



Ray Edwards Show, Episode 472

How to Grow Your Business in the New Economy with Online Video

Automated Speaker (00:01):

Ray Edward show episode 472 "How to Thrive in ministry and marketplace" with Jevonnah Ellison The Ray Edward show. This is the podcast for prosperity. With purpose.

Ray Edwards (00:19):

Welcome back to a brand-new episode of the Ray Edward show. You want your life to matter, want to be successful. Want to have influence and have impact. You want to keep God first in all of it, and perhaps sometimes you struggle with how do you do that? How do you make all those things happen? Here's another question to ask yourself. If you're not going to thrive in this time of challenge, what's the cost of not doing that. What's the cost of not achieving your goals? What's the cost of not living a life you vision for yourself before things went all chaotic and upside down? Here's the cost you risk living beneath your potential. And your potential is something that God created. Not you. You'll risk, not having a clarity or confidence that you need to move forward. You're stuck. In other words, today, we're going to help you get unstuck with my guest Jevonnah Ellison. She's a remarkable human being a blessed and dear sister of mine. I can't wait to share her wisdom with you. That's coming up next.

Automated Speaker (01:18):

Does anyone want to live a life that has long and prosperous spiritual foundations.

Ray Edwards (01:22):

Spiritual foundations this week is quite simple. It comes from Proverbs three, verse six. Remember the Lord and all you do, and he will give you good success. What does it mean to have good success? There is no such thing as bad success. Isn't there? That's the progressive realization of unworthy goals, goals that are not worthy of you goals or do not call you up to your potential. Good success is success to this progressive realization of worthwhile goals, worthy goals, goals that are worthy of your calling. Be worthy of your calling set goals. That challenge you, that call you up to the

best as that is within you. It was placed there by your father. Remember the Lord and all you do, and he will give you good success.

Automated Speaker (02:06):

Now, simple hacks that make life cheaper, easier and faster Ray's tip of the week.

Ray Edwards (02:12):

This week's tip of the week is I'm revisiting an app. I've talked about in the past. You've heard of it before. I've tried many replacements. I've never found one that does the job. This one does for me. It's called Mind Node. If you're familiar with mind mapping at all, you probably know about mine mode, especially if mine mode, no, Mind Node, if you're on the Mac or iOS Mind Node is a mind mapping software for Mac and iOS. It is remarkable out of all the mind mapping software apps. I've tried. This one is the one that has the most beautiful, the most elegant, and the easiest to use and the most effective. And if you've never mind map, or don't just put it off as a trendy thing that only those other people do, this is a great way to capture your thoughts. This is how I use Mind Node; I use it to sure, my thoughts and ideas and pull them together into an outline that makes sense. I can then transfer it to my app, which is Ulysses and turned it into a blog post a podcast, outline a video script, whatever it needs to be a chapter of a book, but the idea capture and organization mode happens in Mind Node. Check it out on the app store Mind Node as the mind mapping software of choice, allah recommended by endorsed by yours truly Ray Edwards, check out Mind Node today. You'll thank me.

Automated Speaker (03:23):

And now our feature presentation.

Ray Edwards (03:27):

So, I'm so excited today to have a special guest on the show with me. And I'm just going to, I'm going to lavish you with praise Jevonnah for just a moment. She's the first lady of entrepreneurship. She helps leading ladies lead well. That's not what it says on your website, but I just said that. She's a coach, she's a teacher, she's a leader. Just listen to what some of the leaders that we, most of us know and love have to say about Jevonnah. Michael Hyatt says with Jevonnah, you're headed for an incredible future of growth and achievement presiding Bishop Charles E Blake's has after interacting with Jevonnah, your self-image will improve. Decision measures will increase, and you believe positively in yourself. Jeff going says, Javan is one of the most inspiring people I've ever met. Dan Miller says, when you coach with Jevonnah, your life will never be the same. It will be better. Cliff Ravenscraft says Jevonnah is a role model when it comes to running a successful business, while standing strong in your faith and the list of people praising, this lady goes on and on and on. And I'm so proud to call her a friend and to have her on the podcast and to see the things that she's doing. You are an amazing person. Jevonnah Ellison, lady J. Welcome.

Jevonnah (04:37):

Oh, wow. Thank you so much, Ray. It is an honor to be here with you.

Ray Edwards (04:42):

So, it just so happens. We're recording this on Juneteenth, and it'll publish a week later or so, but could, for those who don't understand, could you explain what Juneteenth is because this is new to a lot of people?

Jevonnah (04:54):

Absolutely. Juneteenth is really a historic day of freedom. And I'll give you a little bit of history. Back in on January 1st, 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the emancipation proclamation, kicking off the long process of ending slavery in the United States, but it wasn't until two and a half years later that all enslaved people actually went free. So then on June 19th, 1865, Texas actually became the last state to recognize the end of slavery. And that's how we got the name Juneteenth because it became a milestone celebrated today as Juneteenth or what others know as Freedom Day, and so a lot of different organizations, especially right now in the wake of the whole situation with racism and BLM and everything else that's going on. A lot of organizations are choosing to celebrate this special day and realize that we still have a long way to go.

Ray Edwards (05:56):

Yeah, thanks for sharing that. And we do still have a long way to go. So, I mean, this is something I feel like we should talk about in this conversation. I've got other things I want to discuss with you, but this is so current and so vital and so important. Let me just back up and say, as a young fellow growing up in the South Eastern US I got the story of the history of America and about our great battle for freedom and our declaration of independence, getting free from the oppression of the King of England, how all men are created equal. And then later I found out, well, even our founding fathers whom we idolize kind of didn't do that. Well, like all men are created equal, except we still have slaves. So, this, this Juneteenth Freedom Day, I feel like that that's the day we celebrate as the day, we finally decided to live up to our own ideals.

Jevonnah (06:51):

Yes, absolutely.

Ray Edwards (06:53):

We still have work to do living up to them, but we decided as a nation. So how should we be responding? Talk to us about black lives matter. And I feel like there's a, there's a lot of discomfort around this subject and there should be. So, I think that's appropriate to me. It seems the real question is how do we sustain the momentum of the increased awareness and increased freedom and increased equality? How do we keep that going? That seems like the question.

Jevonnah (07:24):

Yes. And that's such a great question, too. It starts with doing things like you are doing today. You are opening it more space for people in your audience to share and to listen. You are actively listening, actively participating, you know, in order for the conversation to continue past this whole. Well, some people may call just a trend or something that, you know, is just going to be a flash in the pan. We have to start with

something that's called courageous kindness. It's so funny because right after I saw the George Floyd video, and before I read anybody's commentary or listen to anybody else's opinion, the first thing that came to my mind was what we can do to help come back. This whole thing about systemic racism is we have to take individual responsibility. What, regardless of what color we are to have courageous kindness, and that's going to look different for every single last person, but that's going to be one of the ways that we can have this conversation long after 2020, I was just reading a book before we popped on the call today, that's called three practices for crossing the difference divide by Jim Henderson and Jim Hancock. And they were outlining three practices. The first practice be unusually interested in others. And that involves people who are different than you who think different than you who look different than you white people being interested in black people. I mean, really caring, not giving a handout, but really believing in them, right, doing it, genuinely doing it, sincerely staying in the place of uncomfortability with their differences. A lot of times we get to a place where people feel like I don't agree with that and I'm immediately turning it off or I don't, you know, I don't hold true to that philosophy. And I'm immediately moving forward. One of the ways that we can grow is by listening intently and listening well, and the third is stop comparing my best with your worst. You know, I typed in here, I was doing some thoughts and some notes because I've been having a lot of my non-black non-black friends who I'm so blessed to have many have asked me, Jevonnah, what can I do during this time? How can I learn? How can I lead during this time? And so, I posted this, and I shared this, not just for them, but for all of us. And question number one was, if you haven't spoken out at all during this time, ask yourself why, if you feel uncomfortable using your platform to stand up for justice, ask yourself why. And again, this goes back to the whole level of individual responsibility.

Ray Edwards (10:12):

Yeah.

New Speaker (10:12):

Getting to the root and the core. And I'll go through a few more questions a little bit later, but it really does start with taking individual responsibility, being willing to ask hard questions and then being willing to tell the truth. When we do ask those hard questions.

Ray Edwards (10:28):

What does that look like? I want to camp on that for a minute.

Jevonnah (10:30):

Well, since we're talking about black lives matter, and we're talking about blacks and the systemic racism part questions looks like, how have I treated black people differently? Even if it was, you know, subtly or even if it was, you know, without even thinking about it, how, how by allowed racism, even when it was happening in front of me, how have I allowed it to continue? Did I speak up? Did I say anything? Or did I just say, Oh, look, look at that nice black boy, or, you know, you'll get through it or look at, you know, she'll get an opportunity a little bit later, you know, think about those things. Look back at your family and the history. Oh my gosh. You know and see what

your parents thought, and your great grandparents thought and do some deep work because there's deep work to be done.

Ray Edwards (11:25):

Yeah. I mean, that, that hits home so closely because I, I have been introspecting and walking through a lot of that and thinking about, as I look back at my great grandparents and remember some things that they say they would say, and that they thought were okay. And even like my grandfather, whom I loved and adored, and I almost sat on a pedestal, he was a man of God he was a very caring, compassionate man. He had some deep seeded racist ideas. He was very kind to everyone, but he just had some, some things that he would say and things that he just assumed were true that were, were incorrect. And then there were others in my family. I mean, I grew up in the Southeastern us, and a lot of my family are, I would call them heal people. You may call them hillbillies. Sometimes I call them hillbillies. And some were just overtly, some are still overtly racist. And one of the things I've realized is, at times in the past, they, they might make some remarks or say something, and I might call them out, or I might not feel as, too uncomfortable. And I realized, okay, from this day forward, I'm never going to let that slide again. I feel like it's important for us to stand up for each other.

Jevonnah (12:46):

Yes. And not only is it important for us to stand up for each other, but when we can feel, when we can feel the heartbeat of those who are underprivileged, those who are condemned by society, those who feel are made to feel less than because a lot of people, a lot of black people are made to feel invisible by their white counterparts made to feel like we have to work twice as hard and don't be black and a female. Right? So, there's that there's that level to deal with, but opportunity is available for all of us. And yes, we get to make wise choices and wise decisions. But at the same time, what's at the root and what's at the heart of the whole black lives matter movement is that we are addressing what has been happening for years. And what so many, even including black people have conveniently ignored or not paid attention to because I'm just going to get on with my life. You know, I'm not going to pay it to, I'm not going to look that way, you know? And it's that, it's that ignoring that is causing a lot of the problems that we're having today because people say, well, that's not my problem. That's not my issue. I'm just going to work on me, myself and my personal element. And there's nothing wrong with that. That's where we have that courageous kindness. But in order to have that courageous kindness, you have to reach your hand back and say, okay, what's really going on here. And how can I use my platform? How can I use my voice to help speak out and make change?

Ray Edwards (14:19):

I've heard some people make a remark like this. I just can't wait for this news cycle to be over, and I'm like, well, because the new cycles over doesn't mean the problem went away.

Jevonnah (14:32):

That's exactly right.

Ray Edwards (14:34):

My feeling is on the problem. My job is to be aware of it in myself and to change my behavior. And I mean to what extent I can, I, that's not like I'm super powerful. I, I have, I tell people, ask me, what do you do? And sometimes I jokingly say, well, I'm famous to a really tiny group of people on the internet. But to that, to my tribe, to the people who listen and follow, I've got an opportunity to amplify other people's voices, which I have done in the past, but I've got the opportunity to listen to new voices I haven't heard before. And that is exciting to me. I think that's something we can all do.

Jevonnah (15:16):

Yes, yes. That opens up the door for growth. And that opens up the door for change when you are willing to have that discussion. And it's interesting because, you know, we can't paint one person's action. You know, we can't just say every police officer is like Derek Shovan, but there's been enough hurt, there's been enough pain down through the years, down through history where people are saying, you know what? You hit me in the same spot. And that's reminding me of what has happened over and over again. My dad is a retired police officer for LAPD. And so that's one of the reasons how I know that you can't paint everyone with the same brush, but it does mean that we need to get in there, help change systems, help change laws as much as we can and make a significant difference by our individual actions. So, I love what you're doing.

Ray Edwards (16:09):

Yeah. I that's, that's such an important point. My brother-in-law is retired now, he was the chief of police was a sheriff in Allegan County, Michigan. And so, I've, I've had deep insight into the life of law enforcement officers and that we all know, I think we all knew this. There are people on the police force who should not be there. They are narcissistic, power-mad, this is an excuse for me to beat people up, to be a bully. Those people need to go. That's absolutely the wrong people to be in those jobs. Um, that doesn't mean that I don't respect and admire and appreciate the sacrifice that the majority of police officers and law enforcement personnel represent. I, I appreciate them. And I admire their bravery and their willingness to do a job for not enough pay to protect all of us, but that's the thing they need to protect all of us,

Jevonnah (17:07):

Right. To serve and protect. And even to that point, the training programs, I would be curious, I would, I would love to be a fly on the wall and see what they actually have to go through before they get that certificate. Or before they get that license before they get that badge that says, okay, yes. Now you have passed the necessary litmus test to serve and protect. This is where emotional intelligence having emotional intelligence and having courageous guy, those two things, something needs to be implemented with our new testing for officers that are supposed to serve and protect. Right. I know you can find, I know you can, you know, I know you can predict, but how, what your emotional intelligence, like, what is, what is your heartbeat like, right. Is there going to be that courageous kindness as you serve and protect as you're supposed to do?

Ray Edwards (17:58):

Yeah. I mean, if we're giving people the power of life and death,

Jevonnah (18:01):

Right.

Ray Edwards (18:03):

They need to, we need to make sure they're wise enough and trained in how to administer that power very carefully and to be very accountable. So, I'm wondering if you, you said you had some more questions to read. I feel like these came from that Instagram post I saw or part of it. Would you mind sharing the rest of the questions? We'll see where that leads us.

Jevonnah (18:25):

Okay. So question number three is if you feel comfortable posting about the women's March or the climate March or personal growth and development or sales funnels or launches or live events and everything else that we do, but not about justice for black lives, ask yourself why number four, take a moment and reflect on your childhood and your high school days. And really think about all the times that racism was apparent, joked about, and talked about as a part of everyday life. Sit with that, no matter how minute or subtle it is, sit with that for a moment. Number five, ask yourself how many black businesses you support. Number six, call out your colleagues when they say something racist.

Ray Edwards (19:20):

Yes.

Jevonnah (19:20):

It takes bravery to do that, calling them out is what is going to help change happen little by little by little number seven, call out your friends when they say something racist. Number eight, call out your family. When they say something racist. Here's the point. Have the discussion be brave, be vulnerable, but please do not hide from this because your silence is deafening. A lot of us as black people, we look up to a lot of white men and women, a lot of the us in the personal development space or whatever it may be. And I know you and I both know one loved Michael Hyatt and I absolutely my heart leaped for joy. When I saw him post just a statement about how he's committed to grow and learn in this process. I am, go ahead.

Ray Edwards (20:14):

Yeah, mine, mine did too. And I mean, honestly, Michael is a friend and he's also a mentor and leader to me, I feel like he's my older, wiser brother, not much older, but a lot wiser. And so, when he made that post, I, I felt like that's instinctively what I wanted to say, but I was looking for the leaders that I look up to to confirm that, and that's what we need to have happening. And so, for, for those who are listening to this, who are white leaders, there's an answer for you, what you can do.

Jevonnah (20:52):

I mean, just acknowledging it. Cause I said earlier, that part of the problem is ignoring it and making it invisible. And when you acknowledge it, and it's funny because even without him posting that video, I knew his heart, even from it, because I've done life with him for so long. So, I knew his heart in the beginning. And how did I know his heart from spending time with him from time to time to see how he treats his family, even his black grandchildren, right? Just getting down to that level, but whatever you do, just please don't hide from this because silence is deafening. And when you don't give people any news, they're tempted to take the worst idea, right? People would prefer bad news than no news. And we lead them to assumptions when we remain silent and all those assumptions, aren't always good. So, if you are a leader, which you know, everybody listening to this podcast is spoken out in some kind of way. Even if it's just with your family. Then the rest of the post is some, some are posting on social media. Some are protesting in the streets. Some are donating silently; some are educating themselves. And then some are having tough discussions with friends and family. A revolution has many lanes be kind to yourself and to others who are traveling in the same direction. Just keep your foot on the gas. Don't treat this like a trend but keep your foot on the gas by having courageous kindness and keep moving forward.

Ray Edwards (22:20):

Love that.

Jevonnah (22:21):

Thank you.

Ray Edwards (22:22):

Love it so much. I have one comment that I will add is I would encourage all of us to not look at this as something like, Oh, I have to say something. I'm going to do it and hope this dies down soon. That's I would invite you to, re-examine why you're having that thought because we have, I feel like we have a window to fix this problem. It's going to take a long time.

Jevonnah (22:49):

Yes.

Ray Edwards (22:50):

I think we're sowing seeds for the next generation.

Jevonnah (22:53):

Yes.

Ray Edwards (22:55):

That doesn't mean we're putting it off on them. We got to do the hard work. So, they don't. So, they have less of this problem to deal with.

Jevonnah (23:03):

That's right. That's right. Ray, can I share a story with you?

Ray Edwards (23:06):

Please.

Jevonnah (23:08):

So, I'm from Los Angeles originally and I had just moved to Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama, which is where the heart of so much pain is. This is where I live now. Um, courses, you all know the heartbeat of the civil rights movement as well. Um, and I moved here because of my husband and I remember it was probably my second year being here and I was on my way home. It was early in the morning, cause on my way, home from the gym and I was getting ready to turn. And as I turned, the, the light had just turned yellow. And so, I just went ahead and went, cause the light had just turned yellow. Well, not too long after that, I see lights behind me. And I'm saying to myself, that's funny. I wonder he must let me try to get out of his way because I thought surely, he was going for somebody else, but no, he kept following me. And so, I pulled over to the side of the road. There actually wasn't a road, there was a parking lot. I had to pull into an office Depot parking lot. And I remember this officer got out of his car and would not tell me why he pulled me over. He walked around my car several times, looked at my license plate, did whatever on his little, you know, device. And I'm saying to myself, I wonder what he's doing. W why did he pull me over? And then I had to ask him, officer, may I ask why you pulled me over? And he told me, because you ran that yellow light back there. Now I've been taught as a black woman. You know, I, you know, on the inside I'm boiling, but I know that this is not the time to act out. This is the time to show respect. This is the time to, you know, do all the right things. So, after I, you know, are you kidding me? This is what I'm saying to myself. Then he calls for another police officer. Again, I have no communication with him. Now there are two cop cars. So now it's a scene

Ray Edwards (25:19):

And that's super intimidating

Jevonnah (25:20):

Very much so, very much so because I had run a yellow light and then he did some more things. And I think he looked up some things. And finally, he said, miss, just be more careful next time. And let me go. But I sat there. I sat there for at least 25 minutes in this parking lot at office Depot with two cop cars. And it was almost as if they were assessing who is this black woman to be driving this nice car in this nice neighborhood and for running a yellow light,

Ray Edwards (25:59):

Which as far as I know in most States is not a crime. Just, I, I have no words. That's,

Jevonnah (26:07):

It's real. I just want you to know it's real. What we're talking about is real. And while it certainly won't happen to everyone, I thank God for that experience because, it's made my heart much more sensitive to the reality of what we're going through right now.

Ray Edwards (26:27):

I mean, it's hard to hear, but I've been talking to lots of black friends who are now. I mean, most of them have said some version of, well, I never shared this before because it felt like they didn't say you wouldn't be interested, or you wouldn't want to hear it. But I mean, that's the reality. And so now the dialogue has opened up and I hear it and it just breaks my heart and it makes me angry.

Jevonnah (26:51):

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ray Edwards (26:53):

So, this is why we have to make sure we don't drop this when the news cycle is over.

Jevonnah (27:00):

That's absolutely right.

Ray Edwards (27:01):

So, this feels like in guide me if I'm wrong, but I feel like this is a good place to talk a little bit about your business you can do and what you're building there. And then how does this integrate, how are you going to be working on this issue going forward and still doing business?

Jevonnah (27:20):

Absolutely. The Lord has given me a passion to help people start and grow their own businesses while keeping God first in the process. So, what that looks like is helping them to clarify their purpose, amplify their strengths, and thrive financially from what they already know. And I remember you did a training years ago that I still have the notes for, I'm a product of so much of your trainings down through the years. Um, and it has blessed me in ways that you may never even know. And so, I thank you for that. Thank you for walking in your calling, which allows me to help walk in mine. So I work with high achievers all over the globe and coaching for about 18 years now, formally in business for the last seven and work with clients from all over the globe, helping them to start and grow profitable businesses just out of client recently reached the quarter of a million dollar Mark and others that are just starting getting clarity and just really doing well in their companies, but the key factor, the foundation of it all is that they keep God first. Every year I do a thrive summit where entrepreneurs from all over come together right here in the heart of Montgomery, Alabama. And we do a business and leadership conference and how I believe this movement is blending together with that. And I love how God works because Brian Stevenson, who was over the equal justice initiative, if you have not been to the legacy museum, which is in Montgomery, Alabama, I would highly, highly recommend that you get to the thrive summit in 2021, because that's going to be a part of the history. I'm going to take some of the attendees

who come and show them Martin Luther King Jr. His home, where he lived not far from Dexter Avenue Baptist church, where he pastored, and his home was actually just 18 minutes away from where I live right now.

Jevonnah (29:07):

So, it's going to be a part of the history Brian Stevenson has. So graciously agreed to be a part of the thrive summit next year. And so, we are just, I really believe this is our time. I feel the responsibility and also feel the weight and the heaviness of being a leader right now and speaking up and speaking out, I've got a lot of my black friends looking at me and saying, Jevonnah lady J how should I, what should I kind of thing. And then I have a lot of my white friends saying the same thing. How should I, what should I? So, this is going to be that space where I belong after 20 is gone. This is something that we're going to be continuing to do, bring awareness, um, not just awareness, but also change. Um, having ongoing prayer and justice walks, I've got a T shirt on right now. My sister actually sent it to me, but it says, pray for justice against racism and making that an ongoing thing. So that's a part of what we do. And I'm, I'm just so honored. I'm delighted to help bring change to our community into our world.

Ray Edwards (30:07):

Love that. So, I was going to have you speak at our live event, which we had to cancel because of the pandemics. So now I've got to make plans to attend your event. I've been there to the city, but I've never toured the landmarks or the center. So, I want to do that. I love that idea. That's going to be a powerful experience. I know.

Jevonnah (30:29):

Oh my gosh. Yes. Oh, I'm so glad you're going to try to make plans to attend, because I know that you have a message that so many are waiting to hear as well. It's a conference like none other, I mean, this last year, God poured out his spirit. I remember you talk about at your conference, you know, the worship that just broke out and the praise that just broke out, it was so powerful. Talk to me about that a little bit.

Ray Edwards (30:54):

It came in such an unexpected way. Doug Pew, he's one of our certified copywriters and on our staff now he works for us and writes copy. And he wrote this piece when he, okay, let's back up and tell the story. He came to a training in Spokane and he is a classical composer and conductor. Like he has a doctorate in this and conducted orchestras and written an opera. And so that's his background. And I was telling a story about Beethoven and how inspired I have been by Beethoven because he did all of his greatest work after he went completely deaf and his Opus, the, the, the work that he's, that changed music forever, uh, is something that we know is owed to joy. And he wrote that when he was completely 100% deaf, couldn't even hear the applause when the house where that was hosted, it was an historic event, never had there been and attempt at making something with so many instruments.

Ray Edwards (31:56):

So many parts were a chorus. And so, his soloist had to come to the Maestro and turn him around. So, he could see that the crowd was on their feet. And I told, told this story, and Doug sort of came alive and said, well, you got a few details wrong. And so, we began talking about it and he told me about Beethoven's anger over his deafness. Yeah. He was so angry with God. And he had this fury. And so, Doug would sit with me and was playing Beethoven and say, listen to this. This is the Moonlight Sonata. And people think it's about peace but listen to how angry he's got this building fury. And it's like the he's the hero in the hero's journey, but he's filled was furious. So, Doug did a called the hero's fury. And when she came out and told this story, he wore his conductors tales.

Ray Edwards (32:45):

He had a piano and he played parts of the music of Beethoven. And he just told this inspiring story about how you're your greatest challenge in life can be the crux of your mission. That can be your heroes fury that you use to, to build from. So, he got everybody stirred up and then I think the spirit began to move in the crowd and that got everybody stirred up. And Leslie Samuel, who is our MC, he was supposed to just come out on the stage and just introduce me, but there's, I hear there's a long silence. And then I hear Leslie quietly say, I think we're supposed to sing down at the piano and starts to play. It is well, and there were no words on the screen, but everybody began to sing. And so, this, this whole place in, in the factory in Franklin, Tennessee is filled with people singing.

Ray Edwards (33:48):

This hymn spontaneously arose. And so, lots of people were crying and overcome. And I was one of them. And then Leslie says, and now here's Ray. And I made my way on stage and I was just rendered speechless. And I talked for about 20 minutes. I don't remember much of what I said, but it ended with lots of people in prayer. And I guess it was a sermon. It wasn't supposed to be, that's what I thought, I think it was supposed to be. But we had so many reports of people being, people, being saved, people, being healed, marriages, being restored, all these things that came out of that, which were none of our plan. We made space for what was happening.

Jevonnah (34:33):

Yes. Ah, I'm so glad you shared that story, Ray. Because you said something key in there and that is you made space for what was happening and really at the root of this whole thing that we're going through, making space for allowing God to use us as his vessels of change is what's going to bring about the change and remembering that there is so much power in prayer. You know, so many people have so many opinions right now. And if you, if you're not careful, you'll know, you'll get sucked into the vortex of the news and, you know, anger and everybody else's feelings. But at the core of it all, sometimes we just need to turn off all the noise, come away and get into our two chairs, which is a prayer. Have you heard of the book called two chairs by Bob iodine? Oh my gosh.

Jevonnah (35:31):

It is phenomenal. The whole idea with two chairs is that you set up two chairs in your prayer room or your war room or wherever it is that you have your devotion and each chair is facing the other. And the whole idea when you sit in your two chairs is that you talk for one minute and then you allow the Holy spirit, the spirit of God to talk to you for three minutes, because the whole idea is we're coming to, we're coming to our prayer. We're coming to that time to get direction and instruction for our next steps and for our, our, the wisdom and guidance that we need. And it's so powerful. The first time I did it, I couldn't even say a word. All I could do is just, and I felt as if God got up from his chair and came to where my chair was and just put his arms around me and in that embrace, everything was understood. So, having that prayer, that's where we get our direction for how to bring about change, to how to have courageous kindness, to how to allow this whole racism issue. The whole black lives matter movement to how to allow it, to grow beyond just what everybody is talking about right now, but to create lasting change

Ray Edwards (36:46):

So much packed into what you just said. Cause I mean, as, as I was growing up in the Southern Baptist convention, and by the way, if you're Southern Baptist, look up the history of your denomination, you might be surprised at what you find about why it was formed. Just little tantalizing homework for you to do. I was taught a mode of prayer. I don't think it was anybody's evil intention. I want to be clear about this, but I think many of us were taught and raised in through habit and imitation of what we saw the prayers about talking. And so, as an adult, it revolutionized my life. When I realized maybe prayer could be about listening powerful. And I know during a recent time of prayer, I was asking God, what do I need to do about black lives matter? And through my listening for a long time, the only thing I kept hearing was, do you think I want justice? I'm not saying that's what everybody will hear, but for me it was very clarifying. So, two chairs,

Jevonnah (37:49):

Two chairs. Yeah. I remember when I was at Martin Luther King Jr's house, I was taking the tour and I was sitting in his kitchen holding the very coffee cup that he was holding. They still have all

Ray Edwards (38:03):

Can we just pause on that for a moment and recognize how amazing that is?

Jevonnah (38:07):

It was Epic. I mean, I was changed forever after that moment. So, they give you a full tour of all the bedrooms, everything, the house, the porch that they bombed, everything. And the end of the tour ends in the kitchen where Marla's the King is giving a speech about where he was having a very human moment, a moment of, should I do this? Should I keep doing this? God, I'm tired. Is this really what you called to God? Yeah. I feel like I'm by myself, you know. And he was just going through so much trauma so much, uh, just a human moment, just a real human moment. And so, I remember I was sitting at the kitchen table holding the very coffee cup that the tour guide told me that he had in his hand that day. And I remember as he, as I was listening

to his voice, giving that speech, he said, Lord, help me to stand up for mercy justice, righteousness and truth, mercy justice, righteousness, and truth.

Jevonnah (39:11):

Yeah. At the end of the tour, the guy gave us a little quiz and he said, who out of all, the people in this group can remember the four things. Martin was the King prayed for it to stand up for, out of all the 20 people in my little group, I was the only one who was able to repeat when he said he was going to stand up for. So, in that moment, something just happened not only to be holding those same coffee cup, but to be able to feel the burden of what he was carrying. It was powerful. It was powerful.

Ray Edwards (39:41):

Wow. How can people, I'm going to tell people how they can find you because I'm so jealous. You actually have a domain name that is just your first name.

Jevonnah (39:49):

Yes.

Ray Edwards (39:51):

Jevonnah.com. That is amazing. How in the world did you make that happen?

Jevonnah (39:54):

I thank my mom and dad, well, um, again, big shout out to Michael Hyatt. A Megan, when I first started my company, I got a platform. I got a member makeover inside of platform university. And I at first had my, my long name. I even had the title of my church, calls me lady Jevonnah, Ellison. And that's just too long for anybody to remember. So, I said, you know what, let me see if I can just get my first name domain. And they encouraged me in that way. Just if it's available, I got my first name domain. I think I only paid \$14 for it. Yeah.

Ray Edwards (40:28):

If you're wondering it's J E V as in Victor, O N N A H

Jevonnah (40:32):

That's right. Dot com.

Ray Edwards (40:34):

V as in Victory.

Jevonnah (40:35):

Victory. That's exactly right.

Ray Edwards (40:38):

Jevonnah.com. And there's so much richness to be found there anywhere else that people should look for you online, any resource or something you'd like to talk about or point them to.

Jevonnah (40:46):

Absolutely. So, I've got a free complimentary Facebook group. If you're on Facebook called Thrive in Ministry and Marketplace. If you're looking to blend those two together, just search Facebook for thrive in ministry and marketplace. And also, when you go to Jevonnah.com and sign up there, you will get a complimentary, uh, leadership training, a complimentary leadership training alive. It's not prerecorded, but it's a complimentary live leadership training that I do every week. I would love for you to be a part of it.

Ray Edwards (41:15):

Yes. I would love for you to be a part of it too. This is my sister. Listen to her.

Jevonnah (41:19):

Thank you, Ray.

Ray Edwards (41:20):

So now here's a question for you. Are you ready to thrive? Are you ready to live up to your potential? Let me know. Posted in our VIP text chat, you can join the chat club at (509) 245-2670. Just text me at (509) 245-2670. Yes. That is my text number. Yes, I do read every message. Yes, I do respond to everyone. I possibly can. It's getting so big. I can't get to all of them all the time, but I read every single one of them. I promise (509) 245-2670. (509) 245-2670. Text me today. And finally, are you subscribed to the podcast it's free and I don't want you to miss a single episode. You can subscribe in your podcast directory of choice or use the easy one-click subscription links for free at Rayedwards.com/472, or just go straight to Rayedwardspodcast.com until next week. My friends may you enjoy long life, good health and great prosperity, peace to you and peace to your house.

Automated Speaker (42:18):

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[END OF AUDIO]