000 --> 00:36:30.090

Wyatt Jackson: So you do have to put up those parameters, you have to do that or else it'll all blur into just

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00:36:31.830 --> 00:36:36.090

Wyatt Jackson: Activity and it is work. I mean it is work.

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00:36:37.650 --> 00:36:39.960

Wyatt Jackson: So it's an interesting, interesting thing to think about.

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00:36:42.750 --> 00:36:59.670

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know, it might my brother and sister in law celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary. Last Tuesday and just a joyful event. I mean, they they're real, they're friends. They're lovers, they've known each other since seventh grade, they started dating in college, but

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00:37:00.780 --> 00:37:12.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: Just, just a wonderful romance that they've had through the years, Pastor Hammond and Reverend Gloria were apart. I put together a zoom celebration for them.

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00:37:12.660 --> 00:37:19.890

Carole Copeland Thomas: And at first it was just going to be family. And then I said, I watched this going and invite your friends because they're very social.

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00:37:20.400 --> 00:37:30.030

Carole Copeland Thomas: And they have friends all over the country and for me, I'm thinking about pastor's sermon today that talked about looking up and not looking around.

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00:37:30.600 --> 00:37:40.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: I have to watch myself because there are only two of us in the family. My brother is an attorney. He's a very successful attorney, he's done.

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00:37:41.070 --> 00:37:52.290

Carole Copeland Thomas: Very high profile work and he's made a lot of money and he's done very well and his friends are in that category. So he is actors and and notable

248

00:37:52.920 --> 00:38:08.250

Carole Copeland Thomas: physicians and doctors and for me, I'm his younger sister and I have to validate myself, not through him, but through me and it's not a matter of jealousy. It's not that

249

00:38:08.850 --> 00:38:20.160

Carole Copeland Thomas: Not envy, but it's it's it's me looking at myself on the same level as my brother, which is difficult, just because he's had

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00:38:21.240 --> 00:38:39.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: He's had success. I've, I can even compare myself to and with and. And again, I'm not saying it because I love him. It's not a jealousy thing or an envy thing but it's it's it's me looking up and not comparing myself to him or his friends or whatever.

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00:38:40.080 --> 00:38:45.000

Carole Copeland Thomas: And so we had a zoom Thanksgiving.

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00:38:45.720 --> 00:38:57.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: Family event, which was really nice. And so then we, I said, let's do it again for the holidays and one thing led to another, you're going to be married 49 years. Let's do zoom instead of at Christmas time.

253

00:38:57.690 --> 00:39:08.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: So it all worked out. And there were 55 people on this zoom call including family but I mean friends from all over the country and for me.

254

00:39:09.660 --> 00:39:15.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: The, the blessing for me is I know zoom and I love zoom and

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00:39:16.380 --> 00:39:17.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm really good soon.

256

00:39:18.360 --> 00:39:25.710

Carole Copeland Thomas: And and I'm not bragging, but that's that's I'm grateful for that. So it was very easy to put this together.

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00:39:26.610 --> 00:39:42.090

Carole Copeland Thomas: And moderated and to have fun and we had fun for two hours was it was too. It was close to two hours, an hour and a half, almost with them just telling stories. Now that you know these are black people, mostly. There were some white people.

258

00:39:43.320 --> 00:40:00.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: His attorneys are white friends or white, but these are black people tell them smack stories and stuff and just having a lot of fun and and just going back as far as when my sister

in law was a year old, two years old.

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00:40:01.950 --> 00:40:12.870

Carole Copeland Thomas: So I mean those stories went back that far. And they have people who are on this call, who were that they've known since elementary school and junior high school and people who are in their wedding.

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00:40:13.860 --> 00:40:27.660

Carole Copeland Thomas: Who are on this call. So it was just a very special time and I felt good. Because, for once, I could contribute something that some of them didn't know well and I know zoom. Well, so

261

00:40:28.470 --> 00:40:37.530

Carole Copeland Thomas: My point is, after the fact, they were just raving about the party and how nice it is. And gosh YOUR SISTER, COULD TEACH THE NETWORK. Some things and

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00:40:38.100 --> 00:40:44.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: All those kind of things. And I think for me for once in my life. This seems crazy for you guys, but this is what I deal with

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00:40:45.570 --> 00:40:59.490

Carole Copeland Thomas: In my life I was on the same level as my brother in terms of achievements and accomplishments and I didn't have to look over, I could look up and and be thankful and to genuinely just be happy for them.

264

00:41:00.360 --> 00:41:05.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: And to do something for them because I could, I could not ever have afforded

265

00:41:06.120 --> 00:41:16.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: Their kind of putting you have very expensive parties with bartenders, you know, and people who valets who park their cars. I mean, very expensive parties.

266

00:41:16.830 --> 00:41:26.520

Carole Copeland Thomas: So my point. To Brother Carl and to pastor Hammond who's on is we all struggle with these things. You know you struggle with the balance of

267

00:41:27.090 --> 00:41:41.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: Yeah, I have to make a I have to pay a mortgage every month. I've got other stuff. I've got to do. But there are things that I love to do that are not income producing and just how to have that kind of balance and some of it intertwines with my family.

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00:41:43.470 --> 00:41:45.600

Carl Racine: Yeah, I mean we we've seen that

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00:41:47.250 --> 00:41:55.200

Carl Racine: Work is is something God commands humans to do starting in the Garden of Eden. It's not part of the fall and some people may think

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00:41:56.220 --> 00:42:03.540

Carl Racine: But the Sabbath. This is why the Sabbath is so important because it's the antidote to that sense that the work is what defines us as human beings as Susan said

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00:42:04.590 --> 00:42:18.690

Carl Racine: God, we are we are God's children. We are created in God's image that's what defines us. Sometimes a job is just a job. It's a way of putting money on putting food on the table and and close on your children's back

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00:42:20.070 --> 00:42:22.620

Carl Racine: And that's okay. Sometimes you can't

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00:42:23.670 --> 00:42:34.650

Carl Racine: Overlap your sense of calling and Mission and ministry in the world with the way that you make money. It doesn't mean that at your job. You can't minister to people.

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00:42:35.670 --> 00:42:50.370

Carl Racine: But that might not be your primary form of ministry, how you make your money. And so as sister CAROL SAYS, then the, the trick is, how do you balance that that calling to work to make money.

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00:42:52.290 --> 00:43:09.540

Carl Racine: To provide for people with your calling as a child of God as a gifted member of the body of Christ to be a minister in the world, both to the body of Christ and to those outside the body of Christ.

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00:43:11.490 --> 00:43:21.330

Carl Racine: But the the main point I sort of want to argue argue or emphasize here is that work.

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00:43:22.710 --> 00:43:40.980

Carl Racine: Our job our career shouldn't define and create our sense of self worth our sense of who we are. That can all be taken away from us in a moment's notice, in a whole lots of different ways.

278

00:43:41.730 --> 00:43:49.080

Carl Racine: That doesn't mean we lose our self respect that doesn't mean we don't lose our value in the eyes of God and of other people.

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00:43:50.220 --> 00:44:08.550

Carl Racine: The Sabbath teaches us to that you're never going to get all your work done and that's okay because the world is in God's hands, not your hands and and so I and Susan says I'm preaching to her. But this, this stuff is actually stuff. Some of this is stuff I preached a sermon.

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00:44:10.500 --> 00:44:14.010

Carl Racine: 25 years ago at church of the holy spirit amount of hand

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00:44:15.240 --> 00:44:27.900

Carl Racine: That I actually lifted out of a sermon on work because I think it's important. I think it's important in our culture, in particular that asks us, who do you want to be. What do you want to be when you grow up.

282

00:44:28.830 --> 00:44:42.600

Carl Racine: And the answer to that has to be something about how you make money rather than I mean I said this facetiously, but I don't mean I would love it if my child had said. He said, an answer to that question I would like to be a loving servant of the poor.

283

00:44:44.190 --> 00:44:48.630

Carl Racine: Because that would just that would take the discussion to

a whole different level.

284

00:44:50.250 --> 00:44:52.410

Carl Racine: Anyway, in terms of the Sabbath.

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00:44:52.890 --> 00:44:57.450

Carole Copeland Thomas: Brother, Carl, I THINK, BROTHER. The Sean did you have a comment to make. I was reading the chat.

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00:44:58.620 --> 00:45:02.340

De'Shawn Washington: I did and it seems like we're moving on. I don't want to hold this conversation.

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00:45:03.060 --> 00:45:03.720

Carl Racine: Now go ahead

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00:45:04.440 --> 00:45:18.780

De'Shawn Washington: I'm not Sasha is going to say, real quick. I'm a teacher. So, you know, it's very easy for guests. We meet to be consumed in the work of serving the young and the curiosity of the Muslim young folks.

289

00:45:20.130 --> 00:45:32.490

De'Shawn Washington: And so I've also struggled with idolizing the work to a point that is broken me down in the past, so much so that you know almost didn't want to do teaching anymore because I focus so much on it.

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00:45:33.120 --> 00:45:40.860

De'Shawn Washington: And, you know, one of the things that Lisa my personal life that I had to kind of think about is shutting off.

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00:45:41.550 --> 00:45:52.500

De'Shawn Washington: THE WORK FOR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE family myself. God, right. So, you know, I even during those six other days we count Sunday as part of working

292

00:45:52.860 --> 00:46:03.360

De'Shawn Washington: Even though six all the days of setting up or teaching in front of the kids of planning, there is a level of balance were at a certain time, like, that's it. So, like, five o'clock.



293

00:46:04.350 --> 00:46:12.540

De'Shawn Washington: That's if me like I have to turn off this work of the turn off grade and not have to turn off answering emails so parents or students

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00:46:13.080 --> 00:46:25.350

De'Shawn Washington: And give myself that time to be regard because my soul needs to be refreshed every day to be at 100% that continue to teach containing to give knowledge, the kids so that way they can be able to be strong thinkers

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00:46:26.160 --> 00:46:41.940

De'Shawn Washington: Otherwise, like I just will be exhausted completely exhausted and if I'm not 100% doing this work added profession as easily to be ridiculed and easy to get criticism from parents, students administration, what have you.

296

00:46:42.870 --> 00:46:56.520

De'Shawn Washington: You know, then was good as the work to do God's work, if I can do it at 100% that he's called on me to do so, you know, I really take that into consideration. I thank you brother Carl for bringing that to light the

297

00:46:57.750 --> 00:47:04.890

De'Shawn Washington: idolize them work because that's something I've seen and something I've fallen into and it's something that I do my best to

298

00:47:05.370 --> 00:47:12.000

De'Shawn Washington: prevent others from fall into that same trap because it is something that can overwhelm you, and it can exhaust you and

299

00:47:12.450 --> 00:47:19.530

De'Shawn Washington: Even make you feel like you only want to do the work anymore because you're no longer having joy. You're not have enjoy what you're calling us to do.

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00:47:19.890 --> 00:47:33.780

De'Shawn Washington: That when we have to look in the mirror really ask ourselves, like what is our purpose, right now, how we lost God

from our visual and are we working on ourselves only. And if that's the case, then we have a lot of work that we got to do. So thank you for bringing that up.

301

00:47:36.960 --> 00:47:46.470

Carl Racine: Amen. Well, we had been arguing pretty strongly for the importance of the Sabbath and now I want to ask a question. Should Christians observe the Sabbath.

302

00:47:48.000 --> 00:47:58.320

Carl Racine: We've seen that Jesus does not overturn Sabbath observance, but rather emphasizes its importance is God's given gift to as a God given gift to creation.

303

00:48:01.230 --> 00:48:12.900

Carl Racine: To all of humans. We've seen that Jesus attitude towards the Sabbath rules, maybe slightly less strict than some other Jews of his time, but he's not simply arguing that anything goes on the Sabbath.

304

00:48:13.440 --> 00:48:21.750

Carl Racine: He's only rejecting the stringent rules that put an undue burden on ordinary people, and don't don't take into account human pain and suffering.

305

00:48:22.800 --> 00:48:26.700

Carl Racine: And we've seen that later rabbis make similar concessions.

306

00:48:27.630 --> 00:48:41.880

Carl Racine: The Sabbath was created by God for human benefit for our good and declaring himself Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus is affirming that acts of mercy. Both, both the humans and animals are part of the essence of Sabbath observance.

307

00:48:42.690 --> 00:48:50.610

Carl Racine: We have seen that the early Christians also kept the Sabbath as well. And at the end of the Sabbath on Saturday night.

308

00:48:51.240 --> 00:49:01.770

Carl Racine: And remember that the Sabbath goes from Friday night to Saturday night, they seem to have had a meal and a service celebrating

the resurrection as well. We see this in Acts 27 where Paul preaches a sermon.

309

00:49:02.220 --> 00:49:14.250

Carl Racine: That goes on late into the night on a Saturday night, and this poor fella Utica actually falls asleep, listening to Paul which one can understand. I suppose it if it went on that long.

310

00:49:15.570 --> 00:49:24.030

Carl Racine: But, but the point is that they were celebrating the Sabbath, and then they also had some sort of Christian celebration as well. But once

311

00:49:24.390 --> 00:49:41.970

Carl Racine: Christianity turned its back on his Jewish roots. The Sunday celebration was all that was left. And I would argue that it was Christians who later made what we call the Sabbath or what they call the Sabbath illegal mystic burden on people a grim somber reminder

312

00:49:43.050 --> 00:49:47.730

Carl Racine: Day of mind numbing religious instruction, where no levity was allowed

313

00:49:48.120 --> 00:49:56.790

Carl Racine: And that misunderstanding of the Sabbath was one of the legacies of the Puritans in America that I think has kept the church from seeing the Biblical purpose and value of that day.

314

00:49:57.540 --> 00:50:08.400

Carl Racine: And in my lifetime that false perspective on the Sabbath has largely been abandoned by Christians, but nothing else has been put in its place. It's simply not an issue for most people.

315

00:50:09.660 --> 00:50:20.100

Carl Racine: But I can't see any biblical reason why Christians should not observe the Sabbath, except it's part of the anti Judaism of our tradition that's deprived us of this gift from God.

316

00:50:20.940 --> 00:50:35.400

Carl Racine: And we see that bias, we see that anti Jewish bias in the traditional interpretation of collections to 16 and 17 which is the

only other passage in the whole of the New Testament to talk about the Sabbath.

317

00:50:36.900 --> 00:50:52.140

Carl Racine: And I want to look at this passage and argue that in fact it's been misunderstood and misinterpreted by anti Jewish Christians. So could we see slide number 17 and if you want to open your Bibles to collections to if you have a Bible.

318

00:50:53.160 --> 00:50:54.660

Carl Racine: That might be helpful as well.

319

00:51:01.020 --> 00:51:07.290

Carl Racine: Because this passage is sometimes understood as Paul can condemning the observance of the Sabbath.

320

00:51:08.040 --> 00:51:17.310

Carl Racine: Literally, and I put a very literal translation here and you can look at your translations to see how it differs from what what modern translations say

321

00:51:17.940 --> 00:51:32.220

Carl Racine: Literally, Paul says, Therefore let no one judge you in eating, and then drinking or in respect to a feast or a new moon or Sabbath, which might also be translated as weeks.

322

00:51:32.880 --> 00:51:44.160

Carl Racine: Which are a shadow of the coming things, but the body of Christ. And that last phrase doesn't have a verb, and it hangs somewhat awkwardly

323

00:51:44.160 --> 00:51:44.370

Carl Racine: In the

324

00:51:44.580 --> 00:51:49.320

Carl Racine: Text and there's been many creative ways to deal with it.

325

00:51:51.690 --> 00:51:58.710

Carl Racine: But despite the fact that some modern translations, like the end I've translate in this verse Sabbath day.

326

00:51:59.760 --> 00:52:06.150

Carl Racine: The word in Greek is plural, which you can see if you look at the King James, or the new RSV or other translations.

327

00:52:07.860 --> 00:52:18.300

Carl Racine: And once again, I think the nav is imposed it's Protestant anti Jewish theology into the translation and has given people an anti Jewish proof text as we saw, so

328

00:52:18.930 --> 00:52:31.920

Carl Racine: In Mark seven but Paul does not say the Sabbath here which he could easily have done if that's what he meant to say the plural here has a much broader reference and especially when it's connected to

329

00:52:31.920 --> 00:52:35.370

Carl Racine: Other parallel phrases in that verse.

330

00:52:36.780 --> 00:52:40.260

Carl Racine: The parallel phrases of the new moon and the feasts.

331

00:52:41.280 --> 00:52:41.700

Carl Racine: The old

332

00:52:41.940 --> 00:52:45.060

Carl Racine: Testament regularly speaks of the Jewish feasts. The Sabbath.

333

00:52:45.330 --> 00:52:51.150

Carl Racine: Especially the first and last days of a weekly festival and you find this throughout the book of Leviticus, for example.

334

00:52:51.900 --> 00:53:11.580

Carl Racine: The Greek word for Sabbath in the New Testament, as I've indicated here often means a week and is used that way in. And as often in the plural. And yet, it means a week mark Matthew 28 one mark 16 to john 21 X 27 it's used repeatedly that way to simply refer to a week.

335

00:53:12.780 --> 00:53:23.100

Carl Racine: So the primary reference here in in this verse in collections is not to the Sabbath day, but to various religious celebrations and feasts.

336

00:53:24.270 --> 00:53:33.360

Carl Racine: And in the context of this discussion that I had a pastor going up. Who said when Paul says, Therefore you have to look and see what it's there for.

337

00:53:34.260 --> 00:53:46.890

Carl Racine: He's been saying something before Paul has been arguing in collections earlier on in this chapter to the because of the cross. And because of their baptism.

338

00:53:47.340 --> 00:54:00.930

Carl Racine: Gentile followers of Jesus near need not fear condemnation for their sinful lives in the past. So he insists, they should not let others condemn them for their observance of special holidays.

339

00:54:02.040 --> 00:54:09.360

Carl Racine: He never he never indicates clearly whether that judgment is because they are not observing the holidays or because they are

340

00:54:09.900 --> 00:54:20.520

Carl Racine: But I think it's much more likely here that that the Christians in collections are being criticized for their feasting for their observing of these holidays.

341

00:54:21.510 --> 00:54:35.430

Carl Racine: It's also not clear if those judgments are being made by piece people within the church or by non Christians. But either way, the passage insists, don't let people judge how you observe Sabbath's and other religious feasts.

342

00:54:37.260 --> 00:54:45.810

Carl Racine: Second, Paul does not want them to be led astray by human traditions and worldly philosophies that are not in accordance with Christ.

343

00:54:46.680 --> 00:54:56.940

Carl Racine: For Paul the regulations and practices that people are

trying to impose on the collections are human teachings and commandments and he says this twice in verse eight. And then verse 22

344

00:54:58.290 --> 00:55:12.570

Carl Racine: Now, if he were speaking here about the feasts outlined in Torah, including the Sabbath. Then Paul would be flagrantly and inexplicably contradicting the Scripture, which clearly indicates that these are not human commandments. They are God's commandments.

345

00:55:12.930 --> 00:55:29.100

Carl Racine: And Paul would also be contradicting Jesus himself who has we've seen not only observe these feasts. But as soon as soon as disciples would as well. And who spoke specifically about the Sabbath is God's gift to all humanity Jew and Gentile alike.

346

00:55:31.080 --> 00:55:48.570

Carl Racine: Third, Paul Paul's talking here. And in verse 21. You can see this about what we think of as aesthetic regulations restrictions on what you can eat and drink the people who are criticizing the collections are saying don't eat, don't drink.

347

00:55:49.800 --> 00:56:01.290

Carl Racine: That has nothing to do with the weekly Sabbath or any of the other Jewish feasts. The rabbi specifically prohibit fasting on the Sabbath, because it's out of character with the joyous nature of the day.

348

00:56:02.340 --> 00:56:18.030

Carl Racine: So it's hard to connect what Paul says here with any condemnation of Sabbath observance. It's only the anti Judaism of our tradition that's taught us to read Paul this way and then use Paul, not only to override the Old Testament, but also the teachings and practice of Jesus.

349

00:56:20.340 --> 00:56:26.400

Carl Racine: What's significant to me about this whole chapter is the kind of language. Paul uses to make his argument.

350

00:56:27.480 --> 00:56:46.620

Carl Racine: Unlike other places where Paul discusses the relationship of Gentiles to the law of Moses. Here he does not engage in any discussion of Scripture at all. Instead, he uses strange phrases like elementary principles of the cosmos and rulers and authorities.

351

00:56:47.670 --> 00:56:53.010

Carl Racine: That seem to come much more from esoteric Greek philosophical discussions, then from Torah.

352

00:56:53.820 --> 00:57:09.870

Carl Racine: I mean, would Paul really refer to really refer to observing the Sabbath Yom Kippur Passover or Pentecost as empty deceit that comes from the elemental spiritual forces of the cosmos, which is His Word in in verse eight.

353

00:57:10.890 --> 00:57:16.590

Carl Racine: Or is Paul really arguing here that spiritual disciplines like fasting have no value for the Christian

354

00:57:20.130 --> 00:57:33.780

Carl Racine: Because he says these seem seem to be a matter of wisdom with their self imposed religious practices in humility and severe control of the body, but they have no value against central and diligence now that has anything to do with Jewish feasts.

355

00:57:36.660 --> 00:57:46.620

Carl Racine: I don't think he's criticizing mainstream first century Jewish practices or arguing against Torah itself in this passage I think he's speaking to Gentiles.

356

00:57:46.980 --> 00:57:52.140

Carl Racine: Who more than likely have learned to observe some of the feasts in Torah from Jewish Christians.

357

00:57:52.740 --> 00:58:06.060

Carl Racine: And other people who hold to more obscure Greek philosophical ideas such as these ascetic practices denying yourself worship of angels and mystical visions that he mentioned in verse 18

358

00:58:06.510 --> 00:58:15.210

Carl Racine: Other people with those sorts of ideas are criticizing the Gentile Christians for observing these Jewish feasts.

359

00:58:17.670 --> 00:58:31.770

Carl Racine: It's not clear biblical scholars continued to argue about



what the exact collection heresy is what this teaching is that Paul is rejecting but whatever Paul is rejecting it's something that doesn't fit the gospel of Christ.

360

00:58:32.730 --> 00:58:44.730

Carl Racine: But I would argue, he is not in any way overturning the observance of the Sabbath in this passage because to do so, he would have to make a completely different type of argument.

361

00:58:45.720 --> 00:58:53.040

Carl Racine: Don't have a pause and see if people have questions and I'll run through this class ends to a little bit clearly very quickly, but

362

00:58:57.750 --> 00:58:59.190

Carl Racine: Two people have questions about

363

00:59:00.510 --> 00:59:01.380

Carl Racine: This passage

364

00:59:11.700 --> 00:59:12.000

No.

365

00:59:19.320 --> 00:59:23.640

Carl Racine: I think if you go back and look, you'll see the Paul is criticizing people who are

366

00:59:27.990 --> 00:59:39.750

Carl Racine: People who are advocating certain forms of self denial that Paul doesn't see as fit with the gospel of Christ. And again, that has nothing to do with the Sabbath.

367

00:59:41.670 --> 00:59:43.050

Carl Racine: All right. Um,

368

00:59:51.090 --> 00:59:58.200

Carl Racine: I've still got some more stuff here to do. Well, let's go on and maybe we'll stop when it's time to stop.

369

01:00:00.390 --> 01:00:06.450

Carl Racine: So in conclusion, I want to argue that the Sabbath is part of what Paul calls training and righteousness. Paul says,

370

01:00:06.930 --> 01:00:14.790

Carl Racine: That all of scriptures, not only inspired by God but is useful for teaching and correction and training in righteousness.

371

01:00:15.300 --> 01:00:23.640

Carl Racine: And the Sabbath, I think, is just such a discipline. It's a training in holy detachment from endless striving and labor.

372

01:00:24.270 --> 01:00:42.780

Carl Racine: It teaches us a healthy perspective on wealth and money it insists that we pay attention, not just to our own needs, but also to the needs of others, including foreigners people not like us. And also, including the non human parts of creation, the Sabbath is for everybody.

373

01:00:44.610 --> 01:01:00.480

Carl Racine: And the Sabbath like so much of Torah teaches us limits limits to what we acquire and consume and we recognize our own limits by observing the Sabbath. We can only do so much in this world. And then we have to stop and take a breath and be refresh.

374

01:01:01.560 --> 01:01:08.670

Carl Racine: By limiting what you can do in a given week the Sabbath forces you to give up the illusion of being in control over your life.

375

01:01:09.900 --> 01:01:21.090

Carl Racine: Can we just give up one day a week and stop working ourselves to death for one day and seven. Stop trying to change the world and learn to be in harmony with it.

376

01:01:21.930 --> 01:01:35.310

Carl Racine: For six days a week we act as stewards of the world developing it taking care of it using its resources to satisfy our human needs, but the Sabbath puts it all in perspective, if we could go to Slide 18 please

377

01:01:40.860 --> 01:01:56.070

Carl Racine: Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch from 1953 says every Sabbath return to God, his universe acknowledge the Lord your God and remind

yourself yet again that this universe is borrowed from God.

378

01:01:56.700 --> 01:02:04.920

Carl Racine: Remember, who is its master that this borrowed universe belongs to the Lord, and that he not you rules everything

379

01:02:06.390 --> 01:02:16.170

Carl Racine: The Sabbath, I would argue, has always been a countercultural subversive institution that set people apart from the way the world operates from the way the world does its business.

380

01:02:16.830 --> 01:02:26.850

Carl Racine: Sabbath observance is part of a larger purpose of Torah to create a nation. Unlike other nations and nation of people who serve God not Mammon

381

01:02:28.290 --> 01:02:43.680

Carl Racine: And most importantly, the Sabbath is a day for rest and refreshment and rejuvenation of our lives. And I have two little testimonies here from modern day rabbis about their experience of the Sabbath Rabbi carry alecky

382

01:02:45.840 --> 01:02:57.510

Carl Racine: In a recent book on on the sort of main aspects, explain the main aspects of Judaism for Christians. He gives us personal testimony. He says, maybe it's middle age.

383

01:02:57.930 --> 01:03:04.620

Carl Racine: But I can actually feel my body begin to shut down as I make my way home. It's Friday afternoon in anticipation of Shabbat

384

01:03:05.340 --> 01:03:10.680

Carl Racine: I can push all week long early mornings and late nights, but come Friday, I'm ready to completely unwind.

385

01:03:11.160 --> 01:03:17.250

Carl Racine: It isn't just the bodily rest that I crave it is the deep spiritual nourishment. The Sabbath provides

386

01:03:17.910 --> 01:03:32.220

Carl Racine: By separating myself from the frenzy of the world that

surrounds me all week long. I can focus on the needs of my soul throughout Shabbat, it is an island away from the secular intrusions on my spiritual world.

387

01:03:35.670 --> 01:03:45.870

Carl Racine: And he has a co author in that book who who talks more about different ways in which Jews choose to observe the Sabbath. Some Jews follow

388

01:03:46.710 --> 01:03:51.120

Carl Racine: A very strict set of rules that greatly limit their activities.

389

01:03:51.690 --> 01:04:05.520

Carl Racine: While others focus more generally undoing pleasurable things that they don't have time to do the rest of the week. And he says he tries to combine both approaches that the rule following actually has some value. It's a discipline.

390

01:04:06.090 --> 01:04:16.860

Carl Racine: He says, I try to do things that bring me joy, while simultaneously recognizing that withdrawing myself from daily activities frees me to experience inner peace in a profound way.

391

01:04:17.670 --> 01:04:28.500

Carl Racine: Practically, I observed two primary rules to separate myself during Shabbat from my regular days so he has two things that he does first. I do not spend any money.

392

01:04:29.580 --> 01:04:44.130

Carl Racine: This keeps me away from movies shopping malls and restaurants. Second, I do not turn on my computer, which keeps me from the temptation to check email pale it pay a bill online or finished up that essay or less than I am preparing

393

01:04:45.300 --> 01:04:50.190

Carl Racine: For some people it's almost incomprehensible to spend Friday night or Saturday not going out or working

394

01:04:51.270 --> 01:05:01.590

Carl Racine: Occasionally, when I see a listing for a concert or show and I am invited to a friend's party on a Friday night I momentarily

regret my decision not to participate in these activities on the Sabbath.

395

01:05:02.730 --> 01:05:07.290

Carl Racine: But then he goes on to say, and this, this is what I've actually quoted on your slide.

396

01:05:07.800 --> 01:05:22.560

Carl Racine: For me, the spiritual discipline of not spending money and not socializing in ways not related to the Sabbath provides me with benefits that transcend the transients joys of a party or a movie.

397

01:05:23.250 --> 01:05:30.540

Carl Racine: inconsistently observing the Sabbath, you can feel an intuition of eternity as Heschel calls it

398

01:05:32.400 --> 01:05:42.660

Carl Racine: So for Rabbi Judson the discipline of the Sabbath creates for him an island of peace and this is a consistent testimony of Jews who observe the Sabbath.

399

01:05:44.820 --> 01:05:52.890

Carl Racine: Christopher standoff, who is a Swedish Lutheran pastor and New Testament scholar urge people to develop a holy envy.

400

01:05:53.820 --> 01:06:06.630

Carl Racine: A willingness to recognize elements in other religious traditions that you admire and wish could be reflected in your own faith and this study on the Sabbath is a product of such holy envy.

401

01:06:07.920 --> 01:06:20.190

Carl Racine: Imagine what our lives would be like if one day a week. We all did not use our phones or computers or televisions, if you could completely shut off all the noise of the world around us. If you didn't watch the news.

402

01:06:20.490 --> 01:06:30.690

Carl Racine: If you did not do anything related to your job or not even think about it, if you didn't engage in any kind of financial or commercial endeavours.

403

01:06:31.260 --> 01:06:46.140

Carl Racine: It for 24 hours we stopped trying to get things done trying to cross things off our to do lists and instead spent the time appreciating enjoying what we have our families, our friends, our church fellowship if after brunch.

404

01:06:47.160 --> 01:06:58.980

Carl Racine: If at brunch after Shabbat service. You could sit around and talk with each other because you have nothing else to rush off to or get accomplished and I experienced this. A couple of years ago at a

405

01:06:59.640 --> 01:07:16.800

Carl Racine: Temple in in Brookline, and the Sabbath day, a Sabbath day service or after the service they had a lunch for everybody. And I just sat around the table, talking with people and people weren't in a hurry to leave. And we kept talking and it was the most marvelous time

406

01:07:17.970 --> 01:07:21.810

Carl Racine: Imagine a day where you could take a nap and not feel guilty about it.

407

01:07:23.790 --> 01:07:30.570

Carl Racine: I don't think this can be done simply as individuals deciding from time to time to take a day off.

408

01:07:31.140 --> 01:07:40.860

Carl Racine: Although it's certainly a healthy thing for individuals to do but that solution reflects that typically modern Western perspective that we can do all this biblical stuff on our own.

409

01:07:41.610 --> 01:07:50.520

Carl Racine: I think part of what makes the Sabbath work as it's supposed to work as the Bible intended it to is that a whole community is doing it together.

410

01:07:51.210 --> 01:08:00.000

Carl Racine: Because that's part of what the Sabbath is about Israel was to be an alternative community one not enslaved by the endless labors of Egypt.

411

01:08:00.900 --> 01:08:08.130

Carl Racine: What kind of community might we create if we all shared in this men who high in the Sabbath rest in the Shabbat shalom.

412

01:08:08.550 --> 01:08:16.830

Carl Racine: What kind of witness to the world might that community be a witness about it's insane pursuit of wealth and the power and status that wealth confers

413

01:08:17.160 --> 01:08:29.880

Carl Racine: About its unrelenting demands for work and it's belief that we find our value and identity as human beings in our work. What kind of light and salt, might we become for the world if we were to keep the Sabbath holy

414

01:08:31.830 --> 01:08:43.800

Carl Racine: And what kind of a community might we need to be in order to create a world in which people at the lower end of the socio economic scale are not forced into the burdensome enslavement of having to work two or three low paying jobs just to feed.

415

01:08:44.190 --> 01:08:52.140

Carl Racine: Feed and how's their families. What kind of a witness for social justice for livable wages for decent working conditions might this commandment be

416

01:08:52.440 --> 01:08:57.150

Carl Racine: That everyone, even the foreigners living in your midst are to be allowed to keep the Sabbath.

417

01:08:58.110 --> 01:09:09.360

Carl Racine: In following Jesus example. What other acts of mercy and healing, might we embrace as part of our Sabbath observance, how might the Sabbath become a day of restoration to wholeness.

418

01:09:10.080 --> 01:09:18.870

Carl Racine: Both for ourselves and for others and I offer these reflections to you as a challenge and an opportunity

419

01:09:19.410 --> 01:09:26.490

Carl Racine: Again, remembering the words of Isaiah, if you hold back your foot on the Sabbath from following your own pursuits on my holy day

420

01:09:26.820 --> 01:09:39.000

Carl Racine: If you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honorable if you honor it. Not by following your own ways, or seeking your own interests, then you will delight in the Lord.

421

01:09:40.380 --> 01:09:58.590

Carl Racine: And what I like to do is leave that there for you today. Since it's time to go for you to think about. And next week, come back and have a discussion for as long as people want to talk about it, about what a Christian Sabbath might look like.

422

01:10:01.200 --> 01:10:10.290

Carl Racine: If we, as a community, not just as individuals, but as a community decided yes this still has value for our community.

423

01:10:11.010 --> 01:10:22.680

Carl Racine: What might that look like I'm not arguing that we need to become dues or do exactly what the dues do but what might a Christian Sabbath actually look like. And I'm going to just leave that for your

424

01:10:27.240 --> 01:10:37.500

Carl Racine: I'm going to leave that for your consideration. And have you looked back over the things that we've talked about for the last few weeks and have people meditate on that this week.

425

01:10:38.070 --> 01:10:51.450

Carl Racine: And then we'll come back next Sunday and begin our discussion with that question what does, what would a Christians, or is it, is it worth doing, is it just something to say that we don't need to bother with this anymore.

426

01:10:53.310 --> 01:10:53.760

Carl Racine: Okay.

427

01:10:56.550 --> 01:10:57.120

James Williams: Okay.

428

01:10:57.780 --> 01:10:58.230

Christine Rose: Thank you.



429

01:10:59.130 --> 01:11:01.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: marching orders. Excellent, excellent.

430

01:11:05.460 --> 01:11:05.850

Carl Racine: Lesson.

431

01:11:06.030 --> 01:11:10.020

Carl Racine: One alright so many like to close us out in prayer really quick, please.

432

01:11:12.060 --> 01:11:14.820

James Williams: Father God, we thank you for this word today. We thank you for

433

01:11:16.740 --> 01:11:33.360

James Williams: A better understanding and we were where we are going down this path we pray for our church family, Father God, that you will continue to watch over us protect us and keep our lines of communication open and we thank you for getting us through 2028 precious son jesus name.

434

01:11:34.470 --> 01:11:34.890

Christine Rose: Amen.

435

01:11:36.870 --> 01:11:37.530

Hannah Brooks: Thanks, brother.

436

01:11:38.670 --> 01:11:39.720

Thank you so much.

437

01:11:41.430 --> 01:11:42.780

Happy 21