

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.089 --> 00:00:04.230

Carl Racine: Encouraging the men's group yesterday to.

2

00:00:05.910 --> 00:00:14.400

Carl Racine: They get their vaccines in case there was a resistance to the idea and I suggested that now that Susan are fully vaccinated.

3

00:00:16.020 --> 00:00:24.870

Carl Racine: We can have people over for dinner, who are also fully vaccinated so all the sudden the whole men's group was like yeah i'm getting back saying i'm sure i'll get that.

4

00:00:26.130 --> 00:00:26.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: incentive.

5

00:00:32.070 --> 00:00:35.670

Carl Racine: But I mean it really the idea of being able to have.

6

00:00:36.900 --> 00:00:51.000

Carl Racine: People over for dinner is now a real thing which is you know it's been a year since we've had anybody in our House for dinner, except for joshua.

7

00:00:53.700 --> 00:00:54.270

that's.

8

00:00:55.680 --> 00:00:57.780

Carl Racine: An amazing thought.

9

00:00:57.810 --> 00:00:58.440

Carl Racine: Who was every.

10

00:00:58.560 --> 00:00:59.910

Carl Racine: Time that we.

11

00:01:00.360 --> 00:01:04.260

Carl Racine: meet we took all that stuff for granted until it was

taken away from us.

12

00:01:06.990 --> 00:01:07.590

Carl Racine: So.

13

00:01:08.760 --> 00:01:12.900

Carl Racine: that's a huge relief for me, and I know people are.

14

00:01:14.280 --> 00:01:31.050

Carl Racine: lots of other people are either in the middle of the process, or at least beginning the process that's the said in the coffee hour it his daughter was able to get vaccinated this week, she went she went with her mother and.

15

00:01:32.340 --> 00:01:37.980

Carl Racine: When they said they had the Pfizer vaccine the daughter insisted on getting one, two and they gave it to her so.

16

00:01:38.100 --> 00:01:43.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: Good good April 1 for me i'll be done on April 1.

17

00:01:43.740 --> 00:01:44.820

Carl Racine: and Georgia.

18

00:01:45.960 --> 00:01:52.200

Carl Racine: In New York is actually one of his roommates has covered right now so having to isolate.

19

00:01:52.530 --> 00:01:53.220

All.

20

00:01:55.710 --> 00:02:05.430

Carl Racine: But he a friend of his has found out that if you call around in the afternoon like maybe 330 in the afternoon two different walgreens.

21

00:02:06.450 --> 00:02:14.760

Carl Racine: They will often have extra shots leftover for the day that they have to use up, and so you can just say.

22

00:02:17.280 --> 00:02:26.880

Carl Racine: i'm coming right in and they'll and they'll give you any so you doesn't matter how old you are anything else so josh was going to going to work in the next couple minutes once he's passed the quarantine good.

23

00:02:28.170 --> 00:02:31.320

Carl Racine: roommate he's going to work on doing it that way.

24

00:02:32.730 --> 00:02:36.000

Carl Racine: Because when they have extra stuff.

25

00:02:37.230 --> 00:02:42.090

Carl Racine: It only has a limited shelf life and if they don't use it, they have to throw it away so.

26

00:02:43.140 --> 00:02:53.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: that's the same thing with reggie Lewis Center I physically went to reggie Lewis Center and they told me the same thing, so any Center you can go to and that's the same policy if you're with.

27

00:02:54.870 --> 00:02:58.110

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah certainly with Madonna or Pfizer yeah.

28

00:02:58.890 --> 00:03:00.270

Carl Racine: So that was.

29

00:03:01.050 --> 00:03:01.440

wow.

30

00:03:02.790 --> 00:03:09.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: And what about the, the President of Tanzania, I listened to a BBC podcast.

31

00:03:10.680 --> 00:03:27.600

Carole Copeland Thomas: One day that's the podcast it's called Africa daily it's a very good podcast it's one subject each day on Africa one country in Africa and it's really well done, Alan could could Sue Joe

is the host.

32

00:03:28.140 --> 00:03:37.620

Carole Copeland Thomas: And he talked about where is the President of Tanzania and literally the next day they announced the man had died and the whole conversation was.

33

00:03:38.400 --> 00:03:51.990

Carole Copeland Thomas: He has coven and they're not announcing it and so now I just read a CNN report this morning, and people are swearing up and down he had coven they're keeping the quiet because he who has a PhD in chemistry.

34

00:03:52.530 --> 00:04:04.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: claim that there was no coven and you could use herbs and prayer to get rid of it, and so they haven't had any recent data since last April, that was the last time they create a data.

35

00:04:05.550 --> 00:04:20.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: About coven and it's obviously it's all out of date and they've lost people and they haven't even accounted for it, so you all pray for sister idea, who was there with her daughter ella so keep her in your prayers amen.

36

00:04:22.140 --> 00:04:23.130

Carl Racine: amen well.

37

00:04:25.590 --> 00:04:31.320

Carl Racine: let's open in prayer and we will begin, thank you, Lord for being with us today, thank you for.

38

00:04:32.850 --> 00:04:48.600

Carl Racine: The Church service and coffee or we've already had, and for those who haven't been part of it, yet for what's to come and thank you for this class and for those who are here and those who may still be joining us we pray that you would guide our discussion.

39

00:04:49.830 --> 00:04:58.920

Carl Racine: of your word as we seek to see you more clearly as as pastor talked about in the sermon this morning, in the name of Jesus amen.

40

00:04:59.340 --> 00:05:01.950

Carl Racine: amen yeah the sermon kind of.

41

00:05:03.150 --> 00:05:08.190

Carl Racine: Have a little bit of a connection with what we're talking about here today that idea of how you see.

42

00:05:10.080 --> 00:05:15.360

Carl Racine: Because we've been talking about this whole idea of considering different points of view.

43

00:05:16.500 --> 00:05:31.020

Carl Racine: Not just one point of view, in order to arrive at a more complex and nuanced understanding of god's truth, both in the world and in the end, when we read the scriptures and we.

44

00:05:32.220 --> 00:05:46.470

Carl Racine: have been looking at something from a book by rabbi heschel heavenly Torah oh and, by the way, I don't know if people I sent out an email tomorrow if people have the time I know it's four to six in the afternoon there's a Boston college.

45

00:05:50.010 --> 00:06:02.640

Carl Racine: program their their Center for Christian Jewish learning where they're showing a documentary film about rabbi heschel and his connection with the civil rights movement.

46

00:06:03.180 --> 00:06:16.920

Carl Racine: And with Dr Martin Luther King which we've talked about in this class, and then there will be a discussion of the film with the filmmaker and with rabbi herschel's daughter Susanna who teaches at Dartmouth college and is sort of an adjunct to BC as well.

47

00:06:17.970 --> 00:06:19.110

Carl Racine: So if you're.

48

00:06:20.970 --> 00:06:28.470

Carl Racine: interested in that and have the time tomorrow afternoon i'm going to be looking at it and that should be interesting.

49

00:06:30.780 --> 00:06:35.010

Carl Racine: rabbi hassle care if we could see slide number one, please.

50

00:06:35.220 --> 00:06:35.550

sure.

51

00:06:38.400 --> 00:06:45.990

Carl Racine: Talks he develops in in in this book and talking about different ways of thinking about the scriptures.

52

00:06:47.760 --> 00:06:48.300

He.

53

00:06:50.310 --> 00:06:55.740

Carl Racine: He talks about the fact that in just in our physical sight.

54

00:06:56.760 --> 00:07:07.320

Carl Racine: there's something that they call the parallax view that when we are looking at something are left I, and I right, I see two slightly different images and i've put a.

55

00:07:07.350 --> 00:07:09.030

Carl Racine: kind of illustration.

56

00:07:09.030 --> 00:07:22.260

Carl Racine: here on the on the slide and then your brain kind of creates a more complex depth of field by bringing those two images together into one more.

57

00:07:23.460 --> 00:07:25.530

Carl Racine: elaborate one and.

58

00:07:26.730 --> 00:07:33.690

Carl Racine: That so heschel talks about how just like physical sight requires a diversity of perspectives so.

59

00:07:34.380 --> 00:07:44.970

Carl Racine: So the spiritual journey, the spiritual pilgrimage the quest for truth in the scriptures and an understanding God and what's god's doing in this world.

60

00:07:45.330 --> 00:08:00.300

Carl Racine: We need to have both eyes, we need to hear and listen to various voices in the discussion, and not just have one single point of view, and this connects with what we've been talking about the argument for the sake of heaven.

61

00:08:01.680 --> 00:08:21.390

Carl Racine: involves a consideration of more than just one point of view, various perspectives are important for helping us understand the world and understanding God and our place in that in that world, and that means recognizing that even in the scriptures themselves as I talked about.

62

00:08:22.890 --> 00:08:26.490

Carl Racine: A week or two ago, discussion and debate is going on.

63

00:08:27.630 --> 00:08:31.950

Carl Racine: That the scripture is a conversation, not a sermon or a monologue.

64

00:08:33.570 --> 00:08:46.410

Carl Racine: rabbi sacks makes the same point in the essay that we looked at briefly and we're coming back to now he in his last book he has an essay called God loves those who argue.

65

00:08:47.580 --> 00:08:50.580

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

66

00:08:52.980 --> 00:09:10.410

Carl Racine: And and rabbi Sachs point to the fact that the Jewish literature is full of debate and discussion between the various rabbis says in Judaism there's something holly about argument why so, because only God can see the totality of truth.

67

00:09:11.760 --> 00:09:32.670

Carl Racine: We humans only see fragments of the truth only parts of the truth at any one time and that's why we need this variety of viewpoints you can't get god's perspective on things, with just a

simple linear sequence with kind of tunnel vision or only one human point of view.

68

00:09:35.640 --> 00:09:50.250

Carl Racine: rabbi heschel asks the question, is it possible to have a living Torah without the struggle of opposites without disputes, without the many permutations of ideas and outlooks.

69

00:09:53.490 --> 00:10:07.290

Carl Racine: If Torah if the scriptures are to be a living word, the word of the living God, a word that still speaks to us today and isn't simply an archaeological or historical artifact.

70

00:10:08.160 --> 00:10:22.230

Carl Racine: Then we must accept the complexity of the way it communicates to us and not try to reduce it to one single point of view, we have to approach god's word with two eyes.

71

00:10:23.760 --> 00:10:36.600

Carl Racine: And hassle says, we need to develop the skill to hear the words of both sides of an issue and hassles very good at this personally, he illustrations whole book does that is 800 page book.

72

00:10:37.770 --> 00:10:49.080

Carl Racine: Because the other side has things to teach us and the time may come when we need to use those insights to understand and apply the word differently.

73

00:10:50.370 --> 00:11:05.640

Carl Racine: In any debate there's always a minority report a dissenting opinion and that minority report still matters, even if the majority report, at least for the time as accepted and we saw this with.

74

00:11:07.260 --> 00:11:20.340

Carl Racine: rabbi Shannon shamma and hillel at the beginning hills viewpoint tended to be accepted, but they preserve the Minority Report, the preserved what sham I also had to say, because it was important.

75

00:11:21.720 --> 00:11:22.980

Carl Racine: And heschel says that.

76

00:11:24.090 --> 00:11:31.830

Carl Racine: The time may come when the decision to accept one side point of view.

77

00:11:33.780 --> 00:11:41.820

Carl Racine: is judged to be inadequate for the current circumstances and circumstances may demand that we follow a different path.

78

00:11:42.330 --> 00:11:50.610

Carl Racine: And here, he quotes and this quote is on your screen he quotes a 15th century Spanish rabbi joelle even Schreiber.

79

00:11:51.360 --> 00:12:08.730

Carl Racine: Who says it's inappropriate to judge matters, the same way, every time, for it will often happen at a given time, that it is appropriate to rule leniently and another that stringency is called for, and we remember that rabbi hillel was thought of as a more lenient.

80

00:12:09.750 --> 00:12:15.060

Carl Racine: APP apply or have a lot and shame, I was thought of is more stringent.

81

00:12:16.080 --> 00:12:33.090

Carl Racine: bye bye shop says that there there's a time when sometimes leniency is called for, one point of view and then time when stringency is called for, and he goes on to argue that that's why we have courts just in secular.

82

00:12:33.990 --> 00:12:58.800

Carl Racine: law, we of course to decide how to apply the law to a specific set of circumstances the judges are are ultimately the ones who decide how lenient or how strictly to apply the law, given the circumstances, because the laws simply can't fit every circumstance.

83

00:13:00.030 --> 00:13:05.970

Carl Racine: adequately, and the same is true with religious laws with religious truth.

84

00:13:07.260 --> 00:13:15.120

Carl Racine: Inevitably there's inequities that might arise from trying to apply religious laws, the same way, every time.

85

00:13:16.380 --> 00:13:27.360

Carl Racine: Again, there are the the issue that we talked about earlier on, with rabbis shamma and hillel the issue of divorce, if you take a blanket.

86

00:13:28.650 --> 00:13:32.820

Carl Racine: No compromise position the divorces always wrong.

87

00:13:33.990 --> 00:13:37.740

Carl Racine: You are going to be hurting some people inevitably.

88

00:13:38.820 --> 00:13:47.010

Carl Racine: And we'll come back and talk about this a little bit more you can't always try to apply religious laws in the same way.

89

00:13:49.290 --> 00:13:58.230

Carl Racine: rabbi show up here argues the Torah has a remedy for the fact look laws can sometimes be impart harshly impersonal.

90

00:13:59.250 --> 00:14:09.000

Carl Racine: He says that remedy is called has said this word we've seen many times very important biblical word loving kindness steadfast love.

91

00:14:09.390 --> 00:14:23.550

Carl Racine: And he says that operates to rectify the inequities in religious law, but he says it doesn't undermine the authority of the law, the law simply needs to be tempered with loving kindness.

92

00:14:25.170 --> 00:14:32.970

Carl Racine: by the judges who apply interpret and apply the law and Jesus argues this same point exactly about the scriptures.

93

00:14:34.470 --> 00:14:46.290

Carl Racine: And rabbi shoop says this doesn't undermine the authority of the law, but rather, he says, it is a drawing near to god's will to god's intent, if not to god's very words.

94

00:14:48.000 --> 00:14:56.370

Carl Racine: So heschel here is arguing for a compassionate justice which we've seen many times as the essence of tourists teaching.

95

00:14:57.060 --> 00:15:05.970

Carl Racine: A Torah of has said, a tour of loving kindness does not view the law does not view the scriptures as a kind of one size fits all.

96

00:15:06.690 --> 00:15:18.750

Carl Racine: But it has a certain flexibility and how the laws are applied in individual circumstances and next in the next section that we're going to move into next week, we will see an example of Jesus doing just that.

97

00:15:19.590 --> 00:15:24.780

Carl Racine: If the word is a living word it can't be allowed to become a calcified fossil.

98

00:15:25.410 --> 00:15:38.700

Carl Racine: Yes, we may have decided to follow the teachings of hillel in the past, but the present situation calls for us to follow shama yes Jesus said that divorces a bad thing, and not god's original intention for humanity.

99

00:15:40.020 --> 00:15:57.090

Carl Racine: But there are some marriages that don't look like God was the one who joined those partners together and forcing them to stay together would not be an act of has said, would not be an act of loving kindness, either for the couple or for their children or for the surrounding community.

100

00:15:58.440 --> 00:16:05.760

Carl Racine: Yes, the Bible teaches that God is loving and compassionate and forgiving and there are times when we're talking to someone.

101

00:16:06.090 --> 00:16:23.790

Carl Racine: Where they need to hear that word, we need to proclaim to them a merciful word but yes, the scriptures also teach the god demands righteousness from his people, and there are a time when times when that demanding word is necessary.

102

00:16:25.560 --> 00:16:36.000

Carl Racine: You have to have a sensitivity to the many voices in the scriptures to understand how to apply them in a given situation.

103

00:16:38.340 --> 00:16:49.770

Carl Racine: And yet says heschel even when there were differences of opinion among the rabbi's like hillel and shamma the Torah never became to torahs.

104

00:16:51.390 --> 00:17:06.990

Carl Racine: because their intention was for the sake of heaven from god's perspective, the truth is one but from our limited human perspectives, we see only partially as the Apostle Paul says we see reflections in a mirror.

105

00:17:07.740 --> 00:17:17.580

Carl Racine: We only see fragments of god's truth and the title of his book which literally his Torah from heaven as refracted through the generations suggests this.

106

00:17:18.390 --> 00:17:31.770

Carl Racine: Continual stream of light may be broken by a prism into a spectrum of colors and that's heschel central metaphor for god's revelation and for the way humans see god's light god's truth.

107

00:17:33.390 --> 00:17:40.230

Carl Racine: We can pursue the truth, like hillel like heschel like rabbi sacks with humility.

108

00:17:40.770 --> 00:17:50.160

Carl Racine: and with a sense of our own limitations as human beings, recognizing there are other people who will be able to see things that we simply cannot see.

109

00:17:51.150 --> 00:18:10.860

Carl Racine: god's truth cannot be reduced to something that will fit on attract to handout on street corners, it cannot be contained in a couple of pious cliches or a simple outline of a plan of salvation god's truth challenges and stretches the very limits of our understanding.

110

00:18:12.930 --> 00:18:17.130

Carl Racine: i'm going to pause there and let people make comments or.

111

00:18:19.410 --> 00:18:20.400

Carole Copeland Thomas: ask questions.

112

00:18:22.260 --> 00:18:32.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: Like last week, what what i'm hearing you say, and I will put the link to herschel's webinar i'll i'll do it once we stop sharing the slides.

113

00:18:33.450 --> 00:18:38.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: One size doesn't fit all which makes sense because you have several people.

114

00:18:39.870 --> 00:18:49.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: writing this collection is almost like an anthology of books that make up the 66 and we only chose, there are other books, the Bible that we don't include in our version so.

115

00:18:50.220 --> 00:19:00.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: You have all these multiple voices that clearly are going to look at things a little differently, which means that we have to have that level of flexibility, as we.

116

00:19:01.590 --> 00:19:10.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: worship and have our own corporate sense of prayer and and religion, and this corporate church that we belong to, but that's different from.

117

00:19:13.020 --> 00:19:14.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: Tanzanian presidents who.

118

00:19:16.380 --> 00:19:22.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: misguide a cold country and die in the meantime and people who are just hard and fast.

119

00:19:23.970 --> 00:19:28.170

Carole Copeland Thomas: Conservative Christians or conservative whatever.

120

00:19:29.250 --> 00:19:36.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: who have my way or the highway ideas of living a biblical life.

121

00:19:38.340 --> 00:19:47.700

Carl Racine: Exactly and and and I want to be real clear here and we'll talk about this a little more in a minute, but there are things that are true, and there are things that are false.

122

00:19:49.980 --> 00:20:04.590

Carl Racine: Right, it is true that that coven is a reality and that it is a life threatening and life depended bill attaining disease and that there is now a vaccine for it.

123

00:20:06.030 --> 00:20:11.850

Carl Racine: You can deny that all you want, but it's it's true it's true that murder is wrong.

124

00:20:14.220 --> 00:20:16.590

Carl Racine: Okay, or adultery is wrong or whatever.

125

00:20:19.110 --> 00:20:31.470

Carl Racine: So the Bible of firms, a whole lot of things is being true, but the totality of truth that rabbi sex talks about here the totality of god's truth encompasses.

126

00:20:32.130 --> 00:20:51.210

Carl Racine: A whole lot of different aspects of our life and our focus at any one time, seems to be more narrow and pastor Ray actually has helped me think about this in in in talking about the role of the Holy Spirit it's faster rate races, the Bible.

127

00:20:51.390 --> 00:20:52.860

Susan Racine: Has a whole lot of commands of.

128

00:20:52.860 --> 00:20:54.270

Carl Racine: Things that we're supposed to do.

129

00:20:55.320 --> 00:21:01.740

Carl Racine: But on any given day or, at any given moment you can't possibly do all of those things you can only do one or two of them.

130

00:21:02.340 --> 00:21:05.490

Carl Racine: So you need some guidance from God and from other people.

131

00:21:06.150 --> 00:21:21.420

Carl Racine: And from the Holy Spirit as to whether you're choosing right now to love your wife or to love your children or to love your family or to love your neighbors or to love your enemy to give to the poor or to preach the Gospel or to.

132

00:21:22.440 --> 00:21:24.030

Carl Racine: build a hospital or whatever.

133

00:21:25.080 --> 00:21:40.470

Carl Racine: The options are endless in our lives in some ways, and so we're constantly shifting the focus of our attention, but we're doing so always on the basis.

134

00:21:41.550 --> 00:21:50.730

Carl Racine: And, and this was part of Hester sermon this morning that our vision is always a little bit blurred and that we're only seeing a certain amount of the truth.

135

00:21:51.180 --> 00:22:05.940

Carl Racine: And that there may be other people out there who see things really differently and that's why you can, if you're making decisions in life, about what to do, and not just necessarily major decisions, but even ones that are less.

136

00:22:07.800 --> 00:22:22.920

Carl Racine: earth shattering you need to consult other people into run this past some some people who you trust and say this is my perspective on this, but does this make sense to you, does it, am I seeing reality correctly here.

137

00:22:25.890 --> 00:22:40.020

Carl Racine: Does it, you know so that that sense of humility that sense of god's truth is one but it's refracted through the prism of our world and we're just maybe seeing the purple in the green but we're missing the red and the orange.

138

00:22:41.160 --> 00:22:43.140

Carl Racine: I think is a really helpful.

139

00:22:45.600 --> 00:22:55.920

Carl Racine: way of looking at our lives and that there's always more that we can learn from people sometimes who we you know might not think have anything to teach us.

140

00:23:00.720 --> 00:23:00.900

Bill Hughes: No.

141

00:23:02.100 --> 00:23:02.280

Susan Racine: No.

142

00:23:04.200 --> 00:23:11.550

Bill Hughes: I was just thinking about the comment around the Holy Spirit and last couple things that have been said, I mean this is really powerful for me.

143

00:23:14.850 --> 00:23:19.350

Bill Hughes: I struggle with and i'm still kind of renewing my own understanding of.

144

00:23:20.370 --> 00:23:22.290

Bill Hughes: of my faith through this class.

145

00:23:23.700 --> 00:23:25.800

Bill Hughes: But sort of thinking about the Holy Spirit.

146

00:23:27.030 --> 00:23:37.440

Bill Hughes: You know, when I was raised as a Christian in my early 20s I was agnostic before that my understanding of the Holy Spirit was a person and.

147

00:23:38.760 --> 00:23:54.630

Bill Hughes: The reality is the Holy Spirit is not a person in the way that I I know people like with eyes and nose and the mouth and the brain and past, present and future but it's a it's a useful way to think about how.

148

00:23:55.710 --> 00:24:03.000

Bill Hughes: You know the spirit of God connects with me and with my spirit but it's very easy to get caught up in.

149

00:24:04.200 --> 00:24:16.530

Bill Hughes: Those concepts, separate from what we're talking about now and what I wanted about was is the Holy Spirit in part Council of truth seekers.

150

00:24:17.850 --> 00:24:28.950

Bill Hughes: Is that what the Holy Spirit actually is in practical living, not all of it, but you know, an important component of it, because you know when I think about.

151

00:24:30.270 --> 00:24:48.420

Bill Hughes: People who raised me spiritually many of them would turn away from that I basically said, you know you need to get on your knees and get in a closet and you need to pray this all those things are true, but it almost pushed back the wisdom and the the kind of.

152

00:24:49.620 --> 00:24:55.710

Bill Hughes: discernment of these various voices as an element of learning how to grow spiritually.

153

00:24:57.180 --> 00:24:57.960

Bill Hughes: Does that make sense.

154

00:25:01.050 --> 00:25:02.910

Carl Racine: yeah I mean again we.

155

00:25:03.540 --> 00:25:10.770

Carl Racine: As with so much in Christianity we've been taught to think about it in private in primarily in terms of private personal.

156

00:25:11.220 --> 00:25:20.310

Carl Racine: Individual relationship so it's my individually relationship with the Holy Spirit in your prayer closet, as you said, but biblically the Holy Spirit primarily works through the body.

157

00:25:21.390 --> 00:25:28.830

Carl Racine: And the spirit is the spirit of Christ, the spirit of the body of Christ, and again.

158

00:25:30.330 --> 00:25:40.230

Carl Racine: kind of just trying to figure stuff out on your own this part of what i'm doing here is arguing that for the most part, you can't just figure stuff out on your own.

159

00:25:40.710 --> 00:25:50.340

Carl Racine: Even whether it's little stuff or big stuff that we need the body, we need the and and not simply the body of Christ, but but but.

160

00:25:50.700 --> 00:25:51.960

Carl Racine: As i'm going to go on to.

161

00:25:51.960 --> 00:25:59.640

Carl Racine: argue, at the very end, we need the voices outside of the body of Christ, we need rabbi heschel and rabbi sacks, we need to.

162

00:25:59.640 --> 00:26:00.750

Carl Racine: Listen to.

163

00:26:02.610 --> 00:26:05.670

Carl Racine: People even people that we disagree with.

164

00:26:06.900 --> 00:26:20.520

Carl Racine: And here, not necessarily accept everything they say, but at least hear what they're saying and trying to hear if that has something to teach me that I might not have considered before.

165

00:26:22.440 --> 00:26:23.010

Carl Racine: And so you.

166

00:26:23.100 --> 00:26:23.790

can't.

167

00:26:24.990 --> 00:26:39.810

Carl Racine: just go into your prayer closet there the the the the

truth of that perspective is that there are times when you do you do need to go into your prayer closet but that can't be the only thing you do.

168

00:26:41.310 --> 00:26:44.670

Bill Hughes: And it also seems like it should be one of the last things that you do.

169

00:26:46.950 --> 00:26:48.570

Bill Hughes: To synthesize.

170

00:26:51.930 --> 00:26:52.350

Bill Hughes: For.

171

00:26:57.210 --> 00:27:02.400

Carl Racine: a given situation there's probably multiple ways of approach.

172

00:27:06.030 --> 00:27:07.440

Susan Racine: I was just going to comment that.

173

00:27:08.670 --> 00:27:26.970

Susan Racine: That our brothers and sisters in the Jewish tradition, have been studying Torah for millennia, and they are still at it, they are not giving up they don't say well now we've got it down and we still have like modern voices like rabbi sacks that are bringing sort of new.

174

00:27:28.200 --> 00:27:31.140

Susan Racine: new emphasis to different aspects of it in the same with.

175

00:27:33.960 --> 00:27:37.800

Susan Racine: rabbi heschel which I think is marvelous that we don't have.

176

00:27:39.240 --> 00:27:44.310

Susan Racine: We don't we can't stop studying the word of God we don't have it down yet.

177

00:27:45.390 --> 00:27:47.910

Susan Racine: And and and that's the beauty of god's infinite.

178

00:27:48.960 --> 00:27:52.440

Susan Racine: word and life, giving living word.

179

00:27:53.340 --> 00:28:06.480

Carl Racine: And, and what is also impressive about them about the modern rabbis that i've been reading is how much in dialogue, they are with the ancient rabbis.

180

00:28:07.170 --> 00:28:16.890

Carl Racine: Very few Christians know if even if they study the scriptures know anything that was written before the 20th century.

181

00:28:17.550 --> 00:28:22.680

Carl Racine: You know, we have our our modern Christian rabbis whoever whoever you want to pick.

182

00:28:23.670 --> 00:28:35.910

Carl Racine: But you know, I think, as we saw ages ago when I went to the church history on an Anti Semitism in Christianity, most of the names that I mentioned, who were hugely influential.

183

00:28:36.390 --> 00:28:53.130

Carl Racine: figures in Christianity were completely brand new to everybody in this class we that we don't have a sense of engagement with those voices from 2000 years ago, whereas Jewish people do Jewish people know who hillel is they know who.

184

00:28:54.210 --> 00:29:11.340

Carl Racine: You know some of the my mind at ease and some of these other other people are they may not know everything about them, but those voices continue to be in dialogue with the rabbi sex and nobody has stolen everybody else.

185

00:29:15.120 --> 00:29:15.870

Carole Copeland Thomas: I think.

186

00:29:17.610 --> 00:29:21.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: To look at it that way is to first.

187

00:29:22.710 --> 00:29:40.950

Carole Copeland Thomas: be transparent, second, to put away your arrogance and to tie it in with the the sermon today about character or reputation when you live by your reputation, then you have to at times put up a false front.

188

00:29:42.690 --> 00:29:46.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: So that the outside world will think that you know everything.

189

00:29:47.370 --> 00:29:47.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: and

190

00:29:49.110 --> 00:29:58.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know that becomes a part of your your fault line versus if you say I don't control everything and I don't know everything.

191

00:29:58.770 --> 00:30:12.210

Carole Copeland Thomas: And I need to seek the I need to seek wise counsel and wise counsel can come from different places and so that makes you more vulnerable, but it also may deepen your character.

192

00:30:13.650 --> 00:30:26.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: And, and yes, I will put the link again in the chat rooms, when the way I clicked it it i'll fix it but that's that's character and reputation and and often we're reputation driven.

193

00:30:28.230 --> 00:30:43.140

Carole Copeland Thomas: Trying to cover up the stuff we don't know I see that all the time, I do it, we all do it versus you know saying I I don't know what I don't know and I need to seek it whether it's somebody who live 2000 years ago or somebody who lived yesterday.

194

00:30:46.950 --> 00:30:48.090

James Williams: All right, well let's when you mentioned.

195

00:30:48.600 --> 00:30:51.750

Carl Racine: let's move on to our third slide here and.

196

00:30:52.200 --> 00:30:53.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: Somebody was saying something.

197

00:30:54.300 --> 00:30:55.020

Carole Copeland Thomas: brother Carl.

198

00:30:56.490 --> 00:30:58.260

James Williams: yeah that was me James.

199

00:30:59.460 --> 00:31:15.780

James Williams: Okay, James you know when you mentioned about the listening to both sides, it kind of reminds me of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King were seemingly they were totally on the opposite sides of the fence.

200

00:31:17.010 --> 00:31:27.060

James Williams: But the combination of what they were saying was just vital to our our moving forward and getting a better understanding about what we're dealing with in this society.

201

00:31:29.250 --> 00:31:32.550

Carl Racine: and Malcolm X, to his credit and and and Martin Luther King.

202

00:31:32.580 --> 00:31:34.170

too, but Malcolm X, especially.

203

00:31:37.530 --> 00:31:40.680

Carl Racine: changed his point of view as time went on.

204

00:31:40.710 --> 00:31:55.650

Carl Racine: He developed by he developed new perspectives, the the sort of angry young man that he started out as he never lost that completely, but he he came to much more nuanced understanding.

205

00:31:56.790 --> 00:32:09.540

Carl Racine: Of of the political situation of the world of Islam and all of the rest of that and I would argue grew closer to the kinds of things.

206

00:32:10.680 --> 00:32:22.500

Carl Racine: Martin Luther King was saying, not that they they came to an absolute agreement, but he was growing in that direction and that, in part, that's why he was killed.

207

00:32:23.250 --> 00:32:39.360

Carl Racine: So he was an example of somebody who, even though he had very, very strong convictions and strong point of view was willing to learn and be open to things that he hadn't considered before.

208

00:32:41.640 --> 00:32:54.060

Carl Racine: But and and and I also want, even though we're kind of talking this way in terms of dichotomy hillel and shamma or or king and Malcolm X or whoever.

209

00:32:55.200 --> 00:32:58.200

Carl Racine: there's more than just two points of view on almost anything.

210

00:32:59.520 --> 00:33:05.730

Carl Racine: it's not black and white it's the Rainbow and that's why I like that rainbow illustration.

211

00:33:06.870 --> 00:33:15.090

Carl Racine: And sometimes we get kind of caught up in that this past week was a great illustration of how.

212

00:33:15.720 --> 00:33:22.560

Carl Racine: We have been talking in America about racial justice almost exclusively in terms of black and white.

213

00:33:22.920 --> 00:33:42.840

Carl Racine: And all the sudden, we find that Oh yes, and then there's Asians, who are also being not only discriminated against, but brutalized and we have to think about racial justice in in slightly more complex ways, and of course we haven't even begun to address the issue of the Hispanic community.

214

00:33:44.790 --> 00:33:58.140

Carl Racine: Things are not just black and white, there is not just Malcolm X and Martin Luther King there's a whole lot of other

perspectives that are important to think about and that's hard work.

215

00:33:59.820 --> 00:34:03.030

Carl Racine: um can we go to slide number three please sister Carol.

216

00:34:06.390 --> 00:34:19.200

Carl Racine: I just have one sort of last thing to say here and then some closing remarks rabbi sex argues, and I love I love Calvin and Hobbes and Calvin and susie that always having arguments.

217

00:34:21.060 --> 00:34:33.690

Carl Racine: rally sacks argues back in in this essay of is a God loves those who argues argues importance of being open to an appreciating more than one perspective comes from the very nature of Justice itself.

218

00:34:34.230 --> 00:34:45.450

Carl Racine: He says, both the case for the prosecution and for the Defense must be heard of justice has to be done and seem to be done, in other words, both sides have to be given a voice.

219

00:34:46.230 --> 00:34:52.710

Carl Racine: The pursuit of truth and justice requires the freedom to disagree and where do we learn this from.

220

00:34:53.130 --> 00:35:04.410

Carl Racine: from God himself who chose us his prophets people who were prepared to argue with heaven for the sake of heaven, in the name of justice and truth.

221

00:35:05.400 --> 00:35:18.870

Carl Racine: And we've seen in this course, how Abraham and Moses and Jeremiah and a backache and job and others all argued with God and yet they're seen as righteous men as examples of faith and of faithfulness.

222

00:35:19.500 --> 00:35:37.170

Carl Racine: And then the Bible, God has prepared to listen to humans listen to us and even, at times, change his mind and if God is open to that kind of argument and debate, for the sake of justice and truth, then certainly rabbi sex as we can follow his.

223

00:35:37.860 --> 00:35:51.450

Carl Racine: example and then rabbi sex concludes his discussion of this topic with the summary of his main point this life changing idea when you learn to listen to views different from your own.

224

00:35:52.530 --> 00:36:04.230

Carl Racine: realizing that they are not threatening but enlarging, then you have discovered the LIFE changing idea of argument for the sake of heaven.

225

00:36:05.640 --> 00:36:23.460

Carl Racine: Now again rabbi sacks was no modern liberal relativist he was an Orthodox Jew, he was a firm believer in the major tenets of true traditional rabbinic Judaism, he kept kosher he observed this a.

226

00:36:24.480 --> 00:36:37.950

Carl Racine: But his deep humility even about those very strong convictions gave him an openness to other voices both within Judaism and outside of it.

227

00:36:38.670 --> 00:36:48.030

Carl Racine: And it was precisely that humility and that openness to other perspectives that enabled him to communicate more clearly.

228

00:36:48.630 --> 00:37:06.960

Carl Racine: to people who are different from him truths, he held so dearly and he was able to bring blessing to others, including to non Jews to Christians to atheists to Muslims to people of various religious stripes both in Britain and around the world.

229

00:37:08.670 --> 00:37:20.820

Carl Racine: he's an astonishing example of someone with deeply held very traditional conservative perspective on many things, and yet he is able to speak.

230

00:37:21.660 --> 00:37:34.110

Carl Racine: With a kind of humble authority that people actually listen to him and said Oh, this is really important stuff and, of course, this has been my reaction to him to as a Christian.

231

00:37:35.760 --> 00:37:49.830

Carl Racine: he's taught me things because of the way he's able to communicate, he is a living testimony to the power of this life changing idea of argument for the sake of heaven.

232

00:37:50.820 --> 00:38:00.870

Carl Racine: Listening honestly and openly to the multiple voices in scripture will challenge us it's going to be hard doing the same thing for the voices.

233

00:38:01.260 --> 00:38:06.510

Carl Racine: In the church and in the world will also be difficult and will also challenge us.

234

00:38:07.050 --> 00:38:21.870

Carl Racine: But if we enter into the discussion and debate with love and humility and not everybody does that, but if we enter into it with love and humility if we're doing it for the sake of heaven and not for our own egos or our need to be right.

235

00:38:22.890 --> 00:38:36.000

Carl Racine: We will grow and be enlarged in our faith in our understanding and we will find new ways of communicating effectively to those who have views that are different from our own.

236

00:38:38.370 --> 00:38:57.540

Carl Racine: And I want to, I have some closing reflections, but as a as a as another example of this in my own life, I want to, I want to talk just briefly about a couple of remarkable learning experiences that i've had that illustrate this kind of thinking that illustrate this approach approach.

237

00:39:00.060 --> 00:39:04.290

Carl Racine: When I was at Boston college doing graduate study in Irish literature.

238

00:39:05.910 --> 00:39:12.990

Carl Racine: which was my PhD I sat in on an undergraduate course called Irish literature in politics.

239

00:39:14.310 --> 00:39:22.680

Carl Racine: And that course was co taught by two professors a history professor and a literature professor and they sat up front together.

240

00:39:23.850 --> 00:39:35.520

Carl Racine: and presented what at times were two very different perspectives on the very complex and divisive topic of Ireland's cultures and politics.

241

00:39:36.030 --> 00:39:51.600

Carl Racine: And they would sometimes get into very heated debate about a whole variety of matters I doubt that the students had ever before, heard two professors arguing as a way of giving a lecture.

242

00:39:53.580 --> 00:39:54.600

Carl Racine: I certainly have.

243

00:39:55.740 --> 00:39:59.760

Carl Racine: And the whole class the year long class was this way it was amazing.

244

00:40:00.630 --> 00:40:19.050

Carl Racine: They didn't try to resolve all the issues they left the students with the hard work of considering the different points of view and thinking through in more complex ways about Irish history Irish literature Irish poet politics and Irish culture.

245

00:40:20.520 --> 00:40:30.360

Carl Racine: It was one of the best classes, I ever took the literature, Professor was my advisor and she happened to be Jewish and I don't think that's a coincidence.

246

00:40:32.160 --> 00:40:34.380

Carl Racine: The second um.

247

00:40:36.510 --> 00:40:38.790

Carl Racine: What what Susan say how did you know the right answer.

248

00:40:40.890 --> 00:40:47.520

Carl Racine: Or the test yeah well they didn't give those kind of tests it wasn't a true false I mean obviously there's you know.

249

00:40:49.620 --> 00:40:52.290

Carl Racine: there's true and false information about.

250

00:40:54.960 --> 00:40:59.490

Carl Racine: Irish history and politics, but they gave you had to write essays right.

251

00:41:01.080 --> 00:41:14.910

Carl Racine: The second experience I had was a study tour of Israel that I went on several years ago and it was a great it was actually a graduate course people took it for credit from a Catholic seminary in Chicago and the course was called abraham's children.

252

00:41:16.680 --> 00:41:33.000

Carl Racine: And on this study tour our classes were given by Christian Jewish and Muslim professors each of them gave parallel lectures, so we would have lectures on various topics.

253

00:41:33.600 --> 00:41:42.180

Carl Racine: And we would hear from all three professors on God revealed truth worship Community etc and that's in the situation in Israel.

254

00:41:42.600 --> 00:41:56.610

Carl Racine: And also, while we were there we met with a whole variety of people from all three faith traditions we met with an Arab Christian in Bethlehem, we met with a Palestinian Radical group in Bethlehem.

255

00:41:57.540 --> 00:42:18.510

Carl Racine: We met with a an Israeli a former Israeli soldier who was now part of a group of X Israeli military people who were calling attention to the abuses of the Palestinian community by the Israeli military called breaking shattering the silence, we met with a.

256

00:42:19.740 --> 00:42:35.670

Carl Racine: Jewish woman who leads a group called women of the wall, who is fighting for the right for women to carry the Torah scrolls and say prayers and read Torah at the Wailing Wall in in Jerusalem.

257

00:42:37.320 --> 00:42:55.320

Carl Racine: We were given very complicated perspectives on the very complicated situation in Israel and the students again were left to

wrestle with the various viewpoints, we were hearing, they did not try to resolve all the issues.

258

00:42:56.310 --> 00:43:10.950

Carl Racine: And such an approach is unusual, but it's vitally necessary if there's to be any real understanding of the Holy Land Holy Land or any progress made in resolving the seemingly endless conflicts there.

259

00:43:11.850 --> 00:43:18.540

Carl Racine: As long as the arguments, there remain about power, they will have no lasting results.

260

00:43:19.080 --> 00:43:33.900

Carl Racine: So both of these experiences of illustrated, for me, a different way of approaching the world and thinking about the world I can't any longer, and accept one sided views about Ireland or Israel and there's interesting parallels between the two situations.

261

00:43:34.680 --> 00:43:41.460

Carl Racine: But these experiences modeled for me what it means to argue for the sake of heaven.

262

00:43:43.290 --> 00:43:46.410

Carl Racine: i'm going to pause there for questions or comments.

263

00:43:48.300 --> 00:44:01.470

Carole Copeland Thomas: You have to be confident in yourself to allow that kind of format to happen, and I would say that in academia or elsewhere, many people.

264

00:44:02.310 --> 00:44:15.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: Are covering up that's the reputation again covering up their insecurities and their inadequacies, with an autocratic dictatorial demeanor.

265

00:44:15.870 --> 00:44:25.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: And so what you experience I remember wow Mr carpenter comes to my eighth grade long time substitute teacher in a.

266

00:44:25.680 --> 00:44:45.210

Carole Copeland Thomas: Public school I attended that had a lot of Jewish students and he had the same kind of approach, where he was really pushing us for critical thinking so that we would not fall victim to just believing because someone said it was so so you have to have a lot of.

267

00:44:46.230 --> 00:45:04.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: A lot of courage to have that kind of demeanor because there will be pushed back by those who are afraid and have their own insecurities because they're looking for the truth that someone else dictates is the truth.

268

00:45:08.070 --> 00:45:08.610

Bill Hughes: You know.

269

00:45:09.810 --> 00:45:12.090

Bill Hughes: As i'm listening to this there.

270

00:45:14.580 --> 00:45:28.320

Bill Hughes: First of all, i'm hoping Carl if you for you to be able to work with our pastors to introduce that format in some light into Bethel I think it will be incredible.

271

00:45:30.420 --> 00:45:34.260

Bill Hughes: other thing I was gonna say, is it helps me to understand.

272

00:45:35.400 --> 00:45:36.240

Bill Hughes: Why.

273

00:45:37.290 --> 00:45:38.940

Bill Hughes: People are drawn to.

274

00:45:40.320 --> 00:45:41.640

Bill Hughes: comedians right now.

275

00:45:43.350 --> 00:45:44.280

Bill Hughes: and two.

276

00:45:45.630 --> 00:45:48.840

Bill Hughes: In particular, to personalities David chappelle and.

277

00:45:49.890 --> 00:45:56.310

Bill Hughes: bill Maher in public discourse it's because, in one way or another, they force.

278

00:45:57.630 --> 00:46:11.280

Bill Hughes: This argument is David chappelle with a Community forces with his audience and with itself and bill Maher he forces it by bringing you know contrary views on today's show, and both of them have.

279

00:46:12.300 --> 00:46:21.480

Bill Hughes: profanity in there and sometimes you know with gum on the case sort of a godless you know frustration.

280

00:46:22.500 --> 00:46:29.190

Bill Hughes: But both of them have come across if you really listen to them as truth seekers.

281

00:46:30.270 --> 00:46:40.350

Bill Hughes: And I put that in the category it's maybe not the exact same thing as arguments sort of, for heaven, but I think as believers, we have to.

282

00:46:41.280 --> 00:46:56.550

Bill Hughes: begin to hear truth seekers as people who are on the side of heaven, even if they themselves, you know are entangled with other things in their lives, that we might not embrace.

283

00:46:59.370 --> 00:47:10.410

Bill Hughes: Because I think the not doing that has led us to agree Mano vocal you know singular voice mindset which is constantly running us into.

284

00:47:14.520 --> 00:47:31.470

Carl Racine: I mean, one of the one of the things I was gonna say I just say it now, one of the silver linings of this pandemic, for me, has been the opportunity for something I have always argued was important and should be the part of every church i've always said, if I was.

285

00:47:33.210 --> 00:47:38.880

Carl Racine: If I was in charge of a church I would organize things differently.

286

00:47:41.190 --> 00:47:46.710

Carl Racine: And that is the opportunity for feedback and discussion after the sermon.

287

00:47:47.970 --> 00:48:00.090

Carl Racine: The way most churches are are structured and and and actually on that and I was overjoyed to see this with Reverend Marianna has churches, a very notable exception, and if you've ever been to her church.

288

00:48:01.110 --> 00:48:07.920

Carl Racine: They actually have the sermon is shorter and then the the feedback and discussion time after the sermon is longer.

289

00:48:09.570 --> 00:48:18.960

Carl Racine: But most churches, the sermon is a lecture it's a monologue but now because of zoom every week, we have the opportunity after this sermon to talk back.

290

00:48:19.590 --> 00:48:29.580

Carl Racine: To ask questions to reflect even the challenge, last week I challenged one thing the pastor said that I thought was just playing wrong that was just playing around so.

291

00:48:31.950 --> 00:48:41.790

Carl Racine: If it weren't for that the way churches structured we couldn't do that and it doesn't the sermon then becomes a dialogue and it's much richer.

292

00:48:42.270 --> 00:48:57.450

Carl Racine: For the inclusion of those other voices into the conversation it mystifies me that more Bethel lights do not take advantage of this unique opportunity there's usually only 15 or 20 people in that coffee hour.

293

00:48:58.380 --> 00:49:15.420

Carl Racine: But it's something i'm hoping I don't know exactly how it

could be done in in Bethel but it's something i'm hoping we can continue in some form when we get back to meeting in person, I mean it's it's it's a great thing it's like I say, one of the silver linings.

294

00:49:17.040 --> 00:49:31.590

Carole Copeland Thomas: And again you're the premise is, you have to have that courage to provide that kind of format and particularly when you're talking about ministers and black preachers.

295

00:49:32.400 --> 00:49:46.140

Carole Copeland Thomas: Have they're so used to dogmatically telling you what you should believe that to have a coffee hour or to have an opportunity to push back or ask questions.

296

00:49:46.560 --> 00:49:57.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: is unthinkable for some people because of their own insecurities and their their own world view of what they want you to see of them.

297

00:50:00.360 --> 00:50:12.270

Carl Racine: yeah and i'm not saying it would always have to be a sort of contentious argumentative pushback kind of situation there's probably times in that would be appropriate, but it would be a matter of reflecting.

298

00:50:13.320 --> 00:50:30.270

Carl Racine: More from a variety of voices in the congregation let's say so, the general point you made here in terms of my own life i'm seeing that it might apply in this kind of way does this make sense or how or you talked about this.

299

00:50:31.080 --> 00:50:41.550

Carl Racine: I don't I don't I don't quite understand how how i'm supposed to go about doing that because preachers often will have lots of generalities and few specifics.

300

00:50:42.570 --> 00:50:57.510

Carl Racine: So if it wouldn't simply be a matter of challenging what the what the preacher said and saying you're wrong, and I think you got the point wrong but but also discussion and and enlarging.

301

00:50:58.470 --> 00:51:09.780

Carl Racine: The the the discussion, because what different people in the congregation here from the same sermon would be really interesting to know.

302

00:51:11.550 --> 00:51:21.090

Christine Rose: I definitely agree and I that's why I appreciate, I like to come out to us because you know pastor Ray will often make I watch on YouTube.

303

00:51:21.330 --> 00:51:28.650

Christine Rose: make a question in there and i'll say something, but then, when we come in the coffee hour he sometimes brings those questions back and like even today.

304

00:51:29.790 --> 00:51:48.150

Christine Rose: And I appreciate, you said to bring it back to the server because we were getting social and which is fine, but you and geneticist journal, I believe, I think it feels good to like help me to think about things differently, like oh I didn't see it from that standpoint, so I agree.

305

00:51:49.260 --> 00:51:59.040

Christine Rose: And I think just having those few voices that are even if you're not seeds planted but i'm going to call you seeds planted to to help you know, make a point.

306

00:51:59.490 --> 00:52:10.350

Christine Rose: i'm it's me gives me the courage to say, well, this is what how I interpreted something so going forward i'm going to try to be more participatory in the coffee hour and that way.

307

00:52:14.640 --> 00:52:15.300

Carl Racine: Alright, well, let me.

308

00:52:15.960 --> 00:52:23.280

Carl Racine: Try to wrap up here with the final couple of points I have to make so that next week, we can move on to a new.

309

00:52:24.360 --> 00:52:30.540

Carl Racine: topic and, again, these are sort of examples that I thought of when I was was reflecting on this material.

310

00:52:32.190 --> 00:52:33.120

Carole Copeland Thomas: To the slides.

311

00:52:33.480 --> 00:52:34.890

Carl Racine: know the i'm done with the slides.

312

00:52:34.920 --> 00:52:35.190

Okay.

313

00:52:36.540 --> 00:52:40.200

Carl Racine: Years ago in the Wednesday night Bible study.

314

00:52:41.460 --> 00:52:53.880

Carl Racine: When a difficult question would come up pastor with sometimes the answer by saying well that's just one of the things that's on my list to ask God when we get to heaven right.

315

00:52:55.230 --> 00:52:55.860

Carl Racine: and

316

00:52:57.780 --> 00:53:01.920

Carl Racine: He doesn't know the answer and pastors humble enough to say that which God bless him for that.

317

00:53:03.240 --> 00:53:07.770

Carl Racine: But one night sister Jackie Jones of blessing memory, and I think.

318

00:53:09.240 --> 00:53:11.490

Carl Racine: Some people at least remember Jackie Jones.

319

00:53:12.660 --> 00:53:16.800

Carl Racine: Jackie Jones objected to pastor saying this.

320

00:53:17.940 --> 00:53:28.950

Carl Racine: and her objection was really interesting she said pastor I don't have a list like that, when I get there i'm just going to be too busy praising him to bother with such questions.

321

00:53:32.010 --> 00:53:40.020

Carl Racine: And at first that just struck me as pious nonsense, because I, to have a list like pastors and over the years to speaking growing.

322

00:53:41.280 --> 00:53:52.830

Carl Racine: Paul says that we only have partial knowledge now eventually will know God more fully, as the old song says will understand it better by and by and there's nothing wrong with asking questions.

323

00:53:53.700 --> 00:54:03.690

Carl Racine: Obviously, this whole course is about asking questions and coming up with answers that you might not have considered because someone else has something to say from a different perspective.

324

00:54:05.040 --> 00:54:15.390

Carl Racine: And sister Jackie herself was really good at asking hard questions in the Bible study she wasn't afraid at all to ask very good hard questions.

325

00:54:16.020 --> 00:54:25.290

Carl Racine: But I came to appreciate later on what she said to pastor and another way and, again, this is just the idea of different points of view.

326

00:54:26.010 --> 00:54:44.640

Carl Racine: we're all human beings we're always going to be human beings, and that means we can never fully comprehend God or gods ways our understanding will always be limited to a certain extent, and there are questions that may never be answered.

327

00:54:45.390 --> 00:54:57.630

Carl Racine: We would have to be God to understand everything so worshiping God and doing god's will does not require having all the answers, even in heaven.

328

00:54:59.220 --> 00:55:03.150

Carl Racine: And that's why I, like the me doctrinal statement about the Bible.

329

00:55:03.900 --> 00:55:14.640

Carl Racine: Although it's in somewhat archaic language at this point the Holy Holy Scripture contain if all things necessary for salvation that's me articles of religion.

330

00:55:15.660 --> 00:55:25.740

Carl Racine: In other words, the Bible tells us all, we need to know, but not necessarily all we want to know, all we would like to know the Bible doesn't have all the answers.

331

00:55:28.290 --> 00:55:38.220

Carl Racine: And I think that approach was also helpful for me in thinking about this there's only so much you can know and that's okay.

332

00:55:40.320 --> 00:55:50.640

Carl Racine: What does this have to teach us we've kind of talked around this and and, and this is an ongoing question how does have to teach us how how we approach the deep divisions in the church itself.

333

00:55:51.090 --> 00:55:57.360

Carl Racine: Can we adopt this model of debate and argument that we've seen with hillel humility love.

334

00:55:57.840 --> 00:56:15.300

Carl Racine: A willingness to hear God speaking, even through those with whom we disagree, can we really embrace rabbi saxes life changing idea that we learned to think of different views, not as a threat, but as enlarging our own understanding of God in the world.

335

00:56:17.160 --> 00:56:27.870

Carl Racine: And here's the harder question, is it possible to have unity in the church without uniformity and that I think is where the church gets confused.

336

00:56:28.440 --> 00:56:36.120

Carl Racine: Is it possible to have unity without uniformity, rather than just splitting off into separate groups and each has their own thing.

337

00:56:36.720 --> 00:56:47.490

Carl Racine: And this was paul's main pastoral issue in the churches

that he was writing to paul's letters are not how about how to get saved there about how to get along.

338

00:56:49.590 --> 00:57:02.130

Carl Racine: Can we somehow learn to argue for the sake of heaven, so that our debates will be productive and not just power struggles that end up dividing us even further.

339

00:57:04.380 --> 00:57:09.090

Carl Racine: And finally, something i've said before, but just to reiterate in this course.

340

00:57:10.350 --> 00:57:14.310

Carl Racine: i've been arguing that Christians have been reading the Bible, with only one.

341

00:57:15.120 --> 00:57:21.720

Carl Racine: With the eye of historic Christian teaching them theology and piety and that by cutting ourselves off from our Jewish roots.

342

00:57:22.230 --> 00:57:27.840

Carl Racine: Are reading and our theology has been greatly diminished and at times even led astray.

343

00:57:28.800 --> 00:57:42.630

Carl Racine: And i've attempted to introduce you all to another perspective also ancient and rooted in the scriptures as a way of giving us a greater depth of field in the way we see the Bible of having a more complex vision of the truth.

344

00:57:43.890 --> 00:57:57.990

Carl Racine: i'm not saying, I agree with everything the rabbi's have ever said, nor that I disagree with everything Christian theologians have said i'm simply arguing the god's truth is more complex than either tradition is able to say.

345

00:57:59.760 --> 00:58:17.010

Carl Racine: So ultimately i'm asking if we can come to see both these and those both the words of Moses, in the words of Jesus both Judaism and Christianity, as the words of the living God as one Torah even though it's been refracted through a great number of human lenses throughout the generations.

346

00:58:18.660 --> 00:58:27.240

Carl Racine: To see Jesus as authoritative and significant and wise, precisely because of his Jewishness rather than in contrast to it.

347

00:58:28.170 --> 00:58:38.070

Carl Racine: Can we see Paul as a devout Farah see wrestling with how his tradition speaks to gentiles rather than a 16th century Protestant reformer who simply rejects that tradition.

348

00:58:39.240 --> 00:58:49.440

Carl Racine: And can we learn to pursue the arguments we continue to have with Jews as arguments for the sake of heaven rather than as a power struggle for who is right.

349

00:58:51.000 --> 00:58:59.100

Carl Racine: Can we come to pursue them as arguments that will indeed have enduring value and serve to teach all of us to see things.

350

00:58:59.520 --> 00:59:18.660

Carl Racine: We cannot see by ourselves and I pray that this course, will help to continue the enrichment and enlargement of our lives and our vision our understanding of God and Jesus and the scriptures through considering other perspectives other points of view.

351

00:59:22.350 --> 00:59:24.330

Carl Racine: that's all I have to say about that.

352

00:59:26.700 --> 00:59:27.090

Carl Racine: amen.

353

00:59:29.790 --> 00:59:42.390

Bill Hughes: But it also suggest one of the things would suggest, Carl is that when I get to heaven and ask God about those things I don't understand he's gonna say why don't you talk to those people over there.

354

00:59:44.070 --> 00:59:45.360

Carl Racine: Right exactly.

355

00:59:48.690 --> 00:59:49.140
Carole Copeland Thomas: well.

356
00:59:51.450 --> 00:59:52.920
Carole Copeland Thomas: A lot of a lot of food for thought.

357
00:59:54.750 --> 00:59:57.060
Carole Copeland Thomas: I think part of it, too, is.

358
00:59:59.400 --> 01:00:15.570
Carole Copeland Thomas: As you mature as life hits you with a whole lot of crap then your perspective changes and what you thought was finite and absolute becomes.

359
01:00:16.650 --> 01:00:20.400
Carole Copeland Thomas: Not necessarily questionable, but an option.

360
01:00:24.030 --> 01:00:27.420
Carole Copeland Thomas: I look at maybe how I felt.

361
01:00:30.570 --> 01:00:35.820
Carole Copeland Thomas: Even a prostitute was as a with me, being a younger person.

362
01:00:37.050 --> 01:00:39.450
Carole Copeland Thomas: And then my life experiences.

363
01:00:41.100 --> 01:00:41.790
Carole Copeland Thomas: i'm.

364
01:00:43.680 --> 01:00:44.520
Carole Copeland Thomas: very different.

365
01:00:45.630 --> 01:00:55.380
Carole Copeland Thomas: Just because my life experiences have taught me I don't know everything I don't know a lot, and there may be a rehab who can teach me something.

366
01:00:56.820 --> 01:01:07.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: And can help me to broaden my perspective, and I would hope that people who saw the absolute devastating massacre that took place in.

367

01:01:08.130 --> 01:01:18.360

Carole Copeland Thomas: Atlanta and outside of Atlanta would not get caught up in what those people did for a living, making extra money, besides doing massage work because.

368

01:01:18.810 --> 01:01:31.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: They were doing more than massage work but that's not the point, the point is that they're dead, because an end and a racist crazy person took them out.

369

01:01:32.760 --> 01:01:33.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: So.

370

01:01:34.980 --> 01:01:36.600

Carole Copeland Thomas: My point is.

371

01:01:38.400 --> 01:01:39.780

Carole Copeland Thomas: In that instance.

372

01:01:41.340 --> 01:01:44.520

Carole Copeland Thomas: I would hope, people would would have their compassion.

373

01:01:45.840 --> 01:02:04.440

Carole Copeland Thomas: To focus on those lives that are lost and most people have and gosh they've already raised over a million or \$2 million for the sons of the owner who was killed, and not even get caught up in in what what extra work was going on in those massage parlors.

374

01:02:22.260 --> 01:02:28.650

Carl Racine: i'm just to comment for next week I put this in the chat and i'll send it in the email to but.

375

01:02:29.700 --> 01:02:33.420

Carl Racine: It would be helpful for you to look at john.

376

01:02:34.770 --> 01:02:44.580

Carl Racine: john 753 to 811 it's just it's the story of the woman taken in adultery it starts doesn't quite start at the beginning of Chapter eight but it starts at the end of Chapter seven.

377

01:02:45.780 --> 01:02:54.450

Carl Racine: we're going to begin with that and move into a discussion of the whole issue of crime and punishment.

378

01:03:00.240 --> 01:03:00.660

Carole Copeland Thomas: hitting.

379

01:03:03.690 --> 01:03:05.040

Carole Copeland Thomas: Timing is everything.

380

01:03:12.090 --> 01:03:14.730

Carole Copeland Thomas: conversation about the working girls.

381

01:03:16.290 --> 01:03:16.530

Carole Copeland Thomas: me.

382

01:03:20.340 --> 01:03:21.630

Bill Hughes: So great work.

383

01:03:23.670 --> 01:03:27.570

Bill Hughes: and bringing these truths to right i'm.

384

01:03:32.700 --> 01:03:33.270

Bill Hughes: walking.

385

01:03:34.560 --> 01:03:36.630

Bill Hughes: In the broader revelation.

386

01:03:41.550 --> 01:03:42.660

Bill Hughes: has made me think about.

387

01:03:43.980 --> 01:03:53.790

Bill Hughes: actually spending wrestling with the truth that God

reveals to me and internalizing know on the Bible one.

388

01:03:57.120 --> 01:03:59.910

Bill Hughes: You know those who hear the word.

389

01:04:01.920 --> 01:04:03.150

Bill Hughes: don't let it take root.

390

01:04:07.050 --> 01:04:09.390

Bill Hughes: And sometimes I you know.

391

01:04:10.980 --> 01:04:18.960

Bill Hughes: When I process that I haven't really thought about how much time did it take for something to take root of work, we have to do.

392

01:04:20.370 --> 01:04:21.450

Bill Hughes: Something to take root.

393

01:04:22.650 --> 01:04:23.220

Bill Hughes: and

394

01:04:24.570 --> 01:04:26.190

Bill Hughes: My hope and prayer now is that.

395

01:04:27.390 --> 01:04:31.740

Bill Hughes: The things that we've been talking about I put under the title for heaven's sake.

396

01:04:33.510 --> 01:04:37.410

Bill Hughes: it's a really understand what it means to live a life for heaven's sake.

397

01:04:44.340 --> 01:04:46.950

Carl Racine: Well that's hopefully that's all of our goals.

398

01:04:48.990 --> 01:04:53.940

Carl Racine: But the this particular idea of argument for the sake of heaven really.

399

01:04:55.560 --> 01:05:01.770

Carl Racine: struck me is vitally important and and important for our day and age is as much as anything else so.

400

01:05:04.410 --> 01:05:11.610

Carl Racine: I want to spend some time on it and, yes, I hope it will take root, it will take root in different ways and different people's lives but that's.

401

01:05:12.780 --> 01:05:14.910

that's kind of how that works.

402

01:05:16.050 --> 01:05:24.930

Carl Racine: Right well I think we'll just draw that to a close, for the for the day and and I is next week palm Sunday Is that correct.

403

01:05:25.140 --> 01:05:25.680

Yes.

404

01:05:26.820 --> 01:05:27.180

Carl Racine: well.

405

01:05:28.260 --> 01:05:37.620

Carl Racine: I mean i'm assuming we're still having class we don't have to you know I haven't heard that they're changing the schedule at all for palm Sunday or Easter so.

406

01:05:38.400 --> 01:05:42.870

Carole Copeland Thomas: yeah I don't know I don't know what Eastern looks like I don't know of any changes next Sunday.

407

01:05:44.940 --> 01:05:51.600

Carl Racine: But will will continue next Sunday and we'll start off with the story of the woman taken adultery and then look at the whole issue of.

408

01:05:53.370 --> 01:05:55.500

Carl Racine: crime and punishment, especially capital punishment.

409

01:05:56.820 --> 01:05:57.480

Carl Racine: In the Bible.

410

01:05:58.980 --> 01:06:01.110

Carl Racine: So, because someone that please close us out with prayer.

411

01:06:06.930 --> 01:06:10.380

Carole Copeland Thomas: brother, why would you just Christine would you do the honors.

412

01:06:11.460 --> 01:06:21.720

Christine Rose: Yes, I will buy the car I just thank you for this day Thank you so much for this opportunity to come together and learn more about our Jewish.

413

01:06:23.430 --> 01:06:37.410

Christine Rose: relations and with the this Christian Bible, and thank you, Father God for brother Carl and all that are in attendance today, we ask you to help us all to think about incorporate what we've learned today throughout our week.

414

01:06:37.800 --> 01:06:46.110

Christine Rose: We ask you to continue to provide a hedge of protection upon us all with good health and safety in Jesus name, we pray amen.

415

01:06:46.560 --> 01:06:47.490

Carl Racine: amen amen.

416

01:06:49.590 --> 01:06:51.180

Carole Copeland Thomas: God bless everybody take care.

417

01:06:52.380 --> 01:06:53.100

Carole Copeland Thomas: bye bye now.

418

01:06:54.300 --> 01:06:55.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: Good study a great class.