

The Lovelight Stories®

PODCAST

Ep: 25 | Racial Healing and Reconciliation with Garland Hunt | TRANSCRIPT

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00:01.40

lovelightstories

Garland hunt. It is an absolute pleasure to have you on the love light stories podcast today.

00:12.77

GarlandhuntSr

Thank you so much Stephanie. It's good to be here with you.

00:15.66

lovelightstories

Yes, this has been a while coming. Um when I first got connected to you I realized so many things that you have done throughout your life around racial justice and reconciliation and healing and all of that and we're going to get into that. Um, but. As we start I'm just going to list a few of the things that you have done throughout your life to kind of set the stage for our conversation today as we later dig into some of those pieces because they also all really just meld together beautifully I think and ultimately lead to um. Similar work that you've done throughout your life so you are the commissioner of the Georgia Department Of Juvenile Justice you are appointed board member of the department of juvenile justice and the state housing trust fund for the homeless commission by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp you've served as the president of Prison Fellowship and you are the senior pastor of the father's house in Norcross Georgia and really today what your focus on focus is that you're an activist for racial reconciliation and healing stemming from all of this experience. So those are. The topics. We're going to get into today. Um, but I want us really start if you could take us back to where it began when you were 10 years old and you witnessed the killing of Dr King

01:46.31

lovelightstories

What was that experience like for you and take us back to that moment.

01:51.35

GarlandhuntSr

I tell you what it was very impactful as ah as a young kid I was pretty inquisitive and I had an interest in a lot of things I don't know most kids may not have in terms of racial issues and the relationship between black and white and so it was of interest to me I could remember. I was sitting in front of the television. It was a black and white television actually and then the

announcement came across the airways that Dr King had just been killed. It was in 1968 so I was actually ten years old and I just I was.

02:11.40

lovelightstories

This.

02:26.84

GarlandhuntSr

You know it shocked myself because you know we didn't we didn't converse or have with a close relationship with a family but I didn't know of the the children of king. They all we all went to the same nursery school and so I felt you know some connection and then immediately. You know I I turned around and I saw my mom in tears you know, just they're rolling down our cheeks because it's just such a impact to everyone and and surprise now of course everyone knew that Dr King was concerned that maybe his life would come to an end but I guess the trauma of it all.

02:47.60

lovelightstories

Um.

03:00.21

lovelightstories

Right.

03:01.97

GarlandhuntSr

But it impacted me significantly because from that point on I really had a heart to to really impact the black community I felt like I wanted to help the black community in any possible way and really, that was what my motivation was even to become a lawyer. Because I felt as a lawyer I could advocate for people. They could not advocate for themselves and and that latter was just I mean there was a horse-drawn carriage that his body was in multiple thousands and thousands of people going up and down hush up. Hanna Street as for the funeral procession. The whole world was watching watching it loud to and all the celebrities. So all those things really impacted me personally as far as my own personal love for the black community. My concern for the black community and my desire to advocate for the black community.

03:39.77

lovelightstories

Yeah.

03:52.11

lovelightstories

Right? What a pivotal moment in your own life and just such a profound sad experience that that you went through at that time and yet it lit a spark in you to ultimately do the work. You're still doing today. So in that way it it really. Um, helped move you to become an activist as well. Um, share how you did become ah black activists and the focus that you had during your life. Um, ah specifically when you were in college and um, all of that.

04:28.00

GarlandhuntSr

Well the the crazy part is I was definitely this abnormal kid even in high school I don't know many kids that wanted to paint their room red black and green for liberation colors and this is in high school. So I asked my parents and I don't know why they gave me permission to paint my room red.

04:35.63

lovelightstories

It's.

04:38.78

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

04:46.66

GarlandhuntSr

And I had red black and green liberation colors on my wall I mean it's just I had a black fist around my of my neck. So I chose to go to Howard University because Howard University was known as the mecca for black education. So I wanted to go there. Plus it was in that it was in Washington d c so that was the the hub of the capital of the United States I felt like it was a capital of black America so I had all these things figured out that at go tower I go to Washington Dc and I'm going to change the nation and so I went there.

05:10.48

lovelightstories

Um.

05:16.68

GarlandhuntSr

But my goal even when I got on campus I said I'm not gonna just get in the middle and just kind of evaporate in them in the majority I really wanted to be a student leader so that was my quest I ran for office on campus I became. Eventually became the president of the undergraduate student assembly and I also became really involved with things we were fighting for. We were fighting for in a nation. We were fighting for Dr King's birthday to be a national holiday. But on campus we're fighting for academic freedom. So we were.

05:45.22

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

05:47.60

GarlandhuntSr

Stole him the a building and we did a city a building. The police had the cover move us I mean we did all these kind of things because we felt like we were really honoring what had gone on in the sixty s by now it's the eighty s so we were honoring what going in the 60 s and seventy s but but we felt like we had to reproduce that.

05:50.50

lovelightstories

He.

06:04.00

lovelightstories

E.

06:05.91

GarlandhuntSr

In the 80 s so so it was a really a real culture people were still wearing afros and then they they were just coming out of the afro mindset at that but minute but that that was what really impacted me I had a chance to meet Rosa Parks and Jessed Jackson it Stokeley Carmichael ron dellums a

06:12.89

lovelightstories

Yes.

06:23.91

GarlandhuntSr

John Lewis andrew yall I mean all these people came to how university Angela Angela Brown all all these people came to Angela Davis all these people came to to our university as speakers. So being a student government I even had opportunity to meet. There was far cut also when he restarted the nation islam and that whole thing he.

06:32.71

lovelightstories

Wow.

06:43.23

GarlandhuntSr

He prophesied over me as I'm gonna be you know a man of God and all these things just to lure me into that movement so it was at that time that I was really what I considered very much an activist for black rights and I Really at that point didn't have clarity but I did have purpose.

06:47.94

lovelightstories

Yeah, yeah.

07:00.81

GarlandhuntSr

So that was pretty much I had to find myself at that moment.

07:00.88

lovelightstories

Yes, yes, you had purpose and fire and strength and boldness and how incredible though to have those experiences at that age to really set the stage for the rest of of what you were going on to do in your life and um. That's really really neat and you mentioned to me too that your perspective started to shift during that time you had a realization that your mindset and the way in which you are approaching. This activism wasn't quite. Um, wasn't in line with a biblical perspective for sure is what you said? So can you share with us how you actually came to realize that and and what that looked like for you.

07:37.82

GarlandhuntSr

Um, sure.

07:44.96

GarlandhuntSr

But but the whole time that I that I went to how a university immediately. Um my my love of Christ was attacked and as I realized that even though I was going to church I had not really made a genuine whole heart commitment to christ the look Christ Jesus so. So therefore I had muslims coming at me I had sunni muslims had nation islam I had I had that there there were people on campuses. There were well at that there were agnostic atheists, everything socialists and so one of my favorite professors was this black marxist. Nark a nationalist and he was after me I mean everybody old young teachers professors because they saw me as a leader but it felt like to to depend on Christ was ah was a crutch. They said how can you pray to Christ. How can me attack in it. So it calls me to have to come deep down in my heart and determine.

08:27.11

lovelightstories

Um, right.

08:40.53

GarlandhuntSr

Whether I really was going to believe christianity as a reality or not so ah after a series of circumstances like that I ended up and in my dorm room was a psalm of 78 and let it cried out to the lord I said Lord I need you father I need you I want to commit my life to you I want to rededicate my life. But the interesting part about it. Stephan is from that point on I did not change my mentality yet because I still was thinking where I was on the other side across but I knew that there was something more I was lacking something so I had a period of time where I just tried to really be careful about.

09:03.66

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E.

09:11.89

lovelightstories

Yeah.

09:18.60

GarlandhuntSr

Declaring what I was doing and what I was believing and just let the Lord change me so later on after I personally had um, another encounter on once I went into law school and Lord brilliant refreshed me revealed me with the Holy spirit then I began to Understand. What God's perspective was on everything was on Race was on national issues was on um the political issues and I just had to shut down onto the lord could reconstruct my heart and as he reconstructed my Heart. He began to re evaluate my thinking.

09:45.66

lovelightstories

A.

09:52.75

GarlandhuntSr

And I think that took a process actually about 3 years because I've been so indoctrinated that the lord had to really transform me the bible talks about having the mind of Christ I had to transform the mind of the world or the mind of my blackness to literally the mind of Christ.

09:53.82

lovelightstories

Yeah.

10:08.43

GarlandhuntSr

And I would say for anybody. Even if you listened to me if you had similar Background. You have to you got to commit to a journey it so it doesn't happen overnight but you have to commit to a journey and allowing. Understanding a bible biblical worldview and these kind of things that take a hold of you in your heart and then therefore your mind will begin to Change. You can't start mentally because you won't understand it. But if your heart changes then you'll begin to be transformed into his likeness. And that's legitimately what you want to do.

10:39.90

lovelightstories

Wow! What are some of those things specifically if you could just give us a few examples of the things as as your heart and worldview were changing what what was different. What did you realize wasn't um. The way of God that you had been operating under and and what changed? Yeah, ah.

10:56.53

GarlandhuntSr

Let me tell you so we don't have a real time for the law list I mean everything was off everything was off. Let let's start off with race I mean in my mind I was an angry black man I felt like every white person to some degree was working against us I didn't trust anybody white. Even when I came to Christ I said where are the black preachers there or were the black faith preachers I would listen to Fred price and I didn't want to listen to kikindnecopper I didn't want any of that. So I I had this idea that the only people I could trust were black. So so my first my ideology was based on a idolatry of ah a race.

11:30.53

lovelightstories

He.

11:33.71

GarlandhuntSr

I mean I had a idolatry of my blackness and some blacks don't like to hear me say that they said well how can you say it was idolatry just because you were supporting black community. No I literally felt like everything was based on a filter of blackness so that was 1 thing then my national politics was ball based on. What could help black people if it didn't seem like it. It was helping black people I wasn't voting for you I wasn't going for you if you were if the blacks were the first place or you weren't concerned about the downtrodden. So I didn't think about biblical issues. All I thought about was race-based issues.

12:05.76

lovelightstories

Right.

12:07.52

GarlandhuntSr

So therefore everything had that leaning and so Christ was done in charge of my thinking even politically and then the national issues I understood the ah the whole idea of the league of nations that established Israel. And how that you know the felt the foma canaanites or ah, even now all the muslim nations surrounded Israel were guessed and it was unfair and so even my national issues were internationalism was off so the lord had to transform all of that my thought process about Israel.

12:28.52

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

12:39.46

GarlandhuntSr

Ah, pre my my understanding that Christ is more important than race grace is important more important than the race and so I had to die to my race I had to die to it legitimately even though it was everything I believed in I had to bring to the foot of the cross my idolatry of racism. And race and I said Lord I'm putting you first therefore the bible says let them be one even as I am the father or what he says in first corinthians he talks about how he says literally is that giving you this ministry of reconciliation first with him and then horizontally. Well we have a mandate for reconciliation we have ah a mandate to be 1 with each other and that doesn't have anything to do with race or gender ah gender or a black type or anything he wants all us to be 1 in Christ jesus so I had to die of my racial preference and Rachel. Hatred of whites and say I love a white person as much as I love a black person matter of like some of the black folk will kill me faster than some of the white people I had to added I to shake myself and realize.

13:42.40

lovelightstories

He.

13:47.23

GarlandhuntSr

So I became I went from a black activist then then I called that but see my call to preach so I became ah a black activist to now preaching righteousness and righteousness sometimes can be totally different first is repentance versus brokenness versus though you know to say to Lord I'm so sorry.

13:55.24

lovelightstories

A.

14:06.69

GarlandhuntSr

I know nothing let you increase that I may decrease I mean you have to we have to die, not my will but your will be done so all my soul and all my purpose and all those things had to come submit to Christ first. So that's the transformation that I went through but in the early eighty s where god had to really transform it again. It took so several years because I I was so distorted in my thinking that I really didn't understand what Christ was saying but once I got it I got it I actually started having a ministry.

14:25.97

lovelightstories

Yes.

14:38.90

GarlandhuntSr

Focus and purpose for racial reconciliation and healing Still do right now because as you you can think about all things we went through with with all the ways. So from ah the step of fully. Um.

14:40.96

lovelightstories

Yeah.

14:49.83

GarlandhuntSr

<unk>e castil I've said at wrong or ah Mark arberro or or George George Floyd I mean all these different things. What? what? ah whites are black white officers would kill a black person. So so then everybody's angry at that. The hatred black lives matter came forth but that needs to be.

15:04.72

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

15:09.52

GarlandhuntSr

A voice of peace a voice of the lord and calm that says no, let's look at the facts but beyond that we have to have a place where we are asked for healing not anger and not resentment that can do nothing Justice can't just be was just us for black people Justice as it go fairly across the board.

15:18.13

lovelightstories

Yeah.

15:27.16

lovelightstories

A.

15:28.56

GarlandhuntSr

So so and even in that now I'm still a voice of calm that people sometimes don't want to hear it because the first thing I can say is it's not 1 race that needs to repent every race needs to repent and come to the altar and for the lord to heal us. So we can't walk truly in heal it and obey the scriptures in John 17 that says let there be 1 even it's Christ and and the father one.

15:52.37

lovelightstories

Yes, yes, wow that is so um, convicting and and helps I think bring to light the voices of all like you're talking about because um I think the the recent you know, uprising and in the. Racial tension that we've seen in the United States I think um it has been a good thing to bring

awareness to everyone's minds. But like you said it can't just stop with anger and resentment. There has to be this level of peace and repentance across all. There's a place for everyone on an even playing field that begins with peace and um, that is just ah, a beautiful message and I am so thankful that you. On this show just to be able to bring that to light and um, create a space for that to to become a reality. Hopefully um I want to say too. Um, backing up prior to today. How did you actually begin promoting racial reconciliation. I know you had ah a radio show and different things. Um, just just share a few of those things that you did at that time.

17:11.41

GarlandhuntSr

Yeah, so once I realized that I was I had to really surrender my heart to 2 to the lord and and surrender my whole racialio ideology and idolatry to a race. Then then the Lord slowly began to give me and accept a ministry of reconciliation and I had to realize that that he had given us something to to do which is do the work of reconciliation and he also has given us something to speak that bible talkss about our first grandpis that's something of ministry reconciliation. So. Miniature reconciliation is the horizontal aspect where you have to be reconciled with your brother scripture actually says that when you come to the altar leave your gift at the altar and go be reconciled to your brother. So first I had to realize that the people that love Jesus.

18:01.23

lovelightstories

Ah.

18:04.81

GarlandhuntSr

The ones whether they're black white hispanic asian if they love Jesus and they're called to Christ and they're called christians then they are more my brother than someone either physically or genetically so understand that first your first brother and sister are in Christ. That's the first thing you have to accept so then the question is within the church. What is the condition of racial separation in the church. So one of the first callings that I had wasn't necessarily to change the whole world and trying to heal the world first first quite frankly, it's the church.

18:32.80

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

18:40.30

lovelightstories

Yeah.

18:42.60

GarlandhuntSr

Because I mean Dr King said I mean a lot of people said of course and particularly in the in the 70 s and sixty s seventy s and eighty s it was to the most racially segregated time during the week. Of course it's Sunday morning and and to some degree is still true there a lot more coming together now than it used to be.

18:52.24

lovelightstories

Yeah.

19:00.30

GarlandhuntSr

But understand still, there's still this divide that black christians can have ah 1 kind of being one solo solo and then you can have white christians in another sallo. And they just kind of operate because they they they respect their culture. They want their cultural identity but it's not preeminent with the cultural Christ. So many times we started different movements I had to we started 1 in our own city our own own state area called one race the racial healing movement. Where we started praying together black pastors asian pastors ah hispanic pastors white pastors. We all start praying in each other's churches and we we had a prayer meetings for almost a whole year where we all got on our knees. We repented to one another we worship with one another. We forgave one another but it was all building up to this huge movement at stone mountain that's stone mountain if anybody knows about it. It used to be a major conclave for the Klan and the Klan was rest was restored at at this time so when I was growing up in Georgia.

19:58.89

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

20:05.71

GarlandhuntSr

I knew that Stone mountain represented. You know the confederacy as a matter of fact, one of the largest monuments in in our nation is right on the side of a stone mountain even now with confederate soldiers there. So so all I'm saying is that we went to the top of the mountain.

20:07.70

lovelightstories

E.

20:15.28

lovelightstories

Yeah.

20:23.42

GarlandhuntSr

That represented racism and segregation and we took thousands of young people up there and we got on our knees and prayed and lifted up across now you know the the kulesse fan were burn crosses where we lifted up the cross of crises. It's got on our knees and repented.

20:30.14

lovelightstories

Wow.

20:40.37

GarlandhuntSr

For years and years of segregation division hatred murder all that and then for the rest of the day we were at the base of the mountain of having communion worshiping god. Loving one another and and even passing baana the older generation to the younger generation that they won't get tied up in that kind of racial disparity but that they really would love each other so it was a powerful not for at at some mountain own collection understanding. They said the 22000 people.

20:53.35

lovelightstories
Hannah.

21:00.45
lovelightstories
Wow.

21:11.22
GarlandhuntSr
Came to visit that mountain that day so it was a powerful most powerful thing probably his happened in this region I don't know maybe the world as it relates to race but those are kind of things that I founded that those are the kind of things I've done in the process of really advocating for racial healing.

21:22.58
lovelightstories
Yes.

21:27.17
GarlandhuntSr
And my I would I've done a radio program Recon solidli Raleigh when I was past Raleigh I had a television program set a gospel at black and white and myself and another white pastor. We were the anchors of that so I've been constantly in it I said if I'm gonna be aggressive.

21:34.00
lovelightstories
This.

21:43.52
GarlandhuntSr
Separating the races I'm gonna be aggressive with bringing reconciliation to the races. So that's just a little bit of of my background and related to race relations.

21:47.13
lovelightstories
Wow Oh that is just incredible and I love the name of the Tv show the gospel in black and white. There's so much play on words there. It's It's very clever and and once you.

22:01.55
GarlandhuntSr
Um, yeah.

22:03.94
lovelightstories
Did return back to Atlanta because you you mentioned that you had had come back to Atlanta um, tell us about your experience of being the chairman of the pardon and pearls board in Georgia and what you saw and learned in the young people and um, really also you mentioned the lack of fathers in the home.

22:20.46
GarlandhuntSr

Well, you know I came um I went to Howard and I lived for 10 years in Richmond Virginia then we planned a church in Rodley North Carolina came back to my home city of ah of Atlanta so I was very interested in the political ram I'm also a a lawyer. So. Ah, became involved at ran for office that got involved I ended up meeting a lot of people so when so when Governor stunny purdue became Governor Georgia he brought me to the office and say listen I don't I want you to stay say political but I want to offer you a position on a parole board now the parole board. I really didn't know much about it I just I remember what I saw television. You know you go for the board they it is say the died or or you received role but but it reality is a lot more than that and so I ended up becoming chairman of the board. But what what impacted me mostly was that there were people. That I had to deal with in terms of either granted parole and and and in most cases even choosing to replicate parole because we we had so many the volume was so high in Georgia that we had to make out of decisions based on a grid so we did not physically come before them but where you might see. Ah, you know some of his programs but but we had to make a decision about them. But what we did have to do if they were parole and they violated their parole. We had to see them one on one and they yeah see these young people I mean many of them black many of them if if not they were all from.

23:46.56

lovelightstories

Ah.

23:52.53

GarlandhuntSr

Backgrounds where they didn't have fathers in the home that their families were not there to help them. They they'd been strange from their family. Some of them had not had visitation the years that that some of them had been in a juvenile system. And which I'm ver familiar with because I later became the the commissioner for ju justice but but then they graduate to the adult correctional system. So so and then once they get out something called recidivism rate is within 3 years you go right? back to prison. Sort of recidivism rate is extremely high and wasn't that high that that with about seventy seventy percent of those that come out. Go right back in 3 years so as ah as on the parole board I realized man these these young men and young women they need god to help them once they come out of prison.

24:28.36

lovelightstories

Yeah.

24:40.29

GarlandhuntSr

And hopefully while the Imprison they would change but at least meet them at the gate so that the church and Christians can be involved in that transition back into society and I really went out to churches I did everything I could to get churches involved with the what we what we call this transition.

24:57.63

lovelightstories

Easy.

24:59.50

GarlandhuntSr

Transition back into the community because it's basically understood that you have just about three weeks if if someone doesn't come and give you the support the family support that's stable housing and hopefully quickly a job if you don't have stable housing. You know you have support from a family and you don't have a stable job. The likelihood is you're going to go drift right back to your peers that that help to take you to prison in the first place and then you're going to go back to your evil ways. So it's very critical within those first free few weeks for someone to reach them.

25:26.16

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

25:34.80

GarlandhuntSr

That has a message that's transformative so that was what I learned from from dealing with in in the parole board that these are young people that have just made bad decisions just like fortunately I made good decisions but some of us are made bad and never go to prison So I'm saying I really had to deal with them as a human being.

25:50.12

lovelightstories

Um.

25:52.53

GarlandhuntSr

And not just this terrible person that is a disgust to society.

25:58.38

lovelightstories

Right? And ultimately to what you're saying is that these are people that have experienced extreme trauma in a lot of instances or like you said grown up without a father in the home and they just didn't have that support and example to help show them. What is the um per. Appropriate Productive way to operate in society and so when they come back out of prison and they go back to that same environment.. There's not much there to help lead them to a different life unless there's someone like you in the program that you started to help. Support them along that journey.

26:37.87

GarlandhuntSr

I Tell you the but the greatest indications of a person and and ah on their way to prison and I hate to say it like this and even call it a pipeline um number one is the absence of the father in the home and if I may use the black community As an example, right now.

26:42.93

lovelightstories

Are.

26:55.66

GarlandhuntSr

Ah, literally there 75% of babies that are born a black community even now of born to a mother that's other way that does does the absence of the father in the hall and so the statistics show.

The indicators are. That if they don't have a father in the home that one they're gonna be probably below the poverty line or they're gonna be economically deprived. They're gonna get have problems in school. The higher percentage will not graduate from high school a higher percentage may get involved in Juvenile crimes. And maybe even get put out of school then then they go on graduate to the adult prison System. So So so you can see on the front end. What's like a pipeline leading to prison and so somehow that has to be adjusted and it has to be mentors.

27:46.00

lovelightstories

Wow.

27:51.48

GarlandhuntSr

Have to be people hopefully fathers in a church people Neighbors community that do care for these young people and say listen if you don't have a father if your father's irresponsible I'll stand in the gap for you I'll take you to a stool I take you fishing I'll take you both and I do something so you can have a father figure in your life.

28:04.72

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

28:11.41

GarlandhuntSr

But even before that as as in the as a Christian minister I have the responsibility of raising up strong young men that will be a father at home you if you ban enough to get a pregnant you man enough to be a husband or father. So Even if you don't. Yeah I want to I want to elevate marriage. But even if you don't get married at least be a faithful father to your child and that has to be prominent because nowadays unfortunately and I don't want to be too too explicit but young young men are able to get the benefits.

28:34.40

lovelightstories

Um.

28:44.57

GarlandhuntSr

Of being with a woman and not commit to Marriage. So Therefore if the women are able to give in at that level then marriage decreases in importance and so that man doesn't have to be married. The man can not even show up. And he can run away and not even have that relationship that he should have with his child unless the court comes Intervene So our goal in and Ministry has to be help help these young men become faithful Fathers So that these young people don't start off.

29:10.62

lovelightstories

Yeah.

29:14.97

GarlandhuntSr

With a tremendous negative in their life and into what we call that pipeline the prison.

29:21.50

lovelightstories

Right? right? So Really what you're doing is advocating for these um children that become young men um to have a more stable environment growing up and that also trickles into our society because we're talking about. Um, the Justice system at this point too and in how they're um, ending up in prison and so it ah starts individually in the home but ah becomes a ah societal issue as well. Um, as we're talking about the criminal Justice system. Um I. Would love for you to share some of the imbalances that you've seen in the system and how you seek to balance those while still defending law and order.

30:02.54

GarlandhuntSr

Well, you know is first of all I got to deal with truth um, you know? yeah I would be I'll blind to you to say that everything is even and everything iss equal. Um, and I do believe in that that we want to do things that equal. My fact, if you are.

30:12.89

lovelightstories

E.

30:21.87

GarlandhuntSr

If you remember for instant lady justice lady justice stands up and she has a blindfold on um she she has skills in 1 hand and a sword in the other and so the the skills of justice are supposed to have equal weight that the crime. And the penalty should balance the crime and ability. But she's blindfolded so that it's fair. It doesn't matter of their race or their culture or their background or the immigrants with ah, whatever the case is she's blind so it's it's blind justice in other words, there's no prejudice. There.

30:42.28

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

30:55.21

lovelightstories

Yeah.

30:59.26

GarlandhuntSr

There's no inferences and no prejudgment there. So So the weights have to balance but then she has a sword in on the other hand faces down and that record that represents the punishment. So. If in fact, that person is not exonerated or or those balances that happen and they have to have crime then lady Justice represents Also the punishment but overall what that means is that there's a level of fairness and so in our system. Unfortunately, what.

31:22.84

lovelightstories

A.

31:28.90

GarlandhuntSr

over over 30 to 40% of those that are in prison are ah black and then you go into some systems where you go into like say well, there's a high percentage of black and hispanic you can go into a prison. It might be sixty seventy percent black and hispanic so you say well why is it like that. Well let's back it all the way up.

31:42.41

lovelightstories

Yeah.

31:48.36

GarlandhuntSr

Let's say if for a young man that has dread dreads and he doesn't have a father no one no parents in the courtroom with him he gets in trouble and so he's he he has an opportunity for the judge to make a decision whether to send him in Jail or throw a book at him. Because he doesn't look like he has the support and if they released him he would just go and do another crime So The criminality evaluation is prejudicial because you're looking at this person and he's Black. He's from you know from the hood. He has no, no no father there. He doesn't have a paid attorney and and so you you you make those decisions but on the other hand if you have a white young man that has a father there. He has his parents there. He has a paid attorney there and so you see he said well.

32:22.47

lovelightstories

No.

32:28.87

lovelightstories

Yeah.

32:35.34

GarlandhuntSr

Maybe I'll give him some slack. Maybe I will get allow him to not go to jail but maybe he can get in sometime but some take a program some kind of C Cortis Bose program I'll put them on probation and so there's a tendency so there's a a natural prejudicial focus sometimes from the judges.

32:43.77

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

32:54.30

GarlandhuntSr

And I'm not saying that they're all racists I'm just saying that that nature of our culture tends to bleed into our thinking and our opinions and the same thing can happen in another way, you may not thought about this but being a lawyer I know this happens.

32:57.95

lovelightstories

Yeah.

33:08.90

GarlandhuntSr

See see many ah to the times and I hope you want this detail but I'm try to make it Clear. So So da a finds somebody that that's accused of committing and crime he does really not necessarily care about the facts and it's terrible to say particularly as a lawyer. But what he cares about is how do I get out this case without causing the court much trouble. So then he he offers a plea bargain now the the kid may say I didn't do it.

33:24.35

lovelightstories

Ah.

33:34.77

GarlandhuntSr

It was somebody else that did it I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time he said I don't care about that. We have the evidence to to convict you so we want you to plea and even thus what I didn't do it. Why should I plea but it said if you don't plea. You're gonna do 3 to 5 in prison.

33:43.13

lovelightstories

I.

33:52.84

GarlandhuntSr

If if you do plea we probably can get you off with less than a year but you got a plea So what they do is they plea bargain not for truth but they plea bargain based on convenience and that young man.

34:02.72

lovelightstories

Wow.

34:05.69

GarlandhuntSr

Had knows he doesn't have a family to get him out on bail he doesn't have any other choice. He doesn't want to spend 5 years in prison. So he'll go on and copper plea whether he's guilty or not because it's not a pursuit of truth. It's a pursuit of convenience and unfortunately that happens.

34:19.17

lovelightstories

Wow.

34:22.86

GarlandhuntSr

All the time in our system especially when we have defense attorneys that are public defenders they they're gonna have a stack of cases like this I mean it's just practical as opposed to someone you can you can pay for so the public defender is not going to spend much time. They may just spend 5 minutes looking over your case before you go before the judge.

34:29.47

lovelightstories

Yeah.

34:42.73

GarlandhuntSr

So Therefore the person that is unddisposed doesn't have the support doesn't have the money he's going to have the least a chance of getting a fair Trialb for the judge is usually going to get Thrown. He's gonna spend time in prison that he may or may not deserve. So I'm just giving you a perfect example, Those are some of the problems now what has to happen. What's what's the truth this so we have to have righteous people in righteous positions. The bible talks about when they're righteous I am in charge or righteous and Authority the people rejoice. So So we have to elect.

35:00.47

lovelightstories

Yes.

35:16.71

GarlandhuntSr

Righteous des We we need righteous judges. We need people lawyers that that are stand for truth as opposed who stand under the pressure of of the court system and say that we're going to do everything we can to help people no matter what their race What that background is and and fairly judge all the way across the but board.

35:34.54

lovelightstories

Yes.

35:36.30

GarlandhuntSr

And then that way it won't just be people in prison that just could not have a proper advocate but they are people in prison that's supposed to be there others if they're drug crimes. Maybe they have an opportunity to go to a drug court or they have some kind of probation. But for those are so those. Those that are victimized people those that have been violent need to be in prison but we need to make sure we get in the right people in prison. So that's one of my hearts about criminal justice system. Sometimes when I start off talking about this and man you just a flaming liberal that you want everybody free I don't but what I do want is for us to be fair and just and there's something that that I call biblical justice where the lord is looking at our nation. He wants to see how we treat each other and based on that he will. He will back us. With mercy and grace and forgiveness and that's what we need from the Lord. So every time you go before the judge United States they say that that but we we rely on the mercy of the court. But really, we're relying on the mercy of god and if we ourselves can get ourselves right with god.

36:25.10

lovelightstories

Yeah.

36:35.29

lovelightstories

A.

36:40.38

GarlandhuntSr

I Believe God will back us and he would have more of a biblical justice more than ah, a justice that just serves your particular desires or your wants.

36:50.24

lovelightstories

Right? Wow That is a very interesting perspective and um, really just something that opens your eyes to what is happening in our Justice system. Um, and it brings light to and more understanding to some of the things I've read um for those that have read the book just Mercy. It's it's chock full of these accounts of ah black people specifically being treated differently in the Justice system and and just the unfairness of it and.

37:21.71

lovelightstories

Um, just your example of why those judges are are doing that in different instances. It's so sad that these people are being punished essentially for their circumstances that they've come out of that in a lot of ways haven't had a lot to do with them. Um, in that they don't have the support or they don't have a father there or they can't afford to pay a lawyer. Um, and um, yeah, so that perspective of the biblical Justice God being the juror um is really really Powerful. Um I Want to. Mention and this is kind of a tangent off of something we already talked about but your perspective on there being a minimal respect for human life in our society today and even in the black community itself. Um, you had said something to me in our call earlier that. Was really interesting and eye-opening and so I would just love for you to touch on that.

38:21.88

GarlandhuntSr

Well I think you have my book over I talk about this in the book. Um, yeah, this it did. That's right? Thank you? Oh that.

38:23.49

lovelightstories

Yes, crisis in America a christian response I have it and I have started it too and it for those of you listening it's it's not a huge book so it is definitely something that you can.

38:37.97

GarlandhuntSr

Correct.

38:41.33

lovelightstories

Devour over a couple hours I would say and it's yeah I'll let you talk about it Garland but um I would totally recommend it.

38:47.57

GarlandhuntSr

Yeah, because it's actually this's 2 books in 1 on 1 hand it starts off with a spiritual responsibility and then I go into societal responsibility and I talk about how at 1 we have to obey god's word we have to be a watchman a obey his word and what it righteous this is and then I go into the and I compare it to the culture. What is it then? what would be a christian response to the things that we're facing in our culture and one of those things that we we you know we talked about based

upon um, you know your question there is you know how do? How do we deal with some of the inconsistencies in. The the people that quote unquote have been victimized and I'm ah just give you this this is if I can. It's a real life example this actually literally happened to me just a few years ago I don't know if you remember when Rashad Brooks was killed he was he was in Wendy's drive lane he was in Atlanta area and so um, so the police approached him he said he wasn't just gonna go home I think he had fallen asleep or whatever other case, but then they put him out and so he ended up fighting the officers grab it for their taser and then eventually started running.

39:41.40

lovelightstories

Yes.

39:58.99

GarlandhuntSr

And I think he tried to shoot them with the taser but the bottom line eventually the police shot him in the back and killed him so therefore it it was just like a George Floyd situation particularly here Roney the United States but particularly in Georgia and so people go in the streets they burn down the Wendys.

39:59.26

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

40:06.55

lovelightstories

Um.

40:15.10

GarlandhuntSr

They did all these things and it just just so they'd say they said once they had a in front of the burned down wendys after the violence stopped they did this kind of memorial for rushard Brooks and so they had flowers. They had everything and they even had middle guys that were kind of. Paramilitary that were out there with rifles to to protect his memorial so during the process of time a young lady and her child were going down the street that they made a misturn so she wanted to turn around and do a yeah u-turn so she turned up in the area that wendy's.

40:37.73

lovelightstories

Um.

40:50.58

GarlandhuntSr

Too close to the memorial the guys there that were there start shooting in the vehicle. Although they saw black womans driving and that was a black child in the back seat they started shooting in the vehicle and they shot that poor girl in a back seat now. I. Went off I said now you guys ah call yourself advocating that black lives matter yet. You saw this black woman and you shot in the car a black woman so whose live matters the most. Does a black life only matter if a law enforcement a officer kills a black man or does life matter with blacks to killing black people and then the same we can. For instance, the someone great the things happen with Roha Brooks and George Floyd in Chicago I mean just the black old black crime was crazy now of course black

folk hate me talking about all you. Air in our dirty laundry that that's not the point we're talking about whites killing blacks. We're not talking about killing whites, kill whites too. Hispanics kill hispanics too blacks but did all this stuff came at me I mean I had preachers calling me because I went on the air blasting I said.

41:53.52

lovelightstories

Ah.

41:59.26

GarlandhuntSr

When do blacks live matter when do blacks live matter to blacks oh They't want hear it. They don't want hear it because I'm saying if it matters and we're advocating for it. We got to understand we have to change our behavior too. We can't shoot somebody because we're selling drugs in Montalger or you you stepped on my my my air Jordans or something. No.

42:03.91

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

42:17.37

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

42:18.77

GarlandhuntSr

We have to understand who have to value the life of a black man ourselves and mimic that or ah model that for for the nation as opposed to saying hey those same rules don't apply if God Rules plays all the way across the board. So So my message is the message of repentance all the way across the board. And I feel like yes, there are some law enforcement officers that may be a little agitated or anxious and they may have shot and too soon or in some cases in Law. We call it Justifiable So You have to go through ah a literally a legal process to determine whether or not.

42:43.20

lovelightstories

Yeah.

42:55.52

GarlandhuntSr

Police officers shooting somebody unarmed was justifiable. But if not of course many of them have gone and gone to prison as a result of it and this some have been acquitted because it's ah it's about the.

43:05.42

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

43:06.73

GarlandhuntSr

Facts. It's not necessarily just the the narrative that a black kid has been killed by a white officer and in some cases. It's not even that we've had some black officers that kid then they say oh it's

the system. It's not really about racist Systemic Racism. Oh My God I Just want to cut to the chase and say go to the cross. At the cross we have to Repent. We got to have ourselves right before God and God's not gonna play this at Isaiah Fifty nine is very clear. He says I can't give you justice because your sins are piled up against you so Much. You're not treating each other in fairness. How can you ask for me to give Justice when you're not being just with one another.

43:43.79

lovelightstories

Um, yeah.

43:44.83

GarlandhuntSr

See God doesn't He's not gonna play that Narrative. He's not gonna hang out on our level. He's at a whole nother level and I'm calling fire people particularly the black community but it's all the way across the board that the whites to say Well I'm tired of this stop telling me what I didn't do. Not my fault. Well we are We always want to be in a case where we say Lord if I'm offending somebody known and unknown Lord Please forgive me just keep my heart pure so that even if the things I understand I do want to keep my heart and care about the the hurt of ah either other people. I. I Told my white friends I said listen if you see a black man land down the street killed no matter what this circumstance just Mourn with us because no one wants to see a young black man murdered or shot.

44:26.11

lovelightstories

Ah.

44:29.55

GarlandhuntSr

Even if it's justifiable. That's another life that's killed just mourn with us as opposed to trying to defend it before you know facts. So so this is what so so there's a sensitivity that's missing sometimes on the white side and say well I don't have a thing. Do it don't blame me. Well no, we all share something in this.

44:35.98

lovelightstories

Yeah.

44:46.65

lovelightstories

Yeah.

44:48.50

GarlandhuntSr

The conditions of our culture is a mutuality of different cultures colliding but but we all share some responsibility if I can get blacks and whites to come together based on a shared responsibility a place of conviction and a place of humility and brokenness. Then God can do something. It has a start in the church has a start I have to give the most the onerous most important Burden is in the Church. We have to be a model for true reconciliation and healing in the church and then I believe it will start impacting our society and our culture. And that's really the message that I have It's not very popular to be honest with any either community but but but you gotta challenge him, you got to challenge Him. You have to.

45:29.29

lovelightstories

Um, ah.

45:33.73

lovelightstories

Yes, yes, well it not being very popular in either community is probably because we all have a responsibility to play here and um, it's it's sometimes hard to recognize and accept that and um, this is definitely a message that. Needs to continue to get out there and I'm sure a lot of people are thinking like wow this is such a refreshing pure perspective and message. Um, how do we help get this message out and or what are you Garland doing currently that we could maybe help in any way or. Um, things like that that that help promote this um because it really is such a timely thing that is needed today in our society.

46:20.90

GarlandhuntSr

Yeah, we're not the numbers of ways number one let's start off with the church like I say it first get get committed to the church I'm sorry we both drinking ah get get committed to christianity. Don't just feel like.

46:22.92

lovelightstories

Yeah, yeah.

46:29.77

lovelightstories

Yeah, yeah.

46:37.69

GarlandhuntSr

Black lives matter or anything in in the world can can be your narrative I don't know Wow Kids I'm so sorry so you cannot allow the world that includes media that that includes ah.

46:45.89

lovelightstories

That's okay, just take your time cough it out.

46:56.28

GarlandhuntSr

The the conservative or liberal media we need we need god's discussion. We need a biblical truth. Don't let the world particularly if you're Christian determine. What narrative you're gonna follow you. You want the story of Christ said whose report will I believe I'm believing the report of the lord. So.

47:03.63

lovelightstories

Ah.

47:16.14

GarlandhuntSr

You need to get in a church or get an environment where they're willing to preach the cross where they're willing to preach repentance and dedication and devotion because if you don't change from the inside then it's not gonna be a change on the outside. So that's number 1 number 2 I would say that.

47:24.73

lovelightstories

Yeah, for.

47:35.13

GarlandhuntSr

Understand biblical review and what I mean that is does a bible that all of us have with the scriptures is truth do not allow yourself to get so involved with the the world that you end up having this to be second place. Word of god must be first place in your heart. So don't allow for the the scriptures like I give a perfect example and it's got me in trouble too. I can't imagine gets in trouble but but the the Lord loves life in the womb. He doesn't he doesn't want.

47:55.29

lovelightstories

Ah.

48:10.14

GarlandhuntSr

The the babies in the womb to be slaughtered and murdered in in the womb. It's clear up that he says I'd set you apart Jeremiah while you're in the womb I said Paul when I called you as a prophet to the nations with Jeremiah with him if Paul says I set you apart. All of these things in the womb.

48:22.15

lovelightstories

Yeah.

48:28.96

GarlandhuntSr

But Jesus and John the baptist came in the presence of each other while Jesus was in Mary's room and John was in his mother's Elizabeth's room he said that they leaked for joy why because they were alive inside the body and the anointing before they were born was already there.

48:38.39

lovelightstories

M.

48:47.14

GarlandhuntSr

So but I have people that are so political that they want to argue what the world says versus what the bible says and still call themselves christians so I'm saying to you, you got to put this first this this has to be first so you got to get in the right environment I will tell you read my book.

48:55.21

lovelightstories

Yeah.

49:05.98

GarlandhuntSr

Follow us on Facebook follow our church I'm I'm pastoring a church follow our messages. Um, there's there's a whole group of us and I said there's 7000 more we can help define the right word if you in your heart you want to change you want to hear the right thing that it would help you find a true word. That's not depending on the culture but willing to change the culture and because every city you're gonna have some in that city connect with those in that city that see things in a righteous way as opposed to a cultural way but gotta give you the grace to do that and if you want to find us.

49:27.48

lovelightstories

Yeah.

49:42.74

GarlandhuntSr

We're certainly here we t f h a t l the father's house allowed to t f h a t l dot org is where you can. You can find our website we're on Facebook. Also again, the father's house allowedta you can find us on Facebook. Um, you you can find out book in crisis in America us if you you know, but you also can order on Amazon but for any online bookstore with barnes and noble even wal-moted target they have it so so you want to first. Get as much as you can bring in as much as you drink in the word of god as much as you can and then begin to get in the right environments and willing to be different you your Del Gombo family members are gonna tremendously disagree with you and especially when you begin to speak truth to darkness.

50:27.19

lovelightstories

Yeah.

50:35.25

lovelightstories

A.

50:36.91

GarlandhuntSr

Cause that darkness is their light. They think that they're right, but you have to speak truth to darkness but you want to be well prepared so that would be the kind of thing reparation preparation is to get around those that have the light that you can learn and you can gain from and hopefully be transformed.

50:51.92

lovelightstories

Yes, wonderful. A very powerful and doable thing that we can start embarking on today for our own lives and essentially it's it's kind of mimicking what you did early on in your life where. God started to really change your heart towards racial reconciliation and and understanding changing your whole worldview and understanding of that. So um, thank you for giving us those tangible examples and tactical things that we can do to make that happen in our own lives. Ah. Garland it has been such a ah great conversation. There's so much here that um, you have experienced I know we've just touched on the tip of it. But um I think listeners today can really see and understand how you're. Personal experiences as a black man living in America mind you um,

have really shaped this message of peace and reconciliation biblical um worldview that um, you are now preaching and sharing and um I just thank you for that message and i. Really hope and pray that god continues to bless that message and help help you get it out but also help us in our own hearts as we pursue this as well. so thank you so much

52:09.74

GarlandhuntSr

And thank you so much for this time together with Stephanie this was great I enjoyed it.