

Moment: Snow

Context: In *The Laramie Project*, these lines are scattered between lines from other people from the Moment. We have combined them into one monologue to best represent Reverend Fred Phelps from the Westboro Baptist Church. Phelps is known for his outspoken hatred of the LGBTQ+ community and in this moment, takes advantage of Matthew's death to make his own views heard all over the country. We acknowledge the use of a known anti-gay slur, but this production will be performed as written with the understanding that certain views are not shared by Infinity Performing Arts or members of the cast. To alter these real words spoken by real people, even and especially when fueled by hate, would be a disserve to the reality of Matthew Shepherd's death and those affected by it.

Rev. Fred Phelps: Do You believe the Bible? Do you believe you're supposed to separate the previous from the vile? You don't believe that part of the Bible? You stand over there ignorant of the fact that the Bible - two times for every verse it talks about God's love it talks about God's Hate.

We wouldn't be here if this was just another murder the state was gonna deal with. The state deals with hundreds of murders every single day. But this murder is different, because the fags are bringing us out here trying to make Matthew Shepherd into a poster boy for the gay lifestyle. And we're going to answer her. It's just that simple.

You don't like that attribute of God. That perfect attribute of God. Well, we love that attribute of God and we're going to preach it. Because God's hatred is pure. It's a determination - it's a determination that he's gonna send people to hell. That's God's hatred.

We're standing here with God's message. Is homosexuality - is being a fag okay? What do you mean it's not for you to judge? If God doesn't hate fags, why does he put 'em in hell? ... You see the barrenness and sterility of your silly arguments when set over against some solid gospel truth? Barren and sterile. Like your lifestyle. Your silly arguments.

When those old preachers laid their hands on me it's called an ordination. Then they deliver a charge. Mine was from Isaiah 58:1 - "Cry aloud. Spare not. Lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgressions."