

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello, I'm Jimmy Carper. And I am the producer of this show. I am a lot of things, but the one thing I am first is American. And it occurs to me that I have never started the show with this song. It's by our own Houston Gay Men's Chorus, and I should probably do that more often. But with all the tragedy that's gone on this week, I've got a few songs that kind of convey some of the feelings I've been feeling. And maybe some of the feelings you've been feeling too. And we will be get back with you probably 10, 15 minutes.

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[BED SQUEAKING]

[HEAVY BREATHING]

**ANNOUNCER:** The following program contains language or images of the frank or sensitive nature--

[MOANS]

--which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[THEME MUSIC]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[THEME MUSIC]

Hello Houston and College Station, and welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. This is a September 15th edition. I'm Jimmy Carper. And before we get into it, well, we're probably going to be talking about this a lot, but this is-- I want to talk about the music that I played in the beginning.

First of all, *The Star-Spangled Banner* by the Houston Gay Men's Chorus. I thought that was very fitting on the night-- especially tonight to start out with that particular piece. And then we had one of Jewel's favorite singers. Meg Christian.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's right. And I recognized it too.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And that wonderful, wonderful song, *The Ones Who Aren't Here*. She originally wrote that for people who were in the closet, but it has since then been used as an AIDS song. And I thought it was very appropriate for the tragedy--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Good choice.

**JIMMY CARPER:** --that we've suffered this week. Then I went to the New York Gay Men's Chorus to see what they had to offer in the way of songs that might say something to me. And from their *Love Lives On* album, *Not A Day Goes By*, an old torch song that really said a lot to me this evening when I was looking for music to play.

And then of course, the New York Gay Men's Chorus singing *New York, New York* and on an upbeat. And that is not to belittle anything that has happened to the Pentagon in Washington DC either. Jewel Gray is here--

**JEWEL GRAY:** You know, which I heard tonight, was not as bad as it could have been because of the renovations-- the safety of renovations, mylar they've put between the walls, the outer walls, the inner walls. So we're really fortunate there. It's too bad they can't build buildings like that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jewel Gray is here and Jim Vaughn is here.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Jim, The Hands, Vaughn.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jim, The Hands, Vaughn. Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I love that.

**JIM VAUGHN:** I don't think-- am I on?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, you are. Yes. The official--

**JIM VAUGHN:** --I somehow can't hear me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The official-- the official unofficial co-host for *After Hours*, Bobby Pagano.

**BOBBY**                   Hello.

**PAGANO:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And sidekick Ryan.

**RYAN:**                   Oh, I'm a sidekick now. OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What were you last week?

**RYAN:**                   OK I'm not going into that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

[INTERPOSING VOICES] He has the light brown hair. Of course he's a sidekick.

**JEWEL GRAY:** He has various duties.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes, yes, yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** As assigned, you know how it goes in your work contract.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Uh-huh.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Do all this, this, this, and this and various duties as assigned. In other words, anything we damn well want you to do.

[LAUGHTER]

I always hate that little clause.

**HOST:** I know. Somethings you have to--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes. This is queer life as we see it. We--

**JEWEL GRAY:** You know, I was just doing a little doodle in here. And you know, if the average is correct-- and I'm not validating it or not validating it-- but 1 in 10 people is gay. Then out of 20,000 people in the buildings, in the towers, there were 2,000 gay people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Probably a better part of them in the closet because of the kind of businesses they were in, high finances and technical stuff. And probably a lot of them in the closet. But you know, I was thinking about that today when somebody mentioned that there were a lot more than Americans in those buildings. They really pointed out something that I think we need to point out more often is that there were a lot more than Americans.

There were 200 or 300 Japanese people in there. There were 700 people from Norway in a business-- no, not Norway. Where's the bank? Swiss? Sweden?

**ALL:** Switzerland. Switzerland.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Sweden, Sweden. That's where my mind is, Sweden. Switzerland, and that they had big pockets of people from all around the world. There were some African business people in there that ran the financial somethings. I'm not real sure about what, but it was in money, you know, finances.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And British people.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And British people. That's right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I heard a statistic somewhere about it being the largest amount of British citizens killed out of the country, ever.

**BOBBY** Yeah.

**PAGANO:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, except for the wars, of course.

**JEWEL GRAY:** It's certainly a sad day. You know, I was thinking, well, you know, I've often wondered-- because I'm kind of a history buff. I'm kind of interested not so much in the facts, the dates, and what happened on that date kind of stuff, but the stuff in between that. Like, who was-- what song was big that day?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** What things made the people who they were, and what made them different the next day kind of thing. When I was thinking about that about Pearl Harbor. And I have thought about that many times before about how much different was it the next day for those people?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think we know now.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, and that's what I was saying. I think we know now. The difference is that it's kind of like when you take Santa Claus away from children. They're not-- there's no Santa Claus anymore. There's no-- it's kind of a security thing.

We've lost that. The Easter Bunny goes away out of our lives. And these are things that we lose when we lose our innocence. And that's one of the things, I think, we lost the other day, was our innocence.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We did, we did.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Not that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** It was a violation.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** A personal violation.

**JIM VAUGHN:** I'm actually surprised at how much it affected me. Because usually, geographical distance and emotional distance are kind of linked.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah. Mm-hmm.

**JIM VAUGHN:** You know? I mean, there are other events like, OK, the California earthquake. It was horrible. A lot of people died.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You didn't know any of them.

**JIM VAUGHN:** I didn't know any of them and it didn't affect me the way this did. I mean, it's just-- I don't know if it was just that was a natural disaster and this was just a handful of fanatical lunatics.

**JIMMY CARPER:** This was hate. This is what we as queers, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, this is what we live with.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Every day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Somebody who hates us enough--

**JIMMY CARPER:** To kill us.

**JEWEL GRAY:** --to kill us. Yeah, I don't know if you saw my post on HandNet when we were talking about Falwell today and his comments the other day about it was really our fault--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, oh.

**JEWEL GRAY:** --that these buildings came down. Us and the ACLU and the women's libbers and the-- well, he didn't say the Jewish people, but I think-- oh, they call them the ACLU, that's right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Same thing as what they called the ACLU. Was making remarks with Pat Robertson on the *700 Club* program. Made that kind of remark and I made a little post in the HandNet that something along the lines they're cut from the same cloth. Bin Laden is a religious fanatic who thinks people who don't believe his way should be eliminated.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And what is Jerry Falwell? He's a religious fanatic who thinks people don't believe the way he does should be eliminated. The only difference is--

**JIM VAUGHN:** Yeah, who was it that said the other day or it was in some publication, I forget what fundamentalists it was. But said that queers should be shipped off to some island.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Oh, they've been saying that for years.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JIM VAUGHN:** Yeah. And you know, and then with-- because--

**BOBBY** --human beings in the world.

**PAGANO:**

**JIM VAUGHN:** Yeah, because--

**JEWEL GRAY:** You look like you been in the island.

**JIM VAUGHN:** Yeah, she's talking about my--

**HOST:** Last time I checked that somebody tried that-- it became-- last time I checked that that happened, it became Australia.

[LAUGHTER]

**BOBBY** Where everybody likes to go vacation now.

**PAGANO:**

**RYAN:** It became and entire continent.

**HOST:** Yeah, come one, you know?

**JEWEL GRAY:** But you know, I noted in this email that the only difference in these two people that I saw, the only difference, was that Jerry Falwell has to get to us through the American laws and our Constitution, which makes it a little more difficult and we have a little more protection than the people in that tower did. They didn't have any protections. They had nothing from that fanaticism.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The other thing is, the other thing is, apart from his fanaticism he uses it as a money making scheme.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Oh, you think I didn't think about that? You want to get me off on a rant now with these churches with their little hands out after this. Give us money so we can help the people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello, Ed Young.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Oh, my god, yes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What a whore he is.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Oh, my god, yes.

**RYAN:** Don't get me started.

**JEWEL GRAY:** It's disgusting, these people. I can't believe the gall to preach the word of the Lord and then back up and do this kind of stuff. Be the exact thing that Lord they profess to love and honor hated most. The money changers.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And Ed Young blamed all of this on America's faithlessness.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Faithlessness. That's what they're doing. They're using this as an opportunity to push their agenda and to lock people into going to church. And oh, we've had this big resurgence. We're going to push on it now.

You know, I saw-- I also posted that we need to be careful about how many things that we give the presidents under the War Powers Act. Because these are not the people we want to give absolute power to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because when do they give that power back?

**JEWEL GRAY:** Right, when do they relinquish it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** They don't.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's right. They don't have to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's the problem.

**JEWEL GRAY:** They don't even have to have an election. If they're still under the Articles of War, we don't even have to have another president come in in four years to be an election. There doesn't have to be one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Be under War Powers Act.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I didn't know that.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yes, and that's why we have to be ever vigilant about these kind of people doing little sly and things that we're not really looking at closely because they're giving us lots of subterfuge.

**RYAN:** I think in regards to the whole Falwell thing-- and when I read that, I was like, OK, exactly how many more people does he want to alienate with his--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Well, yes. He don't care. He's making room for him at Heaven. If he alienates enough people and sends them to hell, it means there's more room for him.

**BOBBY** And the one thing that comes to mind is something I keep hearing a lot of people say. It is remarkable, to me, that some of the people with some of the most closed minds have some of the most open mouths.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**BOBBY** That man-- that whole group, right there. That just--

**PAGANO:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** And you know, the other thing about this situation is-- oh, I'm going to step off on a limb here, people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Go right ahead.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Like I never have in front of you. I agree with a lot of Palestinian Arab complaints. We have been very imperialistic. We've gone over there and we've tried to make these people be what-- we've done the same things to them that we did to the American Indians. We came into their country and wanted them to become us.

Well, these people didn't. All this really began, all of this, all of it really began right after World War II when we were resettling Europe. And the powers separated and started separating pieces of Europe off for each power. And they were deciding where Israel, all these Jews they had to get rid of because they sure didn't want them back, they had to get rid of.

And the Jews, thinking that this was an opportunity-- not Jews as in the capital J-E-W-S, but the entire group were beginning to rethink where could they go? So that's when they in the early '50s started making Israel a state. Well, from in the beginning, these were just uneducated Bedouins hanging out with the camels.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Well, since then, they hit oil. They became very educated Bedouins hanging out with the camels. And they began to see how they were being stepped on. They didn't like it.

Now, not that I say that we are completely at fault. I just see where they're coming from. I see because I read alternate press, that Israel has not been as forthcoming with us as they should be. Israel has done some really serious and heinous things that I just cannot grasp after what they went through in the Holocaust to be trying to do this kind of stuff under the cover of being annihilated themselves.

And not that they wouldn't be. Not that this is not a battle about religion, but some part of it is about the imperialism of the United States going over there and bossing these little, ignorant Bedouins around.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, that's true.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And not that that's worthy of bringing over here and knocking anybody down. But let's go back to the beginning. This is not a faultless problem. It's not just the Arabs who were mad at us that are at fault. We gave them reason to be mad.

And I was listening to one of the premier journalists out of Palestine the other day, talking-- a woman, have you ever seen her? I can't remember her name. It's a woman. And I think she's in politics in some fashion there.

**JIM VAUGHN:** Yeah, I saw her, but I can't remember the name.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And she was talking about all this stuff, you know, and why-- the beginning. And the thing that we have to do is we just can't keep swatting at each other. Now here's the woman from Palestine saying, yes, we know we made mistakes. And I can't imagine she's saying that to 30 million people, that they didn't say it at the table.

Yes, we made mistakes. Let's go back and fix what's wrong in the beginning. Not keep slapping each other and trying to get more and more. And really what they basically want is what they were promised in the beginning. When they were robbed of part of their country, they were promised it would never be beyond this point.

And in '67, it got beyond that point. And Israel, even though the UN issued some kind of proclamation that Israel should give back this stuff, they never did. So these people are really being occupied. And that's how they feel.

Not that that's-- the simplicity of this and the complexity of this are confusing in themselves. The simplicity is they're occupied. The complexity is why they're occupied and why they're not being left to run their own country.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, I did not know this.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That they're not being-- it's something to pay attention. Because I have a lot of Jewish blood in my background.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And you know, occasionally, at family gatherings we have the little Jewish section that sits over there and talks about Jewish politics. And no one else talks about that. They always get into Jewish politics, Israel politics, and I used to sit and listen to the politic talk. And I once asked them, I said, why is it you guys talk about Israeli politics? You've lived here, you were born here, and all you spend time-- you don't talk about American politics like talking about it.

It because it's that God-given right. That God said in the Bible, Israel is yours. And the definition and the boundaries that God gave them don't fit the ones that they have now. And they're going to take what they think that they're due by God. Which means they're just as fanatical about their issues and their direction as the fanatics that come out of their suicide bombers. Not that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well--

**JEWEL GRAY:** --this is the same situation, but it really is the same philosophy. Bin Laden, the people in Palestine, this other goofball they had. I can't remember his name anyway, couldn't pronounce it if I can remember it.

They all come from that same philosophy. That they've been stepped on, they've been robbed, and they've been looked down on, and they're not taking it anymore. Not that that justifies that behavior.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**JEWEL GRAY:** But I want-- I don't hear enough people pointing out that there's a reason.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** It may not be justifiable to what they-- there is a reason.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I knew that Israel became a country in 1948. And it was carved out of other people's areas.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I don't-- I don't remember-- well, of course I don't remember, I'm not that old.

[SNICKERING]

--to know-- hey. Hey. Damn.

[LAUGHTER]

I don't-- I don't know if this was land that people-- other people didn't want or people readily ceded--

**JEWEL GRAY:** They were ignorant Bedouin--

**JIMMY CARPER:** --to the Jews.

**JEWEL GRAY:** --running around on camels, just like we bought Manhattan in a weird kind of twist. The same way we bought Manhattan from the natives for a handful of beads that were worth nothing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The difference with the Manhattan thing is that none of the natives who lived here believed that they owned the land.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Right, that's true. That's true. They didn't believe it belonged to anyone.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** It belonged to all.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It belonged to all.

**JEWEL GRAY:** So they didn't have that fight, that struggle. This is mine.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And so, yeah-- it wasn't, sure.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Sure, here. Hey, look, he gave me beads for--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hey, thanks for the beads.

**JEWEL GRAY:** --something I don't own.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** But my point is--

**JIMMY CARPER:** They didn't know they were going to get kicked out.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Right. My point is that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** So is this the same kind of thing.

**JEWEL GRAY:** It's the same kind of mentality that we as Americans-- and I truly believe this extends more than America. And I believe it's Western European attitude. I think it's the Western European attitude that came with us when we came over here on the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you remember that old phrase that so very difficult to describe and define. Manifest Destiny.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's right, and it was abused. Grossly, it was abused. It was meant to be a good thing. And that's why you got to watch your government.

Because they tell you in big headlines, well, it's meant to be this thing. But you better read that fine print because you can bet somebody is going to get stepped on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Find out who it's going to be. And that's basically what has happened--

**BOBBY** I love my country, it's my government I fear.

**PAGANO:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** --they hit oil. And they became educated. They became more, not Western, and that's what they're trying not to be. They think that letting women walk around without scarves across their face is enough to go to hell.

A scarf not on your face is enough to go to hell. Not killing someone. Killing someone is the way to go to-- what is it? Not Paradise, what is it they call it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I don't know.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Not go to somewhere, not Paradise. Somewhere.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Go see Allah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, Allah. Yeah, visit Allah.

**HOST:** I kill people, therefore, I am good. That's the mentality I don't condone at all.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, it's part of the jihad. The Holy war.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Well, part of our problem is that we refuse to understand these people. We've said, OK-- it's kind of an arrogance we've had.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That we're trying to understand them on our level.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Right, and you cannot understand other people on your level. That's why Jerry Falwell will never get it. He cannot understand how we can be happy having sex with someone of our same sex.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** He cannot understand that and I say it's a good damn thing. It'd be scary if he could understand it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's a wonderful thing.

**HOST:** Hey. Jerry, don't knock it till you try.

**BOBBY** Please, I don't want to think about Jerry actually having sex--

**PAGANO:**

[GROANS]

**JEWEL GRAY:** But you know--

**BOBBY** --with anything.

**PAGANO:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** I am not a tear shedder, but I sat there the other day just about the time that second plane slammed into that second building. And I knew we had lost 3,000 or 4,000 people. Sitting there and I thought to myself, there was some comfort immediately about, OK, it's over.

But then I got to thinking, it really isn't over. Those people are running all through that building, you know, whether they get out or not. And people are-- anybody above that plane is not making it out. Anybody above where those planes hit did not make it out.

**RYAN:** No, probably not

**JEWEL GRAY:** And anybody underneath of those planes had a chance. But anybody above didn't even have a chance. It's instantaneous.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There's not too many people above the 91st, 93rd floor that--

**JEWEL GRAY:** There's 110 floors.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, so--

**HOST:** Yeah, if I remember right, one woman who was actually on the 92nd floor made it down in 10 minutes.

**BOBBY** Wow.

**PAGANO:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** And that was something else. Can you imagine running down 100 flights of stairs--

**RYAN:** No, I can't.

**JEWEL GRAY:** --with thousands of other people screaming in the dark--

**RYAN:** No, I have a hard enough time getting up one.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I can't imagine. And you know, I bet you we lost at least 10 people just in heart attacks. This happened six years, seven years ago, most of those people in that building now were the same ones there before.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Did I told you that Rose's brother works in that building.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL GRAY:** And he worked in that building when they had the first attack. And the first attack he'd been-- I think he'd gone in or something and he'd changed schedule with somebody that day. And the other day, he was on vacation. And I told her, I said, somebody's looking out for your brother, let me tell you. Twice, he missed both times.

But you know, then I got to thinking and this is what really started me thinking about where the real tragedy is. Those people are dead. I'm sorry. It's-- I don't want to be not sensitive. They're dead.

Where I want to put my sensitivity is with their families and with the people that are left. And I want to do right by those people. They represented America when they died. They went in there that morning. They were themselves.

They were individuals. They were distinct and separate from every other person in that building. But when they died, they became one of us. An American. And I think it's our obligation, no matter how much they have to raise the taxes, to see that those people are taking care of their families, their children, the insurance.

You know, I think the very least this country can do is make sure that when these people walk away, that they're not left in financial straits because of this. Because they were an object-- a military object. They were an object-- they were-- it was just like shooting at the White House. This did not-- I don't think they could have made this impact if they'd blown at the White House. I just don't think it would have been this-- I mean, it would have been a terrible thing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It would have been a terrible thing, yeah.

**JEWEL GRAY:** But it wouldn't have made the impact. They would not have made the impact taking these many lives. But I think it's our obligation to take care of these people, especially the firemen and their families and the policemen and their families. And make sure that every child, every parentless child-- and some were two parentless children-- every parentless child gets enough-- some kind of trust fund to go to college, at least. Every single mother who's at home with three children should have whatever home they're having paid for.

And at least some kind of trust funds for their children set up. That I think that at least America owes these people because when they died, they represented us, every one of us.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Chris has something to add to this.

**BOBBY** Cool. Hey, Chris.

**PAGANO:**

**CHRIS:** Hello. Since we're talking about it now, I was going to save it towards the end of news and views, but this is a little commentary of mine that I wrote Thursday night. Hopefully, I can get through it in one piece. Once again, this is a commentary. This is me speaking.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**CHRIS:**

So this week our nation was dealt a tremendous tragedy. One that we're still trying to cope with and make sense of as we near the beginning of the fifth day of the healing process. It was not until these events that I looked really closely at New York and where everything else at least was. Do you know the birthplace of our civil rights movement is just two miles away from ground zero? The Stonewall Inn.

The New York City Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Center and Greenwich Village are all contained in the blocked off area. I tried to get in touch with someone from the Center, but was unable, which makes sense given the circumstances in the neighborhood. Also this week, I watched more times and I really should have, that second plane slice its way through the tower, that symbol, that landmark, just barely older than me.

I placed myself in that cabin, imagining what those passengers were thinking about in those last minutes. Do I make that final phone call? And who do I call to say goodbye to that one last time? Now I've been told I don't belong in the cabin, but I should be in the cockpit, because I'm into blame as much as the men who commandeered those planes on that clear morning. The Reverends Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson said that God didn't intervene to save the lives of thousands of people because of us, because of me.

Basically, it was that America was-- if America was devoid of homosexuals, pagans, abortionists, liberals, and the like, the hand of God would have steered those planes to their proper destinations. They repeated the text of their Bible that's justified their claims. They led prayers not just for the dead and injured and for a speedy recovery of our nation to normalcy, but for a return to the strict teachings of Bible, as the founding fathers had planned.

Well, there's a fatal flaw in this argument that stands out in the light of this tragedy. They look to heal our nation by following the examples of a man who lived thousands of years ago, whose thoughts and reflections were recorded by others, who believe that he was speaking on behalf of God. But where the flaw is, which book of writing of which man do you listen to?

When you condemn someone using the writings about Jesus in the Bible, isn't that the same as declaring that Israel-- well, when you condemn us using the writings of Jesus in the Bible, isn't that the same as declaring that all Israel will be the homeland of the Jewish people, since it is written in the text about Moses in the Torah? But isn't it also the same when you look at it as someone willing to sacrifice themselves for the greater good of their faith in the words of Muhammad in the Quran. Religious fanaticism is defined by what side you're on, what side of the rock, what side of the barricade, which side of the bomb, and now which side of the airplane.

A lot of talk has been made these past five days about retribution. And the ancient proverb comes up frequently, an eye for an eye. We need to look at the first weapon that raised this conflict. That first weapon was individual books of faith. When people of the different faiths cannot come together under their creator, whether it is named God, Allah, Yahweh, Buddha, goddess Earth, and agree that killing one another over splotches of ink on bound pieces of paper, what good will troops and weapons be?

Here's another thing that Reverend Falwell and Reverend Robertson didn't know about that fateful day that also speaks volumes against their position. Not only did one of those planes not make it to its target, the only one that did not kill anyone outside the plane when the passengers and crew decided to retake it, one of those who possibly stood up as the passengers was an openly gay rugby player. Kind of have to think about how evil and sinful we are now. And that man is possibly going to receive posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

And although Falwell recanted it with his fill in the blanks-- actually, his form letter statement of I would never blame any human being except the terrorist, and if I left that impression with gays or lesbians or anyone else, I apologize. We've heard it before. We hear the same sort of rhetoric when last week we read Fred Phelps press release. And it's times like this where we have to look at where we are going as a movement.

I'll tell you this, it got me very politicalized just hearing that. And I'm going to keep a closer eye on this in the future. And I just had to come in and say that.

And by the way, we've had several phone calls. And with the exception of one person who had a problem on point, so far the phone calls we've had have all agreed with what we've said.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we'll be back in a moment. We should not get.