

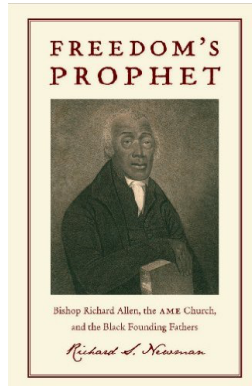


A YEAR WITH RICHARD ALLEN

STUDY GUIDE

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METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH 1518 M St, NW Washington, DC 20005



RETELLING THE NARRATIVE: A YEAR OF RICHARD ALLEN

IF YOU WERE RAISED IN AN AME CHURCH, YOU'VE CERTAINLY HEARD THE NAME RICHARD ALLEN—ONE OF OUR CHURCH'S COURAGEOUS FOUNDERS AND ITS FIRST BISHOP. BUT WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU LEARNED? CERTAINLY, YOU HEARD OF ALLEN'S HEROIC DEPARTURE FROM THE PREDOMINATELY WHITE ST. GEORGE'S METHODIST CHURCH, ALONG WITH OTHER BLACK PARISHIONERS. AND YOU PROBABLY LEARNED THAT ALLEN'S DEPARTURE WAS A SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO WHITES WHO REFUSED TO LET BLACKS PRAY AT THE ALTER. BUT IS THIS STORY ACCURATE AND COMPLETE? WAS ALLEN MERELY "REACTING" IN THE MOMENT TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL? OR WAS HE PROACTIVE AND INTENTIONAL?

ALLEN WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY AND CONVERTED TO METHODISM AT AGE 17, AFTER HEARING A WHITE METHODIST PREACHER ADVOCATE FOR ABOLITION. AFTER PURCHASING HIS OWN FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY, ALLEN DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO GOD AND THE METHODIST CHURCH. YET, DESPITE HIS DEVOTION, ALLEN EXPERIENCED RELENTLESS RACISM AT THE HANDS OF WHITE PARISHIONERS WHO RESTRICTED BLACKS TO LESSER LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE CHURCH AND IMPOSED RACIAL SEGREGATION IN THE PEWS. THUS, WHEN ALLEN WALKED OUT OF ST. GEORGE'S IN 1787, IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME BLACKS HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE ALTER OR THE PULPIT; INSTEAD, IT WAS JUST A FINAL CATALYST IN A LONG STRING OF INSULTS AND INJUSTICES. RICHARD ALLEN, ALONG WITH ABSALOM JONES AND OTHER BLACK LEADERS, WAS *STRATEGIC* AND *ANTICIPATORY* – LIKELY PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT BLACK CHURCH LONG BEFORE THE HISTORIC WALK OUT.

EAGER TO PRESS BEYOND THE CONVENTIONAL NARRATIVE OF RICHARD ALLEN'S LEGACY, PASTOR WILLIAM H. LAMAR IV LED METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH THROUGH A CLOSE READING OF **RICHARD NEWMAN'S FREEDOM'S PROPHET: BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN, THE AME CHURCH, AND THE BLACK FOUNDING FATHERS** IN THE FALL OF 2016. THROUGH THIS TEXT, PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND ALLEN AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, TRADESMAN, EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, FOUNDER, POLITICIAN, MEDIATOR, HUMANITARIAN, THEOLOGIAN, EVANGELIST, ABOLITIONIST, VISIONARY, REVOLUTIONARY AND SO MUCH MORE.

EQUIPPED WITH A MORE THOROUGH AND NUANCED ACCOUNT OF ALLEN'S LEGACY, **METROPOLITAN HAS LAUNCHED A YEAR LONG CELEBRATION OF RICHARD ALLEN ON MARCH 5, 2017**. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE WORK OF METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES THAT ALREADY REFLECT ALLEN'S LEGACY, LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVES THAT HONOR ALLEN'S SPIRIT AND CONVENE SPECIAL EVENTS THAT ALLOW US TO DISCUSS WHAT WE HAVE LEARN. WE EXPECT THAT AUTHOR RICHARD NEWMAN WILL VISIT WITH US IN THE FALL OF 2017.

IN FREEDOM'S PROPHET, HISTORIAN RICHARD NEWMAN OFFERS A VIVID AND INSIGHTFUL PORTRAIT OF BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN (1760–1831) AS A TIRELESS PREACHER COMMITTED TO ENDING SLAVERY AND FOSTERING EQUALITY FOR BLACKS IN AMERICA AFTER THE REVOLUTION. AFTER PURCHASING HIS FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY, ALLEN HELPED TO ESTABLISH TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS IN EARLY AMERICA: THE FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY, A BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATION, AND BETHEL CHURCH, THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH. AS NEWMAN CONTENDS, ALTHOUGH ALLEN IS BEST REMEMBERED FOR HIS RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP, ALLEN'S ABILITY TO CREATE INDEPENDENT BLACK ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATE A PUBLISHED DISCOURSE AMONG FREE BLACKS ESTABLISHED HIM AS ONE OF THE NATION'S FOUNDING LEADERS.

RICHARD NEMAN IS A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. HE IS AN EDUCATOR, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES.

FREEDOM'S PROPHET: BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN, THE AME CHURCH, AND THE BLACK FOUNDING FATHERS

BY RICHARD S. NEWMAN

SYLLABUS

To facilitate your own self-study of this text, please enjoy the following Discussion Questions, provided in the links below:

WEEK 1: *Introduction pp. 1 – 26*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomIntroduction>

WEEK 2: *Chapter 1: "For Zion's Sake... I Will Not Rest" pp. 27 - 52*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt1>

WEEK 3: *Chapter 2: Gospel Labors pp. 53 - 77*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt2>

WEEK 4: *Chapter 3: The Year of the Fever, Part I: A (Deceptively) Simple Narrative of the Black People pp. 78 – 104*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt3>

WEEK 5: *Chapter 4: The Year of the Fever, Part 2: Allen's Antislavery Appeal pp. 105 - 127*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt4>

WEEK 6: *Chapter 5: "We Participate in Common": Allen's Role as a Black Mediator pp. 128 - 157*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt5>

WEEK 7: *Chapter 6: A Liberating Theology: Establishing the AME Church pp. 158 - 182*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt6>

WEEK 8: *Chapter 7: Stay or Go? Allen and African Colonization pp. 183 - 208*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt7>

WEEK 9: *Chapter 8: Allen Challenged: Shadow Politics and Community Conflict in the 1820s pp. 209 – 237*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt8>

WEEK 10: *Chapter 9: A Black Founder's Expanding Visions pp. 238 - 263*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt9>

WEEK 11: *Chapter 10: Last Rights pp. 264 - 290*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomChapt10>

WEEK 12: *Conclusion: Richard Allen and the Soul of Black Reform pp. 291 – 300*

<http://bit.ly/FreedomConclusion>

YOU MAY PURCHASE FREEDOM'S PROPHET ON AMAZON SMILE.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SHOPPING ON AMAZON, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR THE DANIEL ALEXANDER PAYNE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S AMAZON SMILE ACCOUNT. A PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO CDC!

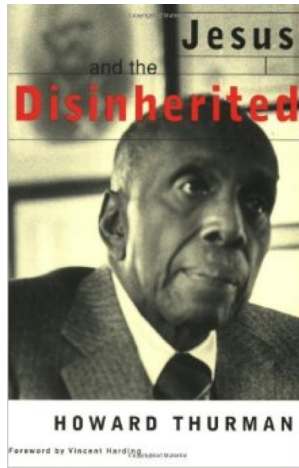
https://smile.amazon.com/Freedoms-Prophet-Richard-Founding-Fathers/dp/0814758576/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8

To hear Richard Newman's voice, please see the following **CSPAN Lecture with Richard Newman:**

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?206510-1/freedoms-prophet>

PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY MEETS IN THE PRUITT BOARDROOM AT METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7 PM. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, YOU MAY PARTICIPATE BY CONFERENCE CALL AS FOLLOWS:

- Pastor's Study – Free Conference Call Line [1-515-739-1030](tel:1-515-739-1030); Code 254488713#
- You may usually watch the study on "Facebook Live" at Metropolitan AMEC's Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/MAMECLive>.



JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED, HOWARD THURMAN

QUESTIONS OF RACE, LIBERATION AND FAITH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INEXTRICABLY LINKED IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. AS METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH PURSUES ITS COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP, LIBERATION AND SERVICE IN THIS CURRENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ERA, PASTOR WILLIAM H. LAMAR IV CONTINUES TO LEAD THE CONGREGATION THROUGH CRITICAL READINGS IN FAITH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

IN THE WINTER OF 2016, PASTOR LAMAR LED PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY THROUGH A CLOSE READING OF HOWARD THURMAN'S JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED. IN THIS STUDY, WE GRAPPLED WITH THE POLITICS OF RELIGIOUS IMAGERY, SYMBOLISM AND INTERPRETATION AND INSISTED UPON AN ACCURATE RECOUNTING OF JESUS' IDENTITY AS A POOR JEW SUBJECT TO ROMAN POWER.

IN JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED, HOWARD THURMAN DEMONSTRATES HOW THE GOSPEL MAY BE READ AS A MANUAL OF RESISTANCE FOR THE POOR AND DISENFRANCHISED. THE TEXT RECOGNIZES JESUS AS A PARTNER IN THE PAIN OF THE OPPRESSED AND ARGUES THAT JESUS' LIFE OFFERS AN EXAMPLE AND SOLUTION FOR ENDING THE MORAL DECAY OF OUR SOCIETY. THURMAN CONTENDS THAT HATRED DOES NOT EMPOWER--IT DECAYS. ONLY THROUGH SELF-LOVE AND LOVE OF ONE ANOTHER CAN GOD'S JUSTICE PREVAIL.

HOWARD THURMAN (NOVEMBER 18, 1899 – APRIL 10, 1981) WAS AN INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN THEOLOGIAN, AUTHOR, PHILOSOPHER, EDUCATOR, AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER. THURMAN WAS A KEY MENTOR TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND OTHER LEADERS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. HIS THEOLOGY OF RADICAL NONVIOLENCE INFLUENCED AND SHAPED A GENERATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

YOU MAY PURCHASE JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED ON AMAZON SMILE.

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SYLLABUS

To facilitate your own self-study of this text, please enjoy the following Discussion Questions, provided in the links below:

Week 1: Foreward by Vincent Harding, pp. vii – xix, Preface by Howard Thurman, pp. xix-xx, and Chapter 1 Jesus – An Interpretation, pp. 1-25

<http://bit.ly/DisinheritedChapt1>

Week 2: Chapter 2 Fear, pp. 26-47

<http://bit.ly/DisinheritedChapt2>

Week 3: Chapter 3 Deception, pp. 48-63

<http://bit.ly/DisinheritedChapt3>

Week 4: Chapter 4 Hate, pp. 64 -78

<http://bit.ly/DisinheritedChapt4>

Week 5: Chapter 5 Love, pp. 79 – 99 and Epilogue, pp. 100 -101

<http://bit.ly/DisinheritedChapt5>

To hear Howard Thurman's voice, please watch this wonderful 2-part interview on the following YouTube links:

Conversations with Howard Thurman Part I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvJVxsezAwc>

Conversations with Howard Thurman Part II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPzZBS-2oeU>

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