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## **Moses Moon Civil Rights Recordings 1963-1964: Washington, DC; after November 22, 1963(OT\_N19)**

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WEBVTT

00:30:12.000 --> 00:30:16.000

<i>James Baldwin</i>: The question is in essence whether or not we should give up Christianity, whether Black people in this country should give up Christianity.

00:30:16.000 --> 00:30:20.000

I think that's fair, isn't it? That's the essence of the question.

00:30:20.000 --> 00:30:34.000

{audience member 1} Will you make some assumptions [[inaudible]]

<i>James Baldwin</i>: I beg your pardon. {audience member 1} Will you make some assumptions first. [[laughter]]

<i>James Baldwin</i>: Let me try simply to answer what you take to be his question.

00:30:34.000 --> 00:30:38.000

His assumptions, well I was going to address myself to one assumption which I think is false.

00:30:38.000 --> 00:30:41.000

You will see soon through example.

00:30:41.000 --> 00:30:48.000

That the reason Negroes, or the way Negroes became Christians was because their masters taught them Christianity.

00:30:48.000 --> 00:30:50.000

But is that what happened?

00:30:50.000 --> 00:30:55.000

They became Christians in as far as they did, and by the way, the word,

00:30:55.000 --> 00:31:01.000

you know on a scale of several definitions, when they practiced the Christian religion by making it their own.

00:31:01.000 --> 00:31:08.000

They took it over and the songs we were talking about earlier, come out of that experience.

00:31:08.000 --> 00:31:14.000

It's not a question of giving up therefore Christianity and certainly, one couldn't give it up just because white people are Christians.

00:31:14.000 --> 00:31:20.000

It's a question of whether or not being able ( -- ) This is our experience, it is all ( -- ) it's what brought us here

00:31:20.000 --> 00:31:22.000

and it is only this which carries further than this.

00:31:22.000 --> 00:31:29.000

It is not a matter of the Christian religion, it is a matter of something which we have done with it

00:31:29.000 --> 00:31:33.000

and it one of the technics of our survival.

00:31:33.000 --> 00:31:35.000

And I think that we can carry it much further,

00:31:35.000 --> 00:31:38.000

I don't, I don't associate with Christian religion.

00:31:38.000 --> 00:31:43.000

I associate it with something else. I associate it with the auction [[??]] and I'm not concerned with the Pope, at all.

00:31:43.000 --> 00:31:48.000

I don't care what white Christians do ether, that's their problem. I really don't care.

00:31:48.000 --> 00:31:53.000

But I do, care, that we,

00:31:53.000 --> 00:31:59.000

we, Black Americans, in moving into the future, do not deny our past, that's what I [[inaudible]]

00:31:59.000 --> 00:32:13.000

[[clapping]]

00:32:13.000 --> 00:32:14.540

{audience member 2} Mr. Baldwin, in a number of ways



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