

Judy E. Campbell

In a paragraph describe how these songs have impacted the African American community during the time of slavery and till today

The aforementioned songs have influenced and impacted our African American community from slavery onto now in that these spirituals reflect the expectancy and passion of the faith that the slaves developed and passed on to their children.

Much like a nostalgic experience the hearing of any of these songs flood the mind and memory with warm reassuring feels of hope in the here and now as well as for eternity. Songs like "His name so sweet", "I know it was the blood" and "I want Jesus to walk with me" bring with their hearing the jolt of faith and confidence to empower the African American believer. That His name is sweet because He is love - unlike the slave Master; I know it was the blood, therefore we are covered and wont nothing happen to us that God himself has not allowed and with "I want Jesus to walk with me" (all along this pilgrim journey), we are not alone, we been taken away from the home we know but we are not alone.

These themes resonate in a people that have been oppressed and abused with hope and standard of life and living being taken away. The bible says that "hope makes not ashamed" (Rom.5:5). The shame of what was done to the African people lay upon their backs, but it was not their shame. It was the shame of their captors, but with the inability to help themselves (which continues in many aspects yet today) the slaves carried a sense of shame and unworthiness. This was psychological and emotional warfare added to the physical. But, we found a song...ah, ok I'm going to stop her Professor! I feel my help coming on (smile).

The importance of all the Negro Spirituals reflect the hope restored in a broken people. Their situation had not changed, but the were and are free from the inside out. They are able to sing a song in a strange land.