

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.359 --> 00:00:08.639

Carl Racine: sister beverly had a quote and i'm probably mangling a little bit, but something to the effect that we miss opportunity when it comes, because it shows up in overalls.

2

00:00:11.730 --> 00:00:12.809

Carl Racine: beverly if you could.

3

00:00:15.150 --> 00:00:18.540

Beverly Williams: Yet that quote is actually from Thomas Edison.

4

00:00:20.850 --> 00:00:21.180

Carl Racine: and

5

00:00:21.690 --> 00:00:22.800

Carl Racine: Getting that more or less.

6

00:00:22.860 --> 00:00:23.430

Right.

7

00:00:24.870 --> 00:00:28.650

Beverly Williams: And in and it's in it's so true you know, some people.

8

00:00:29.820 --> 00:00:34.110

Beverly Williams: don't want to don't want to do the work you know they think that it's.

9

00:00:35.130 --> 00:00:49.920

Beverly Williams: it's all had but there's so much work to be done, and you can fit in somewhere it doesn't have to mean that you got to really get down in the trenches and get dirty like everybody, but there's a place for everybody to do something.

10

00:00:51.150 --> 00:01:05.760

Beverly Williams: as simply as voting and then keeping up with it, making sure that you do the work to be an informed voter, as opposed to just blindly voted so there's a place for all of us to do

something.

11

00:01:07.560 --> 00:01:08.790

James Williams: To get it right that either right.

12

00:01:09.870 --> 00:01:11.160

Beverly Williams: Oh yes, he did get it right.

13

00:01:13.380 --> 00:01:14.010

Carole Copeland Thomas: Sir.

14

00:01:14.250 --> 00:01:16.350

Carole Copeland Thomas: opportunity showing up at overalls.

15

00:01:17.220 --> 00:01:21.390

Carl Racine: rose I like that, because it's not always glamorous you know, sometimes we're looking for glamorous things to.

16

00:01:21.390 --> 00:01:29.310

Carl Racine: Do and so now just got to put on your overalls and and as sister beverly says get getting the work under me I like that I like that quote.

17

00:01:30.600 --> 00:01:37.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: That bless everybody who's here with us i'm greeted everybody earlier but sister Janet morrison welcome glad to have you brother, why it.

18

00:01:38.370 --> 00:01:45.000

Carole Copeland Thomas: brother Peter welcome and again, thank you, everybody who supported the breakfast on Thursday all your questions, the discussion.

19

00:01:45.450 --> 00:01:59.340

Carole Copeland Thomas: Our award recipient system beverly Williams and that green from also Bethel and Reverend Carrington more who just did a firestorm job with his presentation also so thank you all so much thank you.

20

00:02:04.080 --> 00:02:05.040

Carl Racine: yeah you're on mute.

21

00:02:08.130 --> 00:02:13.530

Janet Humdy Morrison: Hello her oh wonderful and Emily you did such a nice job.

22

00:02:15.840 --> 00:02:17.130

Carole Copeland Thomas: yay yay.

23

00:02:20.430 --> 00:02:21.450

Janet Humdy Morrison: But I love the.

24

00:02:22.800 --> 00:02:24.930

Janet Humdy Morrison: need to do more of these old ones.

25

00:02:25.830 --> 00:02:37.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah you know I, this is my 28th breakfast I started them on a whim and 2000 I had one earlier in the early 90s, so this is like my 29th one but 28.

26

00:02:37.560 --> 00:02:44.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: In a row in terms of having them either once a year twice a year, so i've done the face to face, you know, so I know what that's like.

27

00:02:45.120 --> 00:02:54.000

Carole Copeland Thomas: I know I know the costs, I know what it's like I know the experience and I was going, this is how the Lord just pushes you through a pandemic.

28

00:02:54.420 --> 00:03:06.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: I was going to attempt to do a couple of small pilot on air events in 2021 and then covert hit and it said, oh no you're going to do everything online.

29

00:03:07.290 --> 00:03:15.690

Carole Copeland Thomas: Everything starting in November with you know with events and it just it works, it just works I love them.

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00:03:16.140 --> 00:03:25.950

Carole Copeland Thomas: I love the interaction in the chat room I just love people coming my sister in law was on in Detroit and she's been to now she she was there in November.

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00:03:26.370 --> 00:03:35.250

Carole Copeland Thomas: She was at one I did on martha's vineyard in February and this one, she said, oh yeah I stay for the end and she said I love them so.

32

00:03:35.760 --> 00:03:50.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: To have people from different parts of the country Colorado new Mexico and other places, Jamaica, the UK, you have to have an online presence like that, so I yeah This is where we're going to stay for a while, thank you, thank you.

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00:03:53.910 --> 00:04:05.370

Carl Racine: I mean when when they sent out the the Bethel sent out this survey about what our experience has been in the last year, and both you know positives and negatives.

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00:04:08.160 --> 00:04:21.150

Carl Racine: But one of the things I said in terms of positives was that, because of you know, despite their limitations to doing the class on zoom that i'm aware of, and I feel.

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00:04:21.690 --> 00:04:41.130

Carl Racine: I don't feel like the discussion, sometimes flows, as well as it would, if we were gathered around a table, but we also as as sister Carol said better records were also able to have people attending who otherwise like sister Janet who's in Florida who other jacuzzis.

36

00:04:43.020 --> 00:04:43.470

Carl Racine: Otherwise.

37

00:04:44.730 --> 00:05:01.560

Carl Racine: wouldn't be able to participate, and so I wondered in my questionnaire if there might be a way of having some sort of hybrid class when we go back to maybe meeting in person.

38

00:05:03.600 --> 00:05:13.260

Carl Racine: That would enable people who, for various reasons, either

because they don't live in Boston or because they're traveling and pastor is on the thing.

39

00:05:13.890 --> 00:05:24.510

Carl Racine: This morning he but he's in Hawaii so rather than him not being with us, which would have been normal he invested Gloria were both with us this morning, coming from Hawaii.

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00:05:26.580 --> 00:05:41.670

Carl Racine: It might take some technological doing but I don't think it's impossible, and there would be certain advantages to it if we could think through how we might do it so yeah we're learning some things from this.

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00:05:43.020 --> 00:05:43.680

Carl Racine: pandemic.

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00:05:43.980 --> 00:05:44.340

mm hmm.

43

00:05:45.600 --> 00:05:53.970

Carl Racine: Alright let's get started, Lord God, we thank you for another day, even though we're a little sleep deprived from losing an hour last night.

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00:05:55.410 --> 00:06:03.270

Carl Racine: And having a wake up a little bit earlier than normal but we thank you for everybody who's here, we thank you for the word that went out this morning already.

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00:06:03.840 --> 00:06:19.590

Carl Racine: And we pray that you would be with us in our discussion in our conversation, as we continue to think about your word and its place in our lives and what it means for us in the name of Jesus we ask all of this amen.

46

00:06:24.480 --> 00:06:29.670

Carl Racine: We so last week we we got into discussing this whole.

47

00:06:30.810 --> 00:06:54.750

Carl Racine: issue of arguments for the sake of heaven, with reference

to the Bible and thinking about some parallels between the Bible, and the rabbinic literature, like the Talmud which is characterized by a discussion and debate there are multiple voices lots of different rabbis talking.

48

00:06:56.190 --> 00:07:06.960

Carl Racine: Giving multiple perspectives on things and I argued that the Bible also contains multiple voices multiple perspectives on God in the world.

49

00:07:07.320 --> 00:07:16.860

Carl Racine: That the Bible is really a discussion among the writers, a conversation, rather than a lecture or a sermon and and I want to.

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00:07:17.490 --> 00:07:31.140

Carl Racine: continue today sort of thinking about that a little bit making that point of making a couple extra points in reference to that and explaining just why I think that's important for how we approach the scriptures.

51

00:07:33.450 --> 00:07:36.240

Carl Racine: sister Carol if we could have slide number.

52

00:07:38.190 --> 00:07:39.420

Carl Racine: 14 please.

53

00:07:39.600 --> 00:07:39.960

Okay.

54

00:07:41.310 --> 00:07:43.200

Carole Copeland Thomas: need queued up first.

55

00:08:04.620 --> 00:08:10.800

Carl Racine: So i'm rabbi Abraham joshua heschel who we talked about at length.

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00:08:12.690 --> 00:08:13.230

Carl Racine: Whenever that.

57

00:08:14.460 --> 00:08:15.720

Carl Racine: Earlier in this class.

58

00:08:16.740 --> 00:08:31.080

Carl Racine: rabbi hassles masterwork really the thing that he probably was proudest of is, it is a massive work 800 pages called heavenly Torah and you see a copy of it here.

59

00:08:33.120 --> 00:08:38.070

Carl Racine: I don't necessarily recommend it as the first thing to go into it's pretty technical.

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00:08:39.420 --> 00:08:52.950

Carl Racine: But yet at great length, he in this book he explores to really opposing viewpoints in the rabbinic traditions in the amongst the various rabbis throughout.

61

00:08:53.490 --> 00:09:00.840

Carl Racine: The the ancient rabbinic teachings two different viewpoints about the nature of Torah of the scriptures.

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00:09:01.350 --> 00:09:10.320

Carl Racine: One of those viewpoints emphasizes it's thoroughly divine or heavenly nature, but one of them recognizes its human character.

63

00:09:11.100 --> 00:09:23.400

Carl Racine: That God didn't just dictate words to Moses, who repeated them verbatim to the Israelites, but rather that Moses himself had a hand in formulating and shaping the teaching in Torah.

64

00:09:24.060 --> 00:09:38.070

Carl Racine: That scripture is not just god's words but also moses's words, so the emphasis on Torah as the literal word of God has dominated traditional rabbinic Judaism.

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00:09:38.550 --> 00:09:48.870

Carl Racine: But heschel is arguing from stuff in other rabbis that that we need these alternative perspective and to take that into account as well.

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00:09:49.170 --> 00:09:57.780

Carl Racine: And we've seen the importance in Judaism, of the idea

that we are partners with God and doing god's work in this world.

67

00:09:58.380 --> 00:10:05.700

Carl Racine: And hassle argues that there's a human partnership with God, even in the act of Revelation and and.

68

00:10:06.360 --> 00:10:16.620

Carl Racine: At first, this may strike us is strange, but every Sunday morning when a preacher gets up in the purpose these pulpit they say, this is the word of the god but it's the words, this is the word of God.

69

00:10:17.310 --> 00:10:28.350

Carl Racine: But it is also the word of pastor Gloria or pastor Ray or pastor Carrington or whoever is up there in the pulpit so this isn't a strange have an idea as it might sound.

70

00:10:30.150 --> 00:10:41.160

Carl Racine: To give an example of this heschel points to something we've looked at before that there are two different versions of the commandment to keep the Sabbath.

71

00:10:42.420 --> 00:10:50.790

Carl Racine: One of them is found in the book of exodus in the 10 commandments and then there's a different version of it in the book of deuteronomy.

72

00:10:52.410 --> 00:11:02.460

Carl Racine: And the wording is slightly different the Book of exodus says remember the Sabbath well deuteronomy says keep or guard the Sabbath.

73

00:11:03.660 --> 00:11:14.520

Carl Racine: And we saw that the verse the two versions of this commandment not only have a different wording in the command at the beginning, but also in their rationale that command in exodus.

74

00:11:15.060 --> 00:11:33.900

Carl Racine: goes back to the creation story that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh the command and deuteronomy has its has its Rasha now the reason for keeping the Sabbath in the exodus story in the sense that.



75

00:11:35.460 --> 00:11:42.570

Carl Racine: You are not allowed to rest in exodus and got in in Egypt and God has now provided you with the Sabbath rest.

76

00:11:45.000 --> 00:11:51.150

Carl Racine: We saw when we looked at that that these perspectives really are contradictory, but they're complimentary.

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00:11:52.590 --> 00:12:03.090

Carl Racine: But the difference in wording bother the ancient rabbis who were trying to argue that God said, all of this literally and verbatim.

78

00:12:04.320 --> 00:12:26.130

Carl Racine: So if Torah is the literal word of God, which word or words did God actually say to Moses onset mount Sinai did he say keeper did he say remember and we saw again when we were looking at the Sabbath that the song that they sing on the Sabbath service on Friday night Look how God.

79

00:12:27.420 --> 00:12:37.440

Carl Racine: Keep and remember in a single utterance the one God caused us to hear the rabbi's concluded that God must have said, both words, at the same time.

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00:12:39.510 --> 00:12:51.990

Carl Racine: And heschel concludes that we need this kind of dual vision we need both perspectives on Torah that both these, and those are words of the living God.

81

00:12:53.700 --> 00:13:03.030

Carl Racine: So if you subscribe to the idea that scripture is dictated by God directly, then you have to argue with the rabbi's argue the god said two different things at the same time.

82

00:13:04.260 --> 00:13:13.440

Carl Racine: Alternatively, you can argue that, while both are words of the living God, there are two different ways in which Moses communicated god's word to the Israelites.

83

00:13:15.090 --> 00:13:24.630

Carl Racine: Then the Bible has what I call, and this is me not heschel the Jewish rabbi I call this an incarnation of quality.

84

00:13:25.680 --> 00:13:30.870

Carl Racine: The Bible is both a divine and a human word like the incarnation.

85

00:13:32.460 --> 00:13:49.320

Carl Racine: The Church like Jewish tradition has always tended to emphasize the divine character of scripture and for Christians, the divine nature of Jesus as well and has been uncomfortable with both Jesus human nature and the human nature of the scriptures.

86

00:13:51.720 --> 00:14:15.570

Carl Racine: But if Jesus is in some sense the word of God, as john one one says in the beginning was the word, he is also the word made flesh john 114 and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us well the scripture is also the word made flesh the divine word in human words.

87

00:14:16.710 --> 00:14:26.880

Carl Racine: Oh, this makes some Christians very uncomfortable but in looking at the nature of the scriptures themselves when we looked at last week I don't see any way around this conclusion.

88

00:14:28.170 --> 00:14:32.760

Carl Racine: So i'm going to pause there for a minute and and take comments or questions.

89

00:14:41.550 --> 00:14:42.900

Carl Racine: Anybody that clear.

90

00:14:46.890 --> 00:14:51.360

James Williams: is interesting, this whole notion of using these or those.

91

00:14:53.190 --> 00:15:17.370

James Williams: In your assessment of how they look at things I know that when I was taking the CPA exam that the use of terms like these are appreciable assets what that is a visual aid made all the difference in the world and and how you answer the question correctly was.

92

00:15:20.280 --> 00:15:30.690

James Williams: was your understanding the terms you know in in focusing on exactly what these terms of saying like this is like these, is also that.

93

00:15:31.860 --> 00:15:48.900

James Williams: And you know it was really frustrating and i'm on the ambiguity of which was a correct answer by just that simple word and so you're suggesting the best what we're wrestling with with this Old Testament and how they've talking about.

94

00:15:52.140 --> 00:15:53.010

James Williams: Keeping the Sabbath.

95

00:15:55.050 --> 00:15:57.300

James Williams: Tell us more tell us more.

96

00:15:58.950 --> 00:16:10.980

Peter Barrant: Well, I also think that this issue about the literal word of God has played its its role in the history of Christianity, I mean if we think about.

97

00:16:12.000 --> 00:16:20.040

Peter Barrant: The the controversy between science quote unquote science and religion, so that you know.

98

00:16:21.270 --> 00:16:39.750

Peter Barrant: When it was proposed that the earth didn't revolve around the sun, the sun actually I mean sorry the sun didn't revolve around the earth, the actually the earth revolves around the sun, the Christian church saw that was heresy because literally the Bible says the sun rises and says.

99

00:16:40.800 --> 00:16:46.740

Peter Barrant: The same thing is true today between the quote creationism and.

100

00:16:48.180 --> 00:16:57.210

Peter Barrant: evolution, that the the Bible has to be literal Therefore, you know you can't believe that it's possible that

evolution is is true.

101

00:16:57.600 --> 00:17:15.000

Peter Barrant: And the there may be arguments, one could make about why one theory why the theory of evolution might have its holes, but I think the idea that you have to take everything literally pervades some of the arguments that that people make on.

102

00:17:16.170 --> 00:17:25.800

Peter Barrant: It is clear that, despite saying that people take the Bible literally, there are a lot of things that people don't take literally in the Bible, so I think.

103

00:17:26.880 --> 00:17:30.750

Peter Barrant: That is, I think that's an argument that.

104

00:17:31.890 --> 00:17:46.440

Peter Barrant: is being made today and I, I do agree that we, we have to look a little bit more deeply at what things are saying, as opposed to think thinking that taking everything literally is the way to go.

105

00:17:51.300 --> 00:18:01.140

Carl Racine: I mean there's yes as as Peter said there's plenty of things in the Bible, nobody takes literally and the, the problem is the our understanding of that word literal.

106

00:18:05.040 --> 00:18:14.160

Carl Racine: Jesus said and we're going to look at this in our next section, the next topic that we cover do you serve you right eye offends you pluck it out.

107

00:18:16.260 --> 00:18:16.680

Carl Racine: well.

108

00:18:17.700 --> 00:18:28.620

Carl Racine: If all those churches have claimed to take the Bible literally we're actually do that they will be full of people who who were missing at least one if not both their eyes.

109

00:18:29.760 --> 00:18:35.520

Carl Racine: So literally is has become a word that is almost.

110

00:18:36.540 --> 00:18:37.560

Carl Racine: unhelpful.

111

00:18:39.000 --> 00:18:45.360

Carl Racine: Because it really what you want to say is what what was the author trying to communicate.

112

00:18:46.830 --> 00:18:50.340

Carl Racine: that's the literal meaning of any particular text.

113

00:18:51.720 --> 00:19:02.100

Carl Racine: Not what do those words say to me 2000 3000 years after they were written in my very different cultural.

114

00:19:03.330 --> 00:19:04.440

Carl Racine: situation.

115

00:19:05.520 --> 00:19:16.260

Carl Racine: What was the author trying to say was Jesus trying to say you need to get a sharp instrument and carve your eye out if you are having trouble.

116

00:19:17.610 --> 00:19:21.690

Carl Racine: With all the beautiful women that are walking around your neighborhood.

117

00:19:24.570 --> 00:19:43.830

Carl Racine: So that whole idea of asking what's the literal meaning, I think it has led us to misunderstand the Bible, and the other thing with kind of reference to that is i've been trying to suggest that the Bible has a certain type of literary character.

118

00:19:45.510 --> 00:20:01.020

Carl Racine: and any work of literature needs to be approached on the basis of what type of literature, it is so you don't read a poem the same way you read a sermon or the same way you read an accountant's tax report.

119

00:20:02.760 --> 00:20:16.590

Carl Racine: You approach those words that body of literature of words differently with different expectations, if you come to the scriptures asking the wrong types of questions.

120

00:20:17.490 --> 00:20:30.570

Carl Racine: You will get all sorts of answers that are simply not biblical people come to the scriptures looking for things like what kind of diet, should I follow.

121

00:20:31.170 --> 00:20:39.570

Carl Racine: In the sense of so I can lose weight kind of diet, or what kind of business plan Do I need for the startup that i'm doing.

122

00:20:40.290 --> 00:20:50.250

Carl Racine: And there may be some biblical principles that might help you think through that but you aren't going to find a literal business plan, even though people have done this you're not going to find a literal business plan.

123

00:20:50.820 --> 00:21:05.610

Carl Racine: or a literal diet, by looking at verses of the scripture you're asking the wrong questions, and I think asking, and I think you can demonstrate it precisely by the the two versions of the crease and story in genesis.

124

00:21:05.970 --> 00:21:17.160

Carl Racine: You come they're asking scientifically what it looked like you're asking the wrong question the Bible doesn't answer that question, one way or the other, the Bible doesn't support evolution and it doesn't support.

125

00:21:17.610 --> 00:21:30.930

Carl Racine: The sort of six day creationism those are both false answers that people have come up with over the years, because they come to the Bible with expectations of it serving a purpose the Bible doesn't actually serve.

126

00:21:35.160 --> 00:21:35.760

Carl Racine: anyway.

127

00:21:38.130 --> 00:21:54.960

Carl Racine: In order to illustrate this this importance and the need

for embracing multiple perspectives in scripture heschel in his book goes on to quote the Talmud in this quotes there on the screen one who is blind in one eye is exempt from the pilgrimage.

128

00:21:56.490 --> 00:22:01.800

Carl Racine: And then the context and the tama this is talking about the requirement that all israelite males.

129

00:22:02.610 --> 00:22:20.730

Carl Racine: have to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the three major feasts for Passover Pentecost and tabernacle so if you're blind in one eye you don't have to make that pilgrimage from say Galilee to Jerusalem, but heschel uses this as a metaphor, he doesn't take it literally.

130

00:22:21.960 --> 00:22:33.510

Carl Racine: I mean, it has a literal meaning, but he doesn't apply it literally he applies it as a metaphor for the spiritual pilgrimage for the quest for truth, he applies it to the way we read scripture.

131

00:22:34.440 --> 00:22:44.220

Carl Racine: Just as our physical sight relies on two eyes on two slightly different points of view being held together at the same time.

132

00:22:44.520 --> 00:22:52.350

Carl Racine: In order to create a complex depth of field, and this is called the parallax effect and i've got a little graphic here on your screen.

133

00:22:52.860 --> 00:23:06.870

Carl Racine: Your left eye and you're right I are seeing slightly different things, but your brain pulls those together in a complex vision that is lacking, if you only have one eye.

134

00:23:08.490 --> 00:23:23.310

Carl Racine: And hashtag again uses this as an elaborate metaphor, to say that our understanding of spiritual things requires this diversity of perspectives that we need to eyes to make the pilgrimage.

135

00:23:23.850 --> 00:23:35.820

Carl Racine: or switching the metaphor back to the other way we've

been talking about this, we need to be able to hear and listen to the various voices in the discussion and not simply focus on one voice.

136

00:23:36.240 --> 00:23:49.290

Carl Racine: And heschel uses the the illustration of a prism and you can see, the title of his book The full title is actually Torah from heaven heavenly Torres not quite a good translation is closed.

137

00:23:49.590 --> 00:23:51.690

Carl Racine: The Torah from heaven as refracted.

138

00:23:51.690 --> 00:24:05.550

Carl Racine: Through the generations that god's truth god's light is this steady stream, one that if we looked at it, we would be blinded but that the scriptures essentially act as a prism.

139

00:24:06.480 --> 00:24:19.260

Carl Racine: That refracts god's light into this rainbow of streams of light a multiplicity of perspectives and multiplicity of.

140

00:24:20.340 --> 00:24:21.360

Carl Racine: colors.

141

00:24:21.990 --> 00:24:24.720

Carl Racine: And that that's what we are seeing.

142

00:24:26.820 --> 00:24:36.960

Carl Racine: When we are having discussions with other people when we're reading the scriptures when we're listening to the various voices that are arguing for the sake of heaven.

143

00:24:39.060 --> 00:24:41.850

Carl Racine: If we could go on to slide number 15 please.

144

00:24:42.540 --> 00:24:51.150

Carole Copeland Thomas: I will and brother Carl I wanted to respond to what you're saying Okay, and this really picks up on what we were talking about last week also.

145

00:24:52.380 --> 00:24:53.100



Carole Copeland Thomas: Is that.

146

00:24:54.420 --> 00:25:06.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: What i'm looking at when you literally look at the Bible and look at these passages of scripture and dogmatically determine a black and white.

147

00:25:07.470 --> 00:25:08.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: outcome.

148

00:25:10.230 --> 00:25:19.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: In some part it's easier to do that, particularly if you are an autocratic leader and you want people to follow what you're saying, then.

149

00:25:21.060 --> 00:25:27.210

Carole Copeland Thomas: You create these kinds of dogmatic do as I say.

150

00:25:28.410 --> 00:25:42.270

Carole Copeland Thomas: it's my way the highway, this is the way you have to interpret things versus what you're saying and the multitude of interpretations which provide a perspective.

151

00:25:42.960 --> 00:26:03.180

Carole Copeland Thomas: of biblical teachings is harder to do that it's a harder and it's it's obviously more nebulous and for some leaders that makes some people nervous, because then you're allowing people to critically think so some of this is part of a critical thinking perspective.

152

00:26:04.950 --> 00:26:06.210

Carole Copeland Thomas: And you know that that's.

153

00:26:06.840 --> 00:26:16.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: For me, from a from a Methodist point of view, critical thinking is encouraged with some other faiths, it is discouraged.

154

00:26:19.950 --> 00:26:23.130

Carl Racine: it's it's about critical thinking, though.

155

00:26:24.090 --> 00:26:30.540

Bill Hughes: I was just gonna say there's a book by chuck swindle called the great awakening, which is essentially an exit Jesus of.

156

00:26:32.220 --> 00:26:33.210

Bill Hughes: Relations.

157

00:26:34.290 --> 00:26:34.950

Bill Hughes: and

158

00:26:37.350 --> 00:26:40.680

Bill Hughes: One of the chapters is called grace is risky.

159

00:26:41.970 --> 00:27:03.600

Bill Hughes: And really powerful to me God speaks to what Carol you're kind of talking about, we have a human tendency when we want to control things and we end up trying to control things and control others and we don't allow god's grace to operate as.

160

00:27:04.620 --> 00:27:13.470

Bill Hughes: You know the basic but God to be to be in control and to to have the kind of reasonable considerations you're talking about.

161

00:27:15.900 --> 00:27:16.500

Bill Hughes: You know.

162

00:27:17.640 --> 00:27:26.820

Bill Hughes: Carol just to kind of play it out for a second and i'm going to use some some kind of hot button a hot button example.

163

00:27:28.440 --> 00:27:46.620

Bill Hughes: Based on a conversation I had with this guy watching a patriots game after church, one day, I was sitting in a bar and grill in JP and we were talking and it turns out the guys gay and he's also was raised in the church his his parents were like.

164

00:27:48.090 --> 00:27:53.940

Bill Hughes: Pentecostal ministers and he asked me what Would he be welcome in our church.

165

00:27:55.080 --> 00:28:04.440

Bill Hughes: And, and you know made me think I say you know, on one hand, I thought, yes, because of my pastors and the other hand, i'm like oh i'm not sure like what you would be.

166

00:28:04.830 --> 00:28:12.000

Bill Hughes: What we would be willing to have allow you to do as a member of our church and just started thinking about that process but.

167

00:28:12.720 --> 00:28:24.660

Bill Hughes: To to to have that conversation, and then to bring that conversation, for example, into the Church, just imagine what those conversations would be you've got different people with different perspectives on.

168

00:28:25.110 --> 00:28:44.520

Bill Hughes: You know authority and who holds authority in a church and like can this person be a Bible teacher, what can I can I can I be a a nursery school leader right and they're all the things that we you know we've got some well we don't we don't necessarily apply.

169

00:28:45.990 --> 00:29:02.970

Bill Hughes: We don't take the time and and do the work on every single situation to to apply judgment, I think, partly because it takes a lot of time it's it's hard it's it's burdensome and and it slows one down.

170

00:29:04.980 --> 00:29:20.250

Bill Hughes: But you know so work, so the challenge, I think, is you know we we try to live life often in shorthand and we end up taking a bunch of short hands and applying them as opposed to applying you know judgment.

171

00:29:21.330 --> 00:29:33.570

Bill Hughes: And you know my observation is that that starting to run us into trouble in a bottle places we end up with with contradictions and inconsistencies and hypocrisy is.

172

00:29:34.830 --> 00:29:42.870

Bill Hughes: Because we're not taking the time to sort of consider from from a number of angles and.

173

00:29:43.980 --> 00:29:57.150

Bill Hughes: And, and part of that is also is allowing God to speak because we feel like god's already spoken he's told us what he wants, so now we just need to do it and, as opposed to.

174

00:29:58.350 --> 00:30:01.710

Bill Hughes: thoughtful consideration and reflection.

175

00:30:02.550 --> 00:30:08.520

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know a lot that goes hand in hand brother bill with looking at diversity issues and.

176

00:30:08.610 --> 00:30:14.220

Carole Copeland Thomas: As I tell people's you you can't parachute in a vendor like me.

177

00:30:14.700 --> 00:30:25.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: and expect me to wave a magic wand and give you all the answers and the recipe, so that the outcome is you become diversity pure that's absurd.

178

00:30:25.890 --> 00:30:31.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: And when people try that they make a huge mess of diversity, because it is just like this, this.

179

00:30:31.980 --> 00:30:43.290

Carole Copeland Thomas: Prison this glow of light that you see that comes out of the prison it's it's very, very similar it's a both and perspective and it's messy and it is.

180

00:30:44.190 --> 00:30:55.260

Carole Copeland Thomas: It is sometimes conditional sometimes it's not conditional but it can't be looked at, where it's a one size fit all perspective that just that's that doesn't work.

181

00:30:58.860 --> 00:31:00.150

Bill Hughes: amen I should go well said.

182

00:31:02.280 --> 00:31:09.060

Carl Racine: And, and you know we see in the New Testament the churches struggling with diversity.

183

00:31:10.230 --> 00:31:30.810

Carl Racine: The churches struggling when all of the sudden you have Jewish Christians, keeping kosher and all of the rest and Gentile Christians who aren't, how can they get along and what happened with the church eventually did was just decide, well, we keep splitting.

184

00:31:31.830 --> 00:31:37.560

Carl Racine: And that's been the history of the church we're going to take our red.

185

00:31:39.390 --> 00:31:46.020

Carl Racine: stream of light or our yellow stream of light or our Greens stream of light or are purple stream of light.

186

00:31:46.860 --> 00:31:59.490

Carl Racine: And we're going to go with that and people who want to be purple can come with us and people want to be yellow or green or red, you can go over there with the Baptists or the pentecostals or whoever.

187

00:32:02.220 --> 00:32:08.850

Carl Racine: But none of us is seeing the totality of god's light.

188

00:32:10.980 --> 00:32:13.830

Carl Racine: We couldn't possibly do that unless we were God.

189

00:32:14.880 --> 00:32:18.180

Carl Racine: And so, this is a call partly to humility.

190

00:32:19.290 --> 00:32:20.850

Carl Racine: in recognizing.

191

00:32:23.220 --> 00:32:40.440

Carl Racine: That our perspective on things is limited and we're going to i'm going to continue to talk about this, the one thing I don't want to be misunderstood and brother Jackson here today to to to bring up the R word but it's not quite relativism.

192

00:32:41.760 --> 00:32:44.790

Carl Racine: in the sense that says there's no truth.

193

00:32:45.960 --> 00:32:48.630

Carl Racine: heschel is very clear, there is god's truth.

194

00:32:49.650 --> 00:32:52.140

Carl Racine: it's right there but we're not God.

195

00:32:53.400 --> 00:32:57.180

Carl Racine: And so there are things in scripture, for instance, that.

196

00:32:58.380 --> 00:33:01.650

Carl Racine: We can say really clearly.

197

00:33:03.330 --> 00:33:04.140

Carl Racine: Because.

198

00:33:05.490 --> 00:33:13.920

Carl Racine: scripture gives testimony to it from the beginning to the end and one of those things that we've talked about repeatedly in this class is.

199

00:33:15.450 --> 00:33:17.760

Carl Racine: god's concerned that god's people.

200

00:33:18.930 --> 00:33:27.030

Carl Racine: have a special care and love for the poor, the needy the immigrant the foreigner.

201

00:33:29.580 --> 00:33:38.010

Carl Racine: That you can find in any section of the Bible you open up, you can find it in the law of Moses, you can find it.

202

00:33:38.520 --> 00:33:55.140

Carl Racine: In the history books, you can find it in the Psalms and in job you can find it in the proverbs you can find it well, through the prophets you can find it in Jesus teaching, you can find it the Apostle Paul that's so that's one sort of bedrock truth.

203

00:33:57.480 --> 00:34:06.990

Carl Racine: That is pretty clear in scripture and there are plenty of those kinds of things it's not like everything is just whatever you want it to be.

204

00:34:07.980 --> 00:34:17.520

Carl Racine: But, as we saw last week scripture speaks with a number of different voices and even the law of Moses heschel is arguing.

205

00:34:18.000 --> 00:34:33.480

Carl Racine: has more than one voice is telling us things in different ways, and we need to pay attention to all of those voices and what's essentially happens in the Church is that those some some of those voices simply get silenced.

206

00:34:35.760 --> 00:34:38.280

Carl Racine: If we could go to the next slide please.

207

00:34:43.080 --> 00:34:45.600

Carl Racine: Is that number 15 I feel like i'm missing one.

208

00:34:48.750 --> 00:34:51.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: that's 14 that's.

209

00:34:55.980 --> 00:34:56.490

Carole Copeland Thomas: that's.

210

00:34:59.550 --> 00:35:01.350

Carole Copeland Thomas: The end of this trail.

211

00:35:03.480 --> 00:35:04.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Would it be that one.

212

00:35:04.440 --> 00:35:04.950

yeah.

213

00:35:07.530 --> 00:35:08.670

Carole Copeland Thomas: Or perhaps this one.

214

00:35:11.010 --> 00:35:12.360

Carl Racine: There you go that's the one.

215

00:35:12.600 --> 00:35:13.050

Okay.

216

00:35:14.160 --> 00:35:15.150

Carl Racine: Do I have the wrong number.

217

00:35:16.590 --> 00:35:17.130

Carole Copeland Thomas: sorta.

218

00:35:17.940 --> 00:35:18.840

Carl Racine: No i'm sorry I.

219

00:35:19.500 --> 00:35:20.250

Carl Racine: don't know number and.

220

00:35:21.060 --> 00:35:24.060

Carl Racine: This is the one I was looking for rabbi sack says.

221

00:35:24.300 --> 00:35:40.920

Carl Racine: And this is going back to his his his last book that he published right before his death, he says in Judaism there's something wholly about argument why so, because only God can see the totality of truth nope that's not it.

222

00:35:48.300 --> 00:35:48.900

keep going.

223

00:35:51.540 --> 00:35:52.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: i'm going backwards now.

224

00:35:53.640 --> 00:35:55.740

Carl Racine: No it's good it's definitely forward.

225

00:36:04.230 --> 00:36:07.440



Carl Racine: This must be the earlier slide pack but somehow.

226

00:36:09.000 --> 00:36:11.400

Carole Copeland Thomas: Could because this is the last slide.

227

00:36:12.840 --> 00:36:14.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: With this and.

228

00:36:15.570 --> 00:36:16.170

Carole Copeland Thomas: Let me.

229

00:36:17.700 --> 00:36:21.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: see if I can possibly find another deck.

230

00:36:24.720 --> 00:36:25.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: and

231

00:36:31.290 --> 00:36:33.630

Carole Copeland Thomas: not sure Dr Carl.

232

00:36:34.830 --> 00:36:37.680

Carl Racine: It should have a two on it should say arguments to.

233

00:36:41.460 --> 00:36:51.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: And it that I may not have downloaded that that may have been looked it was so similar to this one that I may not have downloaded that okay.

234

00:36:52.380 --> 00:36:56.160

Carl Racine: Well, have to go without the slides we can we can we can come back to that other one.

235

00:36:57.720 --> 00:36:58.260

Carl Racine: In a minute.

236

00:36:58.440 --> 00:37:05.550

Carl Racine: Okay, so service access or something holy about argument, because only God can see the totality of truth.

237

00:37:06.180 --> 00:37:18.750

Carl Racine: We humans as we just saw in that illustration, we only see fragments of the truth at any one time, and we need the multiplicity of perspectives, we need each other for one as pastor said in the sermon this way.

238

00:37:19.110 --> 00:37:31.440

Carl Racine: You can't get god's perspective on things with tunnel vision with that sort of simple linear progression that one monolithic idea that one human point of view.

239

00:37:33.750 --> 00:37:48.540

Carl Racine: If Torah if scriptures to be the living word and the word of the living God, a word that still speaks to us today, then we have to accept the complexity of the way it communicates.

240

00:37:50.550 --> 00:38:05.820

Carl Racine: To us, and not try to reduce it to one single point of view, we have to approach god's word with two eyes, so if you come to the Bible, with a fixed set of ideas about what you're going to find there the Bible is this type.

241

00:38:05.820 --> 00:38:16.050

Carl Racine: of book, then you will only find what you think you already what you already think you know, and you will never hear the other voices that are asking you to consider different perspectives.

242

00:38:16.380 --> 00:38:23.070

Carl Racine: you'll never see the Bible clearly you'll never see the Bible three dimensionally because you'll be blind in one eye.

243

00:38:24.030 --> 00:38:33.450

Carl Racine: And our attempts at harmonizing the voices in the scripture into one single theological statement actually do the Bible in the church a great disservice.

244

00:38:34.050 --> 00:38:53.070

Carl Racine: Christian theology almost invariably silences some of the biblical voices and and on the other hand, some of what we've been taught is probably wrong because it's ignored those voices the Bible simply refuses to conform to our expectations of it.

245

00:38:54.330 --> 00:39:03.900

Carl Racine: The scripture as we see in the creation stories is this kind of dialectic are given take between design, on the one hand and disorder.

246

00:39:04.410 --> 00:39:17.400

Carl Racine: Between Providence and human freedom between god's will and human will, and both are part of scripture we've seen that Torah itself is not just a lock code.

247

00:39:17.880 --> 00:39:34.470

Carl Racine: But rather embeds the legal material in stories, so the laws reflect the ideal god's will what ought to be well the stories portray the real human action, what is and we can't understand the one without the other.

248

00:39:35.700 --> 00:39:48.660

Carl Racine: The Bible gives us god's laws, but it also gives us stories of humanity and all its messiness and it doesn't always comment on those stories, it leaves us to puzzle them out.

249

00:39:49.050 --> 00:40:03.780

Carl Racine: How do they relate to those laws do those stories have anything to teach us at all, and then we have to ask how to relate that ancient material to our lives now thousands of years later.

250

00:40:05.700 --> 00:40:15.420

Carl Racine: But this view of the biblical narratives is depicting the messiness of the human situation ought to cautious cautious about using the Bible stories.

251

00:40:15.840 --> 00:40:31.530

Carl Racine: As moral examples as illustrations of godly behavior I mean i've never understood why anyone would teach the stories of Gideon or Samson to Sunday school children as if those men were heroes.

252

00:40:33.180 --> 00:40:47.880

Carl Racine: A few years ago in our men's group and why it can attest to this, we decided to read a Christian book about David supposedly David is a man after god's own heart you've heard that a million times now.

253

00:40:48.810 --> 00:40:58.860

Carl Racine: I don't think that phrase means what most people interpreted as meaning I think it's a Hebrew idiom that doesn't refer to someone with a heart like god's.

254

00:40:59.760 --> 00:41:17.220

Carl Racine: But rather someone God has set his heart on a man of god's own choosing, and if you go back and look at the context in first Samuel 13 you'll see that clear God is saying i'm going to choose who I want as king.

255

00:41:18.750 --> 00:41:22.350

Carl Racine: So the verses about god's heart not david's.

256

00:41:23.370 --> 00:41:31.020

Carl Racine: God did choose David but God also chose saw who was certainly not a great example.

257

00:41:32.190 --> 00:41:43.740

Carl Racine: or a flawed example, shall we say, guide also chose Gideon and sample Gideon and Samson but that says nothing about the moral character of any of those men.

258

00:41:46.560 --> 00:41:57.090

Carl Racine: So the idea in our Bible study in our book study in our men's group was that by studying David, we would learn how to become such men men after god's own heart.

259

00:41:57.570 --> 00:42:07.980

Carl Racine: But as we delved into the book and began to compare with the pious author of the book said in comparison with what the scriptural texts actually said.

260

00:42:08.460 --> 00:42:26.370

Carl Racine: We discovered a great disconnect, contrary to what the book kept saying the biblical David didn't look very much like an example to follow if anything he seemed more like an example of questionable behavior not just as the story with your eye on bathsheba but all the way through.

261

00:42:27.780 --> 00:42:31.770

Carl Racine: David seem more like an example of behavior to avoid.

262

00:42:32.790 --> 00:42:48.150

Carl Racine: Rather than as a example of good holy living and our study finally broke down and we stopped because people were so frustrated with the real David, who was not at all, like the imaginary one of Sunday school piety and countless sermons.

263

00:42:48.510 --> 00:42:57.870

Carl Racine: David was not someone for a men's group to hold up as a role model, so you really do need to good eyes to read the Bible.

264

00:43:01.830 --> 00:43:09.540

Susan Racine: That time when David didn't take saul's life when he had him right in his clutches so that was some good things that he.

265

00:43:10.020 --> 00:43:11.730

Carl Racine: Does good things, one of the main.

266

00:43:11.730 --> 00:43:17.490

Carl Racine: Good things David does is repent when he's had a man murdered, so that he can sleep with his wife.

267

00:43:18.660 --> 00:43:18.840

yeah.

268

00:43:20.550 --> 00:43:37.260

Carl Racine: i'm not saying David is some evil character, but most of what David does isn't stuff I would have wanted my son to follow he's a mercenary soldier the beginning who's who has no compunction with lying and switching sides at a moment's notice and lying to the people he's fighting for.

269

00:43:39.270 --> 00:43:57.810

Carl Racine: and his once he gets to be king his family's story is so atrocious I mean even pastor talks about his death bed seen as something out of the godfather where he's essentially telling his heirs to go out and slaughter all the people who is he is his enemies during his lifetime.

270

00:43:58.830 --> 00:44:08.370

Carl Racine: The that he hadn't bothered to kill and God himself won't let David build the temple because he says, your hands are too covered with blood.

271

00:44:09.900 --> 00:44:27.630

Carl Racine: yeah david's an example, but he's not particularly an example of godliness most of the time he's a flawed a deeply flawed human being, like all of the biblical characters doesn't mean we can't remember what we learn is not necessarily what you've heard in Sunday school.

272

00:44:28.710 --> 00:44:31.680

Bill Hughes: Well, I mean, I think the the.

273

00:44:34.800 --> 00:44:55.440

Bill Hughes: two thoughts that I had one is i've i've wondered whether man after god's own heart my interpretation was that he was someone who was trying to find god's heart that he would he had not that he he was a you know, there is no ability or his honor came from the.

274

00:44:57.090 --> 00:45:12.870

Bill Hughes: You know the seeking after God that listening to Nathan and humbling himself things like that, despite you know what he's done with all of his kids and how messed up you know the things that you were talking about that he was trying to constantly find God.

275

00:45:14.280 --> 00:45:15.000

Bill Hughes: I don't know if that.

276

00:45:16.020 --> 00:45:18.330

Bill Hughes: If that's part of part of it.

277

00:45:20.460 --> 00:45:22.140

Carl Racine: that's I think that's legitimate.

278

00:45:24.090 --> 00:45:26.700

Bill Hughes: um The other thing is that.

279

00:45:28.290 --> 00:45:40.500

Bill Hughes: You know, when I think about the folks who storm the

capital on the Sixth who are carrying the Cross up the steps of the Capitol and using it, you know to beat COPs.

280

00:45:43.590 --> 00:45:49.860

Bill Hughes: I don't know if crosses were used to be God, but you know other things with jesus's name on it, you know where.

281

00:45:52.620 --> 00:46:08.670

Bill Hughes: there's this holy there's this concept in American Christianity of like the warrior believer and the warrior spirit and I think it justify a lot of people's attitudes around how we.

282

00:46:09.780 --> 00:46:15.240

Bill Hughes: how we handle things that we don't think are the ways of God.

283

00:46:17.520 --> 00:46:27.330

Bill Hughes: You know, we should look to some of these warrior examples and say, well, David did it Gideon did it Samson did it.

284

00:46:27.960 --> 00:46:38.340

Bill Hughes: You know this is god's way God has called us to where there's a war cry like you know we really you know we're bridegroom's of blood, you know.

285

00:46:38.760 --> 00:46:49.290

Bill Hughes: it's it's what we've embraced as opposed to looking at that as odious and wrong and not what God wants and falling short of what god's best is for humanity.

286

00:46:51.240 --> 00:46:56.040

Bill Hughes: kind of justify ourselves by these misinterpretations that you're describing.

287

00:47:02.370 --> 00:47:16.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: i'm just thinking about the T your example brother bill and looking at David the real David and his all of his closet doors open so that all of his faults are there.

288

00:47:17.490 --> 00:47:19.920

Carole Copeland Thomas: And just the humaneness that.

289

00:47:21.330 --> 00:47:22.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: makes them human.

290

00:47:24.630 --> 00:47:44.370

Carole Copeland Thomas: But, yet the redeeming quality and David in terms of repenting for what he's done when it comes to the insurrection lists in January I just find it simply amazing that these same individuals would swear up and down.

291

00:47:45.570 --> 00:47:59.610

Carole Copeland Thomas: Their loyalty to this country and to God and freedom and yet they're they're killing COPs and beating them up with blue lives matter flags that I don't understand.

292

00:48:00.570 --> 00:48:00.780

well.

293

00:48:02.730 --> 00:48:03.780

Carole Copeland Thomas: glad you're here jack.

294

00:48:08.280 --> 00:48:10.410

Carl Racine: jack didn't get the time change message.

295

00:48:10.440 --> 00:48:14.820

Carole Copeland Thomas: Oh, oh oh.

296

00:48:16.830 --> 00:48:21.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: Oh yeah daylight savings Time starts started at 2am.

297

00:48:23.580 --> 00:48:27.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: I die but i'm glad you're here.

298

00:48:28.410 --> 00:48:30.420

Jack Melvin: What time is it there right.

299

00:48:30.720 --> 00:48:32.460

10:45am.



300

00:48:36.120 --> 00:48:39.450

Carole Copeland Thomas: know you 80% of life is showing up you did that.

301

00:48:43.020 --> 00:48:43.770

Jack Melvin: there's no time.

302

00:48:46.440 --> 00:48:46.860

Jack Melvin: Like.

303

00:48:47.160 --> 00:48:48.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah yes.

304

00:48:48.990 --> 00:48:58.560

Carl Racine: Hopefully, if Congress does the does the right thing, this is the last time we'll have to suffer through it either they're there there there's a big push on a bipartisan push to.

305

00:49:00.030 --> 00:49:04.020

Carl Racine: Stop the time chains fiasco every.

306

00:49:05.400 --> 00:49:06.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: Interesting it is.

307

00:49:07.470 --> 00:49:08.820

Bill Hughes: What will happen to my crops.

308

00:49:13.170 --> 00:49:14.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: Let me therapy.

309

00:49:15.990 --> 00:49:23.790

Carl Racine: When you think about the Bible stories that the ones I meant, I mean Samson as just as her her reflect percentage nothing good about Samson.

310

00:49:24.090 --> 00:49:31.590

Carl Racine: God the whole point of these searches God God can use all sorts of awful people God doesn't pick people, thank God, to do.

311

00:49:32.220 --> 00:49:40.350

Carl Racine: His purposes accomplish his purposes in the world on the basis of their staunch moral character and Gideon I mean.

312

00:49:41.340 --> 00:49:52.650

Carl Racine: Gideon Lord I don't know if people do this anymore, but gideons fleece used to be one of those things people talked about giddiness gideons fleeces a sign of his lack of faith.

313

00:49:53.070 --> 00:50:04.170

Carl Racine: When God first finds Gideon he's hiding trembling in a wine that hoping nobody's going to come and find him and hurt him, he is a man of little faith.

314

00:50:04.740 --> 00:50:17.940

Carl Racine: he's constantly testing God, which were told in other parts of scripture not to do the fleece is not an example that other people are supposed to follow it's simply an example of his lack of faith.

315

00:50:18.450 --> 00:50:30.900

Carl Racine: And we leave off the ending of the story, you after god's given him this great victory over is an enemy's he takes all the booty and melted down and turns it into idols and the last thing we hear about Gideon.

316

00:50:31.260 --> 00:50:35.550

Carl Racine: Is that he's reverted back to the idolatry of the pagan culture.

317

00:50:35.850 --> 00:50:43.380

Carl Racine: So how Gideon is held up as some sort of marvelous example for all of us to follow, again, is a bafflement to me.

318

00:50:43.590 --> 00:50:52.920

Carl Racine: But as because we don't read the whole of the scripture we don't simply read the text there, and you don't need to know Hebrew to read that you can go read that in any English version of the Bible you want.

319

00:50:53.250 --> 00:50:59.820

Carl Racine: And it's right there, but we simply cut those things out, especially in Sunday school the stories we tell our children.

320

00:51:00.900 --> 00:51:01.440

Carl Racine: I mean.

321

00:51:02.610 --> 00:51:07.530

Carl Racine: Samson was led by His, shall we say, nether regions.

322

00:51:10.320 --> 00:51:15.090

Carl Racine: ample of men thinking with their gonads rather than their heart and their brain.

323

00:51:16.170 --> 00:51:16.920

wyatt jackson: What I would.

324

00:51:18.810 --> 00:51:19.110

Bill Hughes: What.

325

00:51:19.410 --> 00:51:26.130

wyatt jackson: yeah I just want to ask a question so Carl we've had these conversations before i've asked you how would you take.

326

00:51:27.660 --> 00:51:42.510

wyatt jackson: Or would you take up a story of David and try to teach young people what would you what would you do with the David story, if you had a classroom full of seven year olds.

327

00:51:49.380 --> 00:51:50.580

Susan Racine: i'd stick with the lion.

328

00:51:52.380 --> 00:51:52.770

Carole Copeland Thomas: Right.

329

00:51:55.980 --> 00:51:58.020

Carl Racine: yeah I mean you can do that you.

330

00:51:58.020 --> 00:51:59.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: can make bathsheba story.

331

00:52:01.080 --> 00:52:01.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: every night.

332

00:52:02.700 --> 00:52:03.060

Peter Barrant: I think.

333

00:52:03.270 --> 00:52:15.390

Peter Barrant: I think the problem actually comes that you teach a watered down version to the elementary school students, but you don't go to the middle and high school students and put more meat on the bones.

334

00:52:15.930 --> 00:52:23.940

Peter Barrant: I mean a lot of middle and high school students don't don't really know the details of many of those stories, so I think.

335

00:52:24.330 --> 00:52:33.600

Peter Barrant: That if you're looking at developmental stages, I think you would teach those development teach the stories, based on the developmental stage of the kid.

336

00:52:34.080 --> 00:52:42.870

Peter Barrant: But as they get more, I mean the you know, there is no reason that one if one were doing a high school class one wouldn't look at.

337

00:52:43.410 --> 00:52:51.540

Peter Barrant: say the story of Samson and just talk about the fact that he was led by you know his desire for sex, I mean this this woman.

338

00:52:51.900 --> 00:53:04.920

Peter Barrant: And I clear, you know or or you talk about what what David did in in real terms, but I think the problem is that we never go past the elementary school version of the stories.

339

00:53:05.790 --> 00:53:06.180

hmm.

340

00:53:07.980 --> 00:53:08.070

wyatt jackson: hmm.

341

00:53:08.490 --> 00:53:09.060

Good point.

342

00:53:11.280 --> 00:53:17.670

Carl Racine: i'm questioning the whole notion, as to whether these stories are meant to serve as moral examples I think we can talk about them.

343

00:53:18.930 --> 00:53:30.720

Carl Racine: And and talk about them in reference to our lives, but they may not be things that you spend a lot of time on the seven year olds there may be other stories in the Bible.

344

00:53:31.980 --> 00:53:35.880

Carl Racine: That you want to you know go to.

345

00:53:37.110 --> 00:53:38.370

wyatt jackson: And the reason why we know.

346

00:53:39.150 --> 00:53:58.410

Beverly Williams: yeah you can still teach that story to seven years old, because when you look at, you know that the sex part, what is it it's basically boils down to greed and selfishness and kids at that age can understand greed and selfishness, it does not have to be named you know.

347

00:53:59.760 --> 00:54:00.120

Bill Hughes: yeah.

348

00:54:00.270 --> 00:54:07.680

Bill Hughes: I think the issue, though, is on as on Halloween or whatever we celebrate as Christians, if not all the way.

349

00:54:09.150 --> 00:54:12.420

Bill Hughes: We dress our kids up as David and.

350

00:54:14.100 --> 00:54:23.310

Bill Hughes: You know these characters because we have imputed to us because I totally agree with you Beverly what you're saying is that's what we should be teaching.

351

00:54:23.820 --> 00:54:32.880

Bill Hughes: As opposed to you know, putting these folks on pedestals and saying their lives and paragons because, as you look into the Bible it just.

352

00:54:33.780 --> 00:54:42.810

Bill Hughes: You know it defies that and I think the other thing that's kind of related to that is we, you know how many times have I heard that the Bible is the instruction manual for life.

353

00:54:43.890 --> 00:54:55.590

Bill Hughes: And I think that's there's there's a subtle difference between the Bible is given for its wisdom, for us that we might learn the ways of God.

354

00:54:56.430 --> 00:55:06.420

Bill Hughes: that's very different from saying the bible's the instruction manual, which is to say step one do this step to do that in this situation to the other and.

355

00:55:07.200 --> 00:55:13.770

Bill Hughes: What I think happens is and again it's a part of like what Carol is talking about in terms of people turning their brains off.

356

00:55:14.220 --> 00:55:23.040

Bill Hughes: And not reasoning with the with the word and wrestling with it to get to an understanding is trying to pick off the shelf, you know okay i'm in this situation.

357

00:55:23.430 --> 00:55:33.720

Bill Hughes: What do I do because i'm afraid to make my own decision, and I know in my own life when I look back on it, you know that the frustration and the that i've had with myself.

358

00:55:34.320 --> 00:55:47.850

Bill Hughes: On certain decisions I made you know around things of God

is because I didn't I sort of took what someone told me when I was a young Christian and said okay that's the truth, I have to do that.

359

00:55:48.450 --> 00:55:55.080

Bill Hughes: And I kind of held on to that and I did it and then I you know the outcome wasn't wasn't what was promised.

360

00:55:55.590 --> 00:55:56.160

wyatt jackson: It wasn't.

361

00:55:56.340 --> 00:56:06.840

Bill Hughes: You know and and then it left me kind of wondering what what the heck's going on here and what i'm realizing you know what of 3040 years later and reflection is that.

362

00:56:07.290 --> 00:56:17.520

Bill Hughes: The times when I was able to make good choices good decisions, and when I I sought God and I read the word seeking wisdom.

363

00:56:18.210 --> 00:56:33.600

Bill Hughes: And then taking accountability of my own decision, as opposed to trying to find a formula or find you know something and then let it do the work that I really needed to do in my own life.

364

00:56:34.920 --> 00:56:37.680

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know I think brother wine was gonna say something.

365

00:56:38.100 --> 00:56:42.660

wyatt jackson: And i'll be i'll be done, thank you for indulging in that idea.

366

00:56:43.200 --> 00:56:44.550

wyatt jackson: And the reason why is because I.

367

00:56:44.730 --> 00:56:45.750

wyatt jackson: just finished watching.

368

00:56:47.370 --> 00:56:49.560

wyatt jackson: The documentary of Mr Rogers.

369

00:56:50.700 --> 00:56:56.640

wyatt jackson: his whole world that he created I didn't know that he was a Presbyterian Minister until the documentary.

370

00:56:57.750 --> 00:56:59.100

wyatt jackson: But he did a brilliant job.

371

00:57:00.210 --> 00:57:06.570

wyatt jackson: of looking at real emotions stuff that children need to start learning early.

372

00:57:07.590 --> 00:57:14.940

wyatt jackson: And he looked at anger he looked at joy you look that loss looked at all of that stuff and I just wonder if.

373

00:57:16.110 --> 00:57:31.290

wyatt jackson: Because I know when I came up, I know, in my church, we were kids we learned that David was a superstar and that he killed Goliath and that was a big deal it's like yeah he went against this giant that was against us because against God.

374

00:57:32.970 --> 00:57:38.190

wyatt jackson: And I think if if there's a way to take.

375

00:57:39.870 --> 00:57:43.140

wyatt jackson: Those stories and filter them through of Mr Rogers lens.

376

00:57:44.580 --> 00:57:53.310

wyatt jackson: Where you're letting them front, but this guy was he had a lot of problems right, can you imagine, Mr Rogers breaking that down he had a lot of fraud.

377

00:57:54.720 --> 00:57:57.360

wyatt jackson: And he did some wonderful things to be at all.

378

00:57:59.670 --> 00:58:11.700

James Williams: Right ah, I don't know, I think that a story like Gideon and like David it's so important for these characters look like



us to have our weaknesses, to show that.

379

00:58:12.270 --> 00:58:18.750

James Williams: we're getting and how he depended on God he questioned it and he had all the tests with the police and all that stuff.

380

00:58:19.110 --> 00:58:29.130

James Williams: And he thought they were going to go in a particular direction but all those men that he had and it's God dwindled down to manage even before methodology for getting through.

381

00:58:29.580 --> 00:58:41.700

James Williams: I mean, I absolutely love the story of I remember teaching that story to a fourth grade class and getting animated and telling the story and and about all the things that he did and.

382

00:58:42.390 --> 00:58:50.670

James Williams: There was some fundamental things behind his life in this capacity with irregardless of what you did after the fact.

383

00:58:51.240 --> 00:59:08.310

James Williams: there's some fundamental things that are just really important to have to share with our young people me baby, I mean I just love the part that you know he'd like me, I mean he has a really good things about him and he got some really powerful things about him and all of us all.

384

00:59:09.420 --> 00:59:13.650

James Williams: But I think it's important that these stories of reflect us.

385

00:59:15.180 --> 00:59:21.270

Carole Copeland Thomas: and see, I think the same thing of rehab as I read joshua one over and over again.

386

00:59:22.470 --> 00:59:26.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: And just why there's such an ECHO there, but just.

387

00:59:27.600 --> 00:59:31.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: Thinking about if you believe that she

prostitute okay.

388

00:59:32.220 --> 00:59:40.710

Carole Copeland Thomas: everybody's got to make a living, somehow, but then she she she she shielded those spies.

389

00:59:41.250 --> 00:59:49.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: And and made a bargain with them and said i'll protect you if you protect my family, because we know you guys are coming.

390

00:59:50.490 --> 01:00:02.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: And you know, obviously the bargain held and went forward, but if you get stuck just on the fact that she was a lady of the evening, maybe and should make a living so.

391

01:00:04.440 --> 01:00:08.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: I sort of put her in the same category and extremely important biblical character.

392

01:00:10.380 --> 01:00:16.770

Carole Copeland Thomas: Who did stuff that was socially disapproving of many of most people.

393

01:00:19.980 --> 01:00:30.960

Carl Racine: I mean, one of the one of the takeaways, I think, from a lot of these stories and and a lot of the other stories and stories we haven't talked about is simply the God.

394

01:00:32.190 --> 01:00:38.430

Carl Racine: God over and over again seems to delight in using the most unlikely people yeah.

395

01:00:40.440 --> 01:00:44.370

Carl Racine: to accomplish his purposes and we tend to.

396

01:00:45.390 --> 01:00:48.420

Carl Racine: Either ignore those people entirely or looked down upon them.

397

01:00:50.040 --> 01:00:53.310

Carl Racine: When, in fact, God sees them.

398

01:00:54.540 --> 01:01:08.010

Carl Racine: In all of their humaneness and all of their flaws and not as moral examples, but as simply agents of his purposes in the world, and that means there's hope for all of us.

399

01:01:10.410 --> 01:01:20.100

Carl Racine: Right it, for one, I mean if we teach the stories this way it allows us to maybe be a little more honest about our own feeling.

400

01:01:21.030 --> 01:01:30.660

Carl Racine: We don't have to pretend that we're plaster saints, and in order to have people think that God is doing good things through us.

401

01:01:31.530 --> 01:01:40.770

Carl Racine: That, in fact, God works through all sorts of types of people with interesting career choices, the church actually.

402

01:01:41.580 --> 01:02:00.060

Carl Racine: Later on, in its interpretation that rehab story actually gave her alternate career choices they were they weren't at all comfortable with that story being told the way it is told in the Bible, so they they revised they they airbrushed her her her career into something.

403

01:02:00.090 --> 01:02:03.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: completely different because hospitality business.

404

01:02:04.350 --> 01:02:09.720

Carl Racine: Obviously the hospitality business if a God chose to use her, she must be a saint.

405

01:02:09.930 --> 01:02:18.420

Carl Racine: And that's just not the Bible and that's what's so wonderful about the Bible that's why the Bible is believable to me.

406

01:02:19.950 --> 01:02:25.650

Carl Racine: what's not believable is some of the Sunday school versions of the Bible that we've all grown up with.

407

01:02:27.180 --> 01:02:28.110

Carl Racine: So.

408

01:02:29.760 --> 01:02:33.060

Carl Racine: Again, I think there is plenty.

409

01:02:34.500 --> 01:02:46.290

Carl Racine: In those stories, for us, but it's not necessarily the the lessons that that we've been raised with there's some other stuff going on in those stories.

410

01:02:47.490 --> 01:02:50.730

Carl Racine: That, if we look at them, as I say, with to good highs.

411

01:02:52.380 --> 01:02:56.730

Carl Racine: and see the messiness of the human situation in the scriptures.

412

01:02:57.840 --> 01:03:14.460

Carl Racine: And God working because the Bible is ultimately not about human beings we're about God and about what god's doing and god's purposes so that's where you need to to sort of keep the focus, even though the human beings in some ways are are fascinating.

413

01:03:16.740 --> 01:03:23.400

Carl Racine: All right, I think we'll call it a day here it's about 11 o'clock and.

414

01:03:23.520 --> 01:03:32.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: You can brother Carl if you can resend me the slide deck that we need to use next week, that will be so i'll make sure that everything queued up that'll be awesome.

415

01:03:32.430 --> 01:03:33.930

Carl Racine: yeah there's only two left.

416

01:03:33.930 --> 01:03:36.300

Carl Racine: So I just I had added an extra one.

417

01:03:36.480 --> 01:03:43.470

Carl Racine: And somehow you were missing it and will will will try to finish this up next week and move on to.

418

01:03:44.580 --> 01:03:52.830

Carl Racine: The very interesting issue of crime and punishment in the scriptures and we're going to look first at the story of the woman taken in adultery.

419

01:03:53.970 --> 01:03:56.550

Carl Racine: But that will be a couple weeks yeah speaking of.

420

01:03:57.990 --> 01:04:14.220

Carl Racine: Interesting biblical stories that have caused all sorts of levels of consternation amongst moralist Christians that have been reading those stories that's that's why one of the reasons I turned to it can someone closes out in prayer please.

421

01:04:16.530 --> 01:04:26.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: brother Jackson she were since we um so so I feel guilty, now we sort of forgot to remind you about the time change so we would you mind closing us out in prayer.

422

01:04:27.810 --> 01:04:28.230

Jack Melvin: Okay.

423

01:04:31.350 --> 01:04:32.880

Jack Melvin: Well, the Lord be with you.

424

01:04:34.080 --> 01:04:35.310

Jack Melvin: And with your spirit.

425

01:04:36.540 --> 01:04:38.610

Jack Melvin: holy God we pray we.

426

01:04:40.500 --> 01:04:41.490

Jack Melvin: offer up this.

427

01:04:42.870 --> 01:04:44.460

Jack Melvin: This group to you and.

428

01:04:46.140 --> 01:04:56.670

Jack Melvin: Lord may you give us new insights and how to read the Holy Scripture may we see ourselves in the flawed characters that you present.

429

01:04:57.840 --> 01:04:59.220

Jack Melvin: In your holy book.

430

01:05:00.450 --> 01:05:14.580

Jack Melvin: And may we, in spite of their flaws and inspire our own flaws learn to hear your message learn to live a life according to your will we pray this in Jesus name amen.

431

01:05:15.030 --> 01:05:16.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen amen amen.

432

01:05:18.810 --> 01:05:20.820

Carole Copeland Thomas: bye bye everybody will see you next week.

433

01:05:21.390 --> 01:05:23.280

Susan Racine: All right, thank you jack.

434

01:05:26.640 --> 01:05:27.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: feel guilty.

435

01:05:31.380 --> 01:05:35.130

Carole Copeland Thomas: Thank you jack Thank you everybody take care bye bye.