



## HANDOUT FOUR: **ON HOPE,** **INTERVIEW ARCHIVE**

**Directions: Underline key phrases and new details as you watch and listen to the interviews.**

### **ANTHONY RAY HINTON**

When I met Hayes, I didn't know who Henry was. After talking to him, and getting to know him, when I finally found out who he was, it really didn't matter, because I got to know a person that wasn't who he was when he walked in there. The thing that sticks out with me about Hayes, is the fact that he had the courage to be willing to let someone teach him about love.

He didn't have a choice, that his mother, his father, his neighborhood, taught him about hatred. When people read my book and they, How could you? I say, "How could I what?" "How could you befriend a Ku Klux Klansman?" I said, "Let's back this all the way back. Let's back it back. Hayes was not born a Ku Klux Klansman. Those three Ks were added to his name by his father. Hayes was born Henry Francis Hayes at birth, but I can imagine his daddy being so full of hate, that he probably took his son immediately from the hospital home, because he feared that he didn't want his son laying next to no black person." I often asked people, let's examine this really closely. All of his life, he'd been taught to hate.

Where was Child Protective Service when this young boy was being mentally abused? Where was the school teachers when they went to school and I'm sure they heard him use words that were unbecoming of someone of not of hate. Why didn't they call the police? Had he went to school with marks on his arm, they would have called the police. By law, they have to report it. Then, I have to ask the question, where was this village that we say it takes a village to raise a child. Where was this village, when THIS young boy was being mentally abused? Well, the village came out when Hayes was ordered by his father to go out and kill the first black man that he encountered. Hayes encountered a 19-year-old black male, befriended him for a moment, only to hang him and cut off his genitals.

Well, this village now, decided that this world would be better if he wasn't in it. It sounds nice that it takes a village to raise a child. Oh, that sounds beautiful. Why didn't that village come and rescue this young boy? Now, what I'm more proud of that myself, and the other black men on Alabama's Death Row taught and showed Henry love, and showed him respect. Henry gave us the same love and respect, but on the night of Henry's execution, Henry said, "All of my life, I've been taught to hate black people. My father lied to me all of my life. He told me black people wasn't this way, and they wasn't that way, but I found that to be a lie." Henry said, "And, as I leave this world, the very people that my father taught me to hate, are the very people that taught me how to love, and this night, I leave this world knowing what true love feels like." That came out of a young man's mouth that had been taught hate all his life. I am one that believes that, just as hate is taught, you can teach love as well, and more so than teach it, show it.

### **BRYAN STEVENSON**

In fact, I get frustrated when I hear people talk about, "Well, if I'd been living during the time of slavery, of course I would have been an abolitionist." And most people think if they had been living when mobs were gathering to lynch people on the courthouse lawn, they would have said something to complain about that. Everybody imagines that if they were in Alabama in the 1960s, they would have been marching with Dr. King. And the truth of it is, is I don't think you can claim that if today you are watching these systems be created that are incarcerating millions of people, throwing away the lives of millions of people, destroying communities, and you're doing nothing.