Monday, August 12, 2013

Dear Matthew,

I first encountered Ray Brown through reading his *Birth of the Messiah* in 1978 (I think). I was deeply affected by the work. I even called Ray (out of the blue, completely unknown to him) to ask him some questions that were nagging me. He quite graciously talked with me for several minutes (long distance calling back then was expensive). When we were concluding our conversation I thanked him for taking the time to discuss matters with me. And he said, "Oh no, the thanks go to you for taking the time to read my book so carefully." Only later did I muster the courage to think about going to Union to study with him. I did. And it was one of the very best decisions that I have ever made.

Sincerely yours,

Marty