



# On Carrying a Concern

## Episode 04: Jay O'Hara

### Questions for Individual or Group Reflection

Q1. Jay and Callid both say that they came to Quakers through the trajectory of Social Activism. How about you, why did you come to Friends? What attracted you and why did you stay?

Q2. If you look back on your life, can you point to a moment of conscience where you obeyed the “truth in your heart” rather than what was expected of you? What did you do or not do? What were the consequences? Do you connect this to your journey as a Friend?

Q3. Jay talks about having “profession without possession” in regards to his Quakerism. How do you understand this phrase? Does his story resonate with your life and experience?

Q4. Who “taught” you about worship, if anybody? Is there someone/s who has been formative in your understanding of what it meant to be a Quaker?

Q5. Jay says that he spent years in Meeting and immersed in Quaker life without experiencing the radical transformation of his life. At some point, it just “clicked.” Does this experience speak to your condition? If so, what is your story of conviction?

Q5. On accountability: Jay talks about loneliness. That what he is longing for is for people to show up and demand responsibility from him. Does this resonate with your experience? What does “accountability” mean to you?

Q6. Jay feels like if we actually give ourselves over (to God) we can't predict what we can do. His experience is that the more he gives over, the more he is given. How do you hear this? Does it resonate with an experience in your life?

Q7. Jay is clear that we, as humans, don't know the best outcome of our actions. Instead we can be curious and open to continual guidance. That allows us to be in the hands of God because we are not worried about how things are going to “turn out.” How does this speak to your experience or condition?

## Additional Resources and References Mentioned in the Episode

### **Lobster Boat Blockade**

Watch this QuakerSpeak Video, produced by Jon Watts, about the Lobster Boat Blockade: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=57&v=JRp4lZ6tXHE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=57&v=JRp4lZ6tXHE)

### **Conscientious Objection to WWII and Civilian Public Service**

- <http://civilianpublicservice.org/>
- The movie "[The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It](#)" documents the history of Conscientious Objection in WW2. It's available to rent on [Amazon](#). There is also information at [this PBS website](#).

### **Anchor Committees and Committees of Care and Accountability**

See the resources listed in Episode 03

### **The Work of the Elder.**

We talk about elders. Here's [Peter Blood Patterson's comprehensive blog](#) entry on the function and experience of the elder for personal ministry - and in Friends' Meetings.

### **Michael Birkel**

Michael Birkel, is a Professor of Christian Spirituality at Earlham School of Religion (not retired!). He is the author of many books on Quakerism and guides for Quaker Bible Study.

### **Pendle Hill**

Is a Quaker retreat and conference center outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They offer short and long term workshops on topics relevant to Quaker Faith and Practice. <https://pendlehill.org/>

### **Feminist Thought**

[Valerie Saiving](#) is a feminist theologian who addressed issues of power.

Charlotte Davis Kasl on [alternative 12 Step](#) for women that doesn't involve subjugating the ego - but building up self-image and self-confidence.

### **Howard Thurman and the Sound of the Genuine.**

This is an excerpt from a graduation address at Spellman College, an Historically Black College.

<http://www.dailygood.org/story/1846/the-sound-of-the-genuine-howard-thurman/>

### **Thomas Kelly on "Going the Other Half"**

<https://renovare.org/articles/pursuing-holy-obedience>

### **Scripture on Lilies of the Field**

Not worrying about how we are going to clothe and feed ourselves is the subject of both Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-32. Here is [a link](#) to those texts.