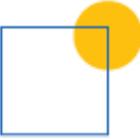




THE BLUEPRINT

Virtual Town Hall



A Message to Black Fathers

The Blueprint Virtual Town Hall

September 29, 2020

Transcript

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jamal Bryant

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([00:16](#)):

I was supposed to take this message a long time ago, but a problem happened. I was in my office and I had one Bluetooth in my ear, but the case that my Bluetooth is in, I couldn't find. Tried to backtrack my steps, called back to the restaurant where I had lunch. Had the maitre d', the manager, the server scour in between tables, trying to find it. Came up with nothing. Had to do a funeral earlier in the day, called back to the funeral home. Did they see it there? No. Gentlemen who assists me, I had him looking all under the car. Everywhere, but the roof and the gas tank, trying to find it.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([01:03](#)):

Lo and behold, I'm coming down to share and to send this message, one of my staff says, "Do you want to take this t-shirt with you?" I said, "No, but I'm going to take it home."

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([01:13](#)):

Handed me the tee shirt and right under it was a case I'd been looking for all day, trying to find it. I had one piece, but that was insufficient. I needed the rest of it.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([01:29](#)):

All of us have been at a place in our lives where we've misplaced keys. Been a few frantic moments and instances where your heart stopped, because you thought you had misplaced your phone.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([01:45](#)):

There's been days where you had to scramble because you misplaced your password. But do you know what it's like when the whole earth is looking for the one man that exists? Is only one, only one that's been created and he can't even go two chapters without going missing.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([02:10](#)):



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Here he is in the garden of Eden, and while it is that he has dominion, he has authority, he has presence, he's got a relationship with God, he has an amazing woman who God has entrusted in his life and he hasn't done his due diligence. He leaves her un-disciplined, uncultivated because, what he knows, he's not shared with her.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([02:39](#)):

God told him, "Don't eat of any of the forbidden fruit," but somehow or another, he failed in the assignment. You know the story, a slippery snake shows up on the heels of Eve and questions what it is that has been deposited in her. She looks at the apple and says, "Maybe it ain't that bad after all."

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([03:04](#)):

You know what? It's in this moment that I want to just scream at the book of Genesis, "Adam, where are you?" Eve eats of the forbidden fruit, going against everything that God has deposited in the earth. And while she's eating it, watch this, the snake makes a getaway. And in this moment, I'm screaming, "Adam, where are you?"

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([03:35](#)):

Eve takes that half-eaten apple, finds Adam watching SportsCenter. Watching, reclining in the lazy boy chair and says, "You know what? I ate of this and nothing happened to me. You ought to eat some of it. Adam said, "You don't feel no side effects? Ain't nothing wrong? She says, "No, look at me. I'm perfectly fine. My hair ain't falling out. My skin is not scaling up. My eyes are not rolling in the back of my head."

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([04:07](#)):

And when she's handing him the apple, I'm screaming from my study, "Adam, where are you?" They ate of the forbidden fruit and in that moment, the Bible says that he now predares the prodigal son and he thinks to himself. Here's what's the amazing thing, he knows that he has broken covenant, knows he's broken the rules. Acknowledges that this is not what he's supposed to be doing.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([04:37](#)):

Do you know what Adam does? He does like a lot of us as men do, try to run, try to hide. While he's hiding in shrubbery, he hears the footsteps of God. It's amazing thing, that you can be a man out of order, you can be a man and who is falling out of the will of God, you can be a man who has broken your covenant, but you can still hear God's voice.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([05:10](#)):

God, who is omnipresent, which means he's everywhere. He's omniscient. It means he knows everything. He's omnipotent. It means he's got all power, now raises what I can't believe I've got to say to you today, the very first question in the Bible. Everything in Genesis one and Genesis two are declarations. It is only in Genesis three



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that we find the very first question ever uttered and spoken in sacred text.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([05:48](#)):

That question is the question I am burden to now ask and I don't know, but I hope that you can help me find the answer, Adam, where are you? That is the question that seems to be resounding in the 21st century, is that too many of our men have gone missing. Too many of our men clearly, had put on red and white-striped shirts and have morphed into Waldo. Too many of our men to be able to have their pictures plastered on gallons of cartons of milk. Too many of our men to have found themselves victimization of human trafficking, and they are missing.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([06:46](#)):

Here it is, you are missing and ashamedly, I have been missing. Here's one thing for God to ask because when God asked, he already knew the answer, but there are some other people today, some other people tonight who are looking for you and I'm trying to figure out, why are you hiding? They want to know, where are you? 2008, 2016, the highest demographic to go and vote in the presidential election, hear this, was Black women. Black men didn't show up even to get a brother elected.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([07:38](#)):

Now in 2020, the fastest growing demographic that is supporting Donald Trump, now at 13%, is Black men. I don't want to know just, where are you? I want to know, what are you thinking? I got to ask you a question. What it is that one out of three Black girls are sexually assaulted before 13? I don't want to just know, where are you? I want to know, what were you thinking? I don't care if she's shaped like she's 20, she still has the mind of somebody 14.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([08:22](#)):

Where are you? What are you thinking? The average Black church in America, I'm telling you this as a preacher, who's been pastoring now almost 20 years. When the pastor stands at the rostrum and canvases the sanctuary, he will discover, that woman of God will discover, 78% of those in the pew are women. Where are you?

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([08:49](#)):

But if I go three blocks down the street and knock on the door of the mosque, 86% of those in the mosque are Black males. So it don't mean that you don't believe in God, it don't mean that you are adverse to discipline, but somehow or another, the church has been feminized and you have been emasculated in the sanctuary.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([09:19](#)):

Where are you? Where are you, that you have your model of manhood based off of some gangster movie or



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video that you saw in the '90s? That you allowed, in the words of Tupac, a lamppost to raise you and for a stop sign to give you guidance?

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([09:42](#)):

Where are you? Where are you, when it is that in this moment, the most educated demographic in America, hear me, but most educated demographic in America is Black women, who are now more educated than white women? I got to give you this, and white men. I'm trying to ask you, who are your daughters going to marry? Because they can't marry somebody like you, saying you can't work for nobody, but still won't create your own business. Won't create your own niche. Won't pursue your own passion.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([10:24](#)):

I want to know, where are you? Where are you, that you won't even fill out your census report that's sitting right on the coffee table, waiting for you to be counted, waiting for you to be recognized? Do you know the fight that ensued the most between six and 11th grade? The fight that happened the most between six and 11th grade, no matter what high school you went to and Black men were there, I want you to know, the most fights were started by somebody asking you the question, here it is, what are you looking at?

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([11:03](#)):

Because we want to be seen, but are not prepared to be recognized. Where are you, that you have invested the sum total of your full masculinity on your tennis shoe collection, on the condoms in your wallet, the car in your driveway, the biceps on your arm? Who are you, if you lose all of your material stuff, I'm looking for you? I'm looking for you to understand that as a man, you got to learn how to make a touchdown after you've been tackled. If you keep looking for cheerleaders, you're never going to win the ring.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([11:48](#)):

I'm amazed. I come to you today from Atlanta, Georgia, and I want you to know how amazed I am that the newest billionaire to enter the Forbes list, Tyler Perry, never won an Oscar, never won an Emmy, never won a Tony, but found success with no accolades. Can you achieve with no support system? I want to know, can you make it even after being homeless? I don't want to hear your excuse about what you haven't done, the advantage is you didn't have. Any Black man who has made history went to jail. You missed what I just said. Ant Black man with significance had time. Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Jesus Christ.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([12:49](#)):

If in fact, you have never been fingerprinted, you are not positioned. I want you to understand that your greatest asset is what it is that the school system could not chart, what your homeroom teacher did not see and what your own mother didn't even know how to polish. What were you dreaming of becoming before



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somebody [inaudible 00:13:15] the laws of life? What were you going to be before it is that you had to deal with systemic white supremacy and oppression? What would you have been?

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([13:29](#)):

Here it is. If nobody put limits on you, if you actually had a chance, if you were ever given a fresh sheet of paper, ask yourself the question, what would you be doing if you ever had a dad, not knowing, hear this, that sometimes God had to remove your father so you could be better than him? Sometimes he had to move people out of your way, because God knew you would emulate their frailties. He wanted you to have his success.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([14:08](#)):

I try to think about it as a preacher. I try to think about it on how it is that Jesus functioned. Can you ever imagine this, when God chose his father? God chose Jesus's father, who he knew never finished high school, never went to college, never had political connections, never had any great money. Yet God chose him.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([14:40](#)):

Nobody preaches this in the Black Church, but I got to give it to you. Did you not know Joseph walked out on Jesus when he was 12? The last time they ever had a talk is when Jesus went missing at the church. Joseph went up to him and pulled him up and Jesus checked his father at 12 and said to the man that was raising him, "Don't you know I'm about my father's business?" At that time, his daddy quit.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([15:13](#)):

We don't know nothing about him. We never hear anything about him till 30, when the mother has to go to a wedding by herself. We don't even think about him again until at 33, when it is that Jesus is hanging on the cross and only his mama shows up. I'm telling you that Jesus, we have no evidence ever had real friends until he turned 30. God help me. He had to go through something of isolation and rejection as his bar mitzvah into manhood.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([15:53](#)):

If you can hear my voice tonight, I want you to know that everything that you were trying to do was equipping you for this moment. You could have wasted the last 30, but God is saying, "All I need is three." Can you imagine that Jesus didn't do what he was supposed to do for 30 years and only did what he was supposed to do for three? And doing what he was supposed to do is what got him killed.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([16:27](#)):

Fulfilling your purpose, walking in your assignment, obeying your call is not going to be easy. I was in Vegas before COVID hit. I'm walking down the strip and I look above my head and I see a sign. The sign was advertising



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that, "Tonight at 7:00 and 10:00, tickets are still available for you to come see Boys II Men."

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([17:00](#)):

I said, "Something is wrong," because I don't see everybody in the picture. Somebody is missing. Where is he? Because of the vicissitudes of life, he's lost his voice, lost his throat, lost his capacity to sing, but those who were in the group, they still pay him like he is performing. There's a brother who should be with you today. A brother who's lost his voice, lost his way, has lost his capacity to articulate what he feels.

Dr. Jamal Bryant ([17:39](#)):

Is not good enough for you to become a man, but you got to make sure you bring some grown boy with you so that he can understand in the words of Stevie Wonder, but composition is not finished until you can sing in the keys of life. I can't wait to see you on the other side. If you're a boy, you'll hear this speech in log off, but if you're a man, you'll come out of hiding, you'll make a difference, you'll make an impact and you'll change the world.

