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Moses Moon Civil Rights Recordings 1963-1964: Washington, DC; after November 22, 1963(OT_N18)

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WEBVTT

00:41:23.000 --> 00:41:26.000

<i>James Baldwin</i>: I don't know if I can make this clear.

00:41:26.000 --> 00:41:38.000

But I was born in a church and spent most of my life, being dragged, like a dishrag through various pulpits.

00:41:38.000 --> 00:41:43.000

and singing in frnt of areas, church audiences because my father liked that kind of thing.

00:41:43.000 --> 00:41:52.000

And I left when I was 17 and, uhm, I haven't been back to church since.

00:41:52.000 --> 00:41:56.000

But, as I got older and I began to,

00:41:56.000 --> 00:42:04.000

to deal with my own life in a way which I couldn't ? as a child or as an adolescent.

00:42:04.000 --> 00:42:09.000

I began to try to find out, as everybody does have to at some point, find out,

00:42:09.000 --> 00:42:13.000

who he is, and what he wants and where he really comes from

00:42:13.000 --> 00:42:17.000

and what really nourishes him, what really ? him

00:42:17.000 --> 00:42:20.000

how he was put together and now that he is put together this way

00:42:20.000 --> 00:42:23.000

what is he going to do with it

00:42:23.000 --> 00:42:25.000

Then I began to realize that,

00:42:25.000 --> 00:42:28.000

in all those years,

00:42:28.000 --> 00:42:34.000

that I spent cursing out the organist and pianist and wishing to God the minister would stop talking.

00:42:34.000 --> 00:42:44.000

All those terrible Sundays, taught me something which I could not have learned in any other way,

00:42:44.000 --> 00:42:48.000

And what it taught me is almost impossible to say,

00:42:48.000 --> 00:42:52.000

but, heard it, just a few minutes ago and you did too.

00:42:52.000 --> 00:42:56.000

When these people, when these children are singing

00:42:56.000 --> 00:43:00.000

When I say children or I say kids, by the way, I don't mean it patronizingly, at all

00:43:00.000 --> 00:43:06.000

I mean, I'm just a little older than you, that's all.

00:43:06.000 --> 00:43:13.000

Now, it occurs to me that there's something in this which is, of great value, to this entire country.

00:43:13.000 --> 00:43:18.000

For me, it's something of a miracle and I think I can use that word.

00:43:18.000 --> 00:43:23.000

That the songs which we created in privacy, and in anguish and in darkness.

00:43:23.000 --> 00:43:29.000

by black, pagans, captive on these shores.

00:43:29.000 --> 00:43:31.000

The music they evolved, created.

00:43:31.000 --> 00:43:38.000

Who sustain themselves in the most terrible, terrible oppression that has ever been,

00:43:38.000 --> 00:43:42.000

that have ever happened, in any case, in the Western world.

00:43:42.000 --> 00:43:45.000

That these songs have somehow come down

00:43:45.000 --> 00:43:50.000

all these bloodstained ages and now metaphosed, metaphosed

00:43:50.000 --> 00:43:55.000

become, changed into a vehicle, to liberate,

00:43:55.000 --> 00:44:00.080

not only, the Negro of this country, but all the people in



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