



## RELIGION- DIVERSITY

### FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Mar 4

30 min.

When you hear "rock music," your first thought is likely not Christian. But film producer and author Mark Joseph argues there's been a fascinating, little-noticed culture shift in the music industry. He writes about it in his new book: *Rock Gets Religion: The Battle for the Soul of the Devil's music.*

Mark Joseph: The bottom line is that religious people dropped out of pop culture somewhere, in the case of music, somewhere in the late 60's early 70's and created their own subculture which we kind of derisively called Christian rock.

But that phenomenon has changed as a lot of those folks came back into the mainstream music business.

Sharyl: What time frame are we talking about where this change has happened?

Mark Joseph: A few things happened. American Idol really was impactful in causing our rock and pop stars to be picked by people and not moguls and in particular fairly secular moguls. The second was just an ethos was created in the religious communities to get back into the mainstream and not to be afraid or intimidated by being in the mainstream. So I think those are the key two things that happened in the late 90's, early 2000's. There was a moment in American Idol history when Adam Lambert faces off against Kris Allen and that is kind of the moment of impact because Adam Lambert is exactly the kind of rock star that would have been chosen by the Clive Davis David Geffen of yesteryear. Kris Allen was the nice boy next door the born-again Christian kid who sings at his church kind of a guy. Those two faced off and Kris Allen won the American Idol contest. That's the moment where it was clear what was happening.

Sharyl: Can you give us a couple of specific examples of why you're talking about, songs we might now be able to look up.



**Mark Joseph:** Well yeah if you look at the Grammys last year you all of a sudden have How great is our God which is a song you'd find in church on Sunday at a megachurch. You don't think it for the Grammys and the hip-hop setting.

**Sharyl:** How is it affecting us in the bigger picture? Why should we care, if at all?

**Mark Joseph:** Well I think as a parent, you know, you want your kids to be getting good messages in addition to what we're used to. Traditionally I think the Rock n Roll industry in the 60's 70's and 80's. So you're getting more conservative points of view. I was kind of tipped off in the early 90's when I turned on MTV and I saw Alice Cooper walking in on a couple about to have premarital sex and the song was called "Hey stupid." And I thought wait a minute this is odd to have the grandfather of rock telling a young couple to hey slow down a little bit.

**Mark Joseph:** I was backstage at a Megadeth tour and it was an alcohol-free zone at the time and I'm thinking this is not your father's rock star.

**Sharyl:** What if people say "Gosh I hardly think of rock n roll as Christian-esque. I don't think that the songs are. in fact, I think that's sort of a rough world.

**Mark Joseph:** Yeah I think, rock, rock got off to a bad start because in the 50's the religious community was freaked out by it didn't know what to make of it and resorted to burning records and so you ended up with this unnecessarily hostile relationship between rock and religion.

**Mark Joseph:** I think it's taken time for the religious leaders to go wait a minute we can utilize this can be part of what we do rock shouldn't our enemy. And I think it takes probably 20, 30, 40 years for them to figure that out and be more hospitable in particular religious leaders. I can give you an example. Elvis Presley his pastor allegedly gave them the choice of you've got to quit rock n roll if you want to follow God. Alice Cooper's leadership was a different ethos of stay put. Just change the content. The form itself is not evil.



**Sharyl: Are there some who think this is a negative trend?**

**Mark Joseph: Sure. If you're a person who doesn't like the idea of religion being in pop culture, this is your ultimate nightmare. Because it's everywhere and it's only increasing.**

**Mark Joseph: And the notion of that you have to separate or leave your religion at the door before you enter the public square is sort of an idea of yesteryear and believe it or not, Hollywood is much more open to this.**

**Sharyl: Are you a religious guy?**

**Mark Joseph: I don't if I'm religious but I suppose I attend church but I'm certainly a fan of the marrying of the two. I think it's nothing is more exhilarating than a deeply spiritual song. And so I'm definitely a fan of them joining forces and seeing what comes out of it.**

**Joseph notes that Hip Hop music is now seeing a significant mix of orthodox religious messages, delivered in the language of the street.**

## **2NEWS ON KJZZ**

**Thomas S. Monson Death** (Aired 1/3/2018 @ 7pm for 2 minutes) – The President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints died at the age of 90. Thomas S Monson dedicated his life to the LDS church since the age of 22 when he was appointed a church bishop. He then became the youngest church apostle ever at the age of 36. He served as a counselor for three church presidents before assuming the role of the top leader in February 2008.

**Monson Issues Faced** (Aired 01/03/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – As member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints mourn the loss of their president, Thomas S. Monson, we look back on some of the big issues he faced while at the head of the LDS Church. During his time as president, Monson defended the church's stance on gay marriage and women and the priesthood.



This story gives LDS historians a chance to explain how Monson dealt with the sensitive topics and shows our viewers how Monson will be remembered by both church members and religious scholars around the world.

**Monson Obit Controversy** (Aired 01/08/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – The New York Times is responding after getting backlash from tens of thousands of people criticizing its obituary of late LDS President Thomas S. Monson. A Times editor wrote a lengthy article saying they received hundreds of messages about the obituary and he concedes that what they wrote portrayed the public man not the private one. This story explains what was included in the controversial obituary, shows viewers what was written in the New Times article that spark controversy and gives the paper a chance to explain why they wrote the article the way they did. This story also explains some are pushing to get the paper to rewrite the obituary and we let viewers know what they can do to support that movement.

**El Salvador Local** (Aired 01/08/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – Some Utah families originally from El Salvador are now living in fear of being deported after President Trump says he will not renew temporary protected status. That decision will impact more than 200-thousand El Salvador immigrants living in the United States. Immigration officials here in Utah say several people are calling asking what's next for them. This story explains the President's latest move when it comes to immigration and gives a first-hand account of what it is like to live as an undocumented immigrant in Utah.

**Monson Viewing** (Aired 1/11/2018 @ 7pm for 2 minutes) – More than 20,000 people made their way through the LDS Conference Center in downtown Salt Lake City to pay respects to Church President Thomas S. Monson. The 16<sup>th</sup> president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints passed away January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 90. Church members from all over the state and country came to the viewing, some bringing flowers and other memories of the late church president.

**Monson Funeral** (Aired 1/12/2018 @ 7pm for 2 minutes) - Deceased Mormon President Thomas S. Monson will be remembered for helping church membership grow exponentially over a half-century and for his devotion to the poor and needy. About 11,000 people attended the service that rounded out two days of mourning and memorials for Monson, who died Jan. 2 at age 90. Monson's presidency was marked by his noticeably low profile during a time of intense publicity for the church, including the 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns of Mitt Romney. Monson's most public acts were appearances at church conferences and dedications of church temples.

**Instagram Picture** (Aired 1/17/2018 @ 7pm, 2:00 minutes) – Two Hurricane High School students are facing disciplinary actions after they posted a racist



photo on Instagram. The photo, uses the “N” word and was posted on Martin Luther King Jr Day. The school district says they are taking the matter very seriously. Meanwhile, the community is talking about the post on social media. The viewer learns about the post, the reaction from people online, as well as what the school district is doing about it.

**Imagine Dragon Interview** (Aired 01/26/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – The final showing of a documentary focused on shining a light on Utah’s LGBT teen suicide rate will be held at The Sundance Film Festival this weekend. “Believer” follows the lead singers of the rock bands, Imagine Dragons and Neon Trees, as they worked with LGBT youth in Utah while organizing a suicide awareness concert last fall. This story lets one of the lead singers, Dan Reynolds, share his personal story about his challenges as coming out as a gay Mormon. It also gives Reynolds and the documentary director a chance to explain why they feel the topic is one that needs to be talked about now and lets viewers know when and how they can see the film.

**Jon Huntsman Sr Dies** (Aired 2/2/2018 @ 7pm for 2 minutes) – Jon Huntsman, business mogul and one of Utah’s wealthiest residents, died on Friday at the age of 80. The billionaire businessman and philanthropist is known for starting the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, that seeks to find a cure for all cancers. Huntsman is a household name in Utah and far beyond, because of the legacy started with the Huntsman Cancer Institute. He will be buried in the next week.

**Olympic Meeting** (aired 2/7/18 @ 7pm, 1 minute 15 seconds) – Salt Lake City had put their hat into the ring to host another winter Olympics. The exploratory committee approved the decision and they said Utah is ready and willing to host another winter Olympics. The price tag for these games would cost \$1.3 billion. At this point, Governor Herbert signed the resolution and approved the report and now the U.S. national committee has 45 days to make a decision. This was significant because the Olympics were about to start and Salt Lake City has hosted the games in the past and there are many people in Utah who would like to see the winter Olympics back in Utah. This story explained the early steps to getting the city the nomination and it showed viewers what needs to happen for Salt Lake City to get the nomination.

**Church Sanctuary** (Aired 02/08/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – One woman living inside a Salt Lake City church to avoid deportation is now speaking out about her situation with a translator. Vicky Chavez and her children have now been living inside the First Unitarian Church for over a week after she decided to stay in Utah hours before they were supposed to board a plane to Honduras. This story explains how seeking sanctuary in a church works, gives this mother a



chance to explain why she decided to seek asylum and explain what the next step in her immigration battle.

**LDS Stake President Recording** (Aired 02/15/2018 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – A former member of the LDS church says her stake president disciplined her because she "talked too much." Tiercy Hadlock told the online site, "MormonLeaks," that she went to her church leader for comfort but she says she got anything but comfort. When the conversation started to go in a direction she did not expect, she pulled out her phone and started recording. In that recording, obtained by "MormonLeaks" you hear the man say Tiercy is being disciplined because she would not stop talking to other church members about the emotional affair her husband with another woman in their congregation. This story lets viewers hear the recording, gives the woman a chance to explain why she is going public with her story and gives the LDS Church a chance to respond to her claims.

**LDS Missionaries Teaching Online** (Aired 03/08/2018 @ 7pm, 2:00 minutes) LDS missionaries are knocking less on doors, and chatting more on computers, to spread their message. The church is now doing 24-hour global coverage online. There are hundreds of missionaries, teaching in dozens of languages. Last year, more than 14,000 people were taught the gospel through social media. The viewer learns the new way the church is trying to reach members through the computer and not going door-to-door.

**Jordan River Temple Tour** (Aired 3/12/2018 @ 7pm for 2 minutes) – After more than two years of waiting, the LDS Church is opening the doors to one of its busiest temples in the world. The Jordan River Temple will serve about 200,000 members in the Salt Lake Valley. The major renovation project started in February 2016, and involved completely gutting many rooms and rebuilding them. Public Open houses begin March 17.

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