

10/11/23

Week 42: Rescue LIFE

James and Betty Robison

Robert Jeffress #1

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I want to welcome you to the program. Let me just tell you my voice is a little strained. Let me tell you why. If you'd been curling like this all day long, weights, you'd find they don't move. I don't have a sore throat, I have a vocal cord system that's worn out, speaking and preaching, and teaching one on one, three, ten, to leaders of every area of American life, business, church, national. I'm doing it for him but I've got to be honest with you, I love him with all my heart but you're my neighbor and I love you. I'm doing it for you and everybody in your family.

My guest is doing the very same thing. And I've had some of the most respected leaders on this planet say, we're not sure there is a more effective communicator, teacher of truth and preaching the word and leading people to believe for the impossible than Robert Jeffress at First Baptist Church Dallas. And I agree. He started listening to me when he was a boy. I don't know if he had reached his teens yet. But somehow, we connected back then, and he didn't dislike me. But then we began to see God do amazing things. Now, he and I are literally soldiers of the cross, and we are doing our best to not only love him but love you. And sometimes, the people we have to talk to, you talk to at great risk. But we risk it because you're worth it. And he gave his life to die for you.

Dr. Jeffress, I'm glad you're here. Let me just put it in simple terms. If we could get the body of Christ to look like him and behave like him, and the family of God to behave like the Father, we could put the loving arms of God around the world Jesus died to redeem. Does that make sense?

ROBERT: Well, it does because Jesus said that. He said by this people shall know you're my disciples. Not by your theology, not by your good works but by your love one for another. That doesn't mean we have to compromise on the truth but what unites us is so much more than what separates us as Christians. And it is time now for Christians to come together.

JAMES: Well, you know you and I have stood with some of the most difficult people to adjust. And we have risked a lot sometimes to stand and share truth in love, never wavering, God's principles, when it was a risk to even be known that you're speaking to these people. Look at all the people Jesus spoke to. Look at all the people the prophets spoke to. And you and I are doing it and there are people who go to churches who are fussing at us about it.

ROBERT: Yeah, the most vicious attacks have come not from unbelievers but from Christians who criticize the H-E-double-hockey-stick out of us for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. I don't get it.

BETTY: You've written at least 30 books, maybe more than that. But why did you, we're going to talk about your new book today, why did you decide to write about the Ten Commandments?

ROBERT: Well, my new book, *The Ten* is about the Ten Commandments. It is a fresh look at these commandments. But, Betty, the subtitle of the book explains the reason why people would be interested in it. The subtitle is: "How to live and love in a world that has lost its way."

I don't think it takes any convincing for your audience to say the world has lost its way. I mean the moral, the spiritual, the political chaos we're in all comes down to one reason, we have forgotten God. We have said we know better than God knows. And that is evident in the fact that 60 percent of Americans can't even name five of the Ten Commandments. People don't know God's commands and those who do know the

commands have no idea how to apply them in today's world. So this is a fresh way of looking at the basics upon which our nation, our world, and God's Word stands. And those are the Ten Commandments.

JAMES: All right, I think everybody that knows God, everybody that understands the basic principles of His Word, and how love and truth affect people in a profound and positive way when you look out at what you see in the news, there is no justice anymore. And it is because we've put God and his commandments, his wise guidance, we've cast them behind us. We've done what Romans one says, we have changed the truth, it isn't a matter of just resisting it or even denying it or disobeying it, we have changed it into a lie. That should concern all of us.

ROBERT: It should. I don't believe there is any doubt that this nation was founded as a Christian nation. Not everybody in America was a Christian but they generally accepted the Christian foundation.

But what happened is, people as time went on, fewer and fewer Americans embraced Christianity. And suddenly, we came to the 1960s and people said maybe we can be good without God. We don't need God to be good. And so there started this assault on Christianity, public displays of Christianity, prayer, and Bible in schools, 1962 eliminated Bible reading, 1963, and then it culminated in 1980 when the Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional in Stone versus Graham to display the Ten Commandments in the halls of Kentucky schools. And the reason, James and Betty—

JAMES: By the way, let's throw one in. They had also disregarded the value of innocent life in the womb.

ROBERT: Right! A little later on in 1973. But when they got to the Ten Commandments, this was the heart of it, and their reasoning was unbelievable. The Supreme Court said that if posted copies of the Ten Commandments are displayed it might motivate students to read, venerate, and even obey the commandments and this is

not acceptable under the Establishment Clause. I mean, it is just unbelievable. We can't post these because kids might read them. That was 1980.

Seventeen years later, at Heath High School in Paducah, Kentucky a 14-year-old boy got a handgun. And while students were praying before school in a prayer meeting, he walked up, opened fire, killed three, and seriously injured two, all happening in a Kentucky school where 17 years earlier the highest court in the land said you cannot post the words "Thou shalt not kill." Now that is why we're in the condition we're in right now.

BETTY: I remember, I was a senior in high school in 1962. I was in homeroom class and the principal came over the speaker and he said they just voted on taking prayer out of the schools. My heart sank. Here I was a senior in high school. I had always counted on that. I grew up thinking that prayer was important to our lives. And for them to announce that the next Fall there would be no prayer in the schools.

ROBERT: You know what is just astounding? After that ruling in 1963, another one came down and it was about a prayer that didn't even use the word *God* in it that students would recite. "We thank you, God for the bird so sweet. We thank you for the food we eat. We thank you for everything." The court said you can't say that because even though it doesn't mention God, it might cause students to think about God and that's unconstitutional. Now that's the foolishness of man.

JAMES: Okay, let's just ask a very honest question. If God said we're to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven," that's not something that's supposed to be a sentence that's wishful thinking. That asking kingdom come and his will being done is something that could happen. His kingdom did come.

A lot of the Old Testament didn't seem to understand the kingdom he was talking about. They still haven't understood the first kingdom and its effect like we should even today. The disciples had a hard time with it. But when he said the king is here, he is. And then

the king himself said, "The kingdom is in you." And then he came back later and said, "The kingdom is in you in resurrection power." But after the resurrection, he came back and explained it to them a little bit more. They didn't explain it but in the upper room they experienced it, and in the whole book of Acts they expressed it.

Now, I want to ask you this. Did the expression of the kingdom through those disciples touch every area of life on planet Earth? Every area of evil, every area of deception, every area of rebellion, every possibility of hope? Did they touch everything that God wants to be touched with his love, his life, and his truth?

ROBERT: Yes, it did and let me show you how. It started with 12 men. It expanded, it exploded the Christian movement, and within several hundred years the mighty Roman empire was nothing but dust. That's the power of Christianity. And I believe in a kingdom. I believe there is a future kingdom that's coming. What God wants to be done gets done everywhere. But we're not supposed to stay in our holy huddle and just talk to one another. We're supposed to share the love of Christ and the message of Christ with every aspect of public life.

You know, Jesus said you're the salt of the earth. Well, salt is a preservative. It didn't prevent the decay of meat, it slowed the decay of meat. But for salt to be effective, guess what? It's got to get out of the salt shaker and it's got to penetrate the meat. And we've got to penetrate this world.

Look, I don't believe God is any respecter of people or nations. I don't believe God gets goosebumps when he hears the Star-Spangled Banner or stands up and salutes when the American flag passes by. I think he has uniquely blessed America, but we're not exempt from God's law. God says, "I will bless any nation that reverences me and I will reject any nation," including the United States, "that rejects me." That's why the psalmist said, Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

And I believe that's why I wrote this book *The Ten* to say look, these are ten principles

for living. Now following them won't get you to Heaven when you die but following them right now will make a better kind of life than if you ignore these commands.

JAMES: You know he says we can do his will on Earth. You have—I don't believe we have to give our marriages to the deceiver and the destroyer, the divider. I don't think we have to give our community, I don't think we have to give our city.

I don't see you at First Baptist Church in downtown Dallas giving Dallas to the devil. Now he is doing his best to take over, but you're just letting him know, there is some territory you're not taking over. And I do believe that we can take authority over God's Earth and we can rule and reign in Christ and show people what it looks like to let him be first. It makes an impact on everything in a profound and positive way.

We're supposed to live to bless God and bless others. We don't live with the focus on us, we live on his will being done on his Earth. I have watched you inspire people to do his will on his Earth, and they do it in kingdom power and not their own. And I think if the church would come together in a unity that Jesus prayed for, I think we could shake the dominions and the kingdom of the devil and see God's will done on Earth. Do you agree with that? You and I have worked hard to see that.

ROBERT: I do! Again, I don't believe we're going to usher in the kingdom. The perfect kingdom is still yet to come. But that doesn't mean we hesitate to share the Word of God and do as much as we can to point people to Christ.

The greatest insight I ever got about the kingdom was right here in this television studio about 13 years ago. You had a group of leaders here and one of those leaders was a man now in Heaven, Dallas Willard. And Dallas Willard did more to teach about the kingdom than anybody. And he said you know a king's kingdom is anywhere that the king reigns. It is where what the king wants done, gets done. It is the territory over which he has authority.

Now, God has kingdom rule over the entire universe but there is only one square inch of this entire universe where God's will isn't being done completely right now. It is on that tiny little mud ball called planet Earth. And right now there is a rebellion. But one day that rebellion is going to be quenched, and God's will is going to be done everywhere.

But right now the mystery of the kingdom starts in the individual lives of believers. When we pray thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, "on Earth" means in my life. And when I submit to what the king wants to do. When I submit to his rule, when I obey the Ten Commandments, I'm saying God, I'm letting you have rule over my heart and I'm going to experience the benefits.

Guess what? You don't have to wait until you die to experience the kingdom blessings of following God. If you follow these commands, you're going to have a rich life no matter if the rest of the world is going to hell.

JAMES: You know Dallas Willard, when he came, here's why he came. He said, "Forty years I prayed for you. You're as powerful a preacher as is in the world. And the Lord showed me, you're going to experience an impact in the kingdom and you're going to help the whole church realize his will can be done through his church. And James..." So help me, that's why he was here, and his wife, because I remember, he said, "I don't care if it is 10,000 or 10, I'm going to be there with you." And before he died, he left everything to us in the will, the family did, that people gave. And he said, "I believe you will..." And he referenced the people in this room. And those people were in that circle, which was you. And you know, all those other men sitting here, they'd been impact people. They'd made a kingdom impact. He said, "I believe you will help inspire the greatest kingdom movement in history."

I said, "Well, I'd love to bring what's in your book to pass because you understood something that too much of the church has never made happen." And we're just one breath away from it.

Father, your will was done through those disciples and it was undeniably supernatural and miraculous. And what I watched with this man sitting in this studio is as undeniably supernatural as perhaps anything I've seen in any other individual. And the fact that we're close and love each other is an answer to your prayer. Now, Jesus, I would like for everybody watching and everybody they can touch to come together as a supernaturally unified family to make your kingdom impact on every person and every place they've been given an opportunity or given oversight of. Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven as possible, in Jesus' name.

It will never happen if we don't come back to what he said. These are not suggestions, they are commandments. Once you, now think about this, if you go there and I've asked you many times, go to Romans one, start at 18, and you will see given over to unnatural affections and given over to your appetites. But you go down and it looks like you're reading the newspaper. It looks like you're reading everything people talk about, what you see on television. But when you read it, the people who changed his truth into a lie could not reason together. This is how you get it back.

In the next program, we're going to talk about what it means not to put him first and what it means to put him first. But you're going to touch very specifically on some commandments that you think we can see clearly, undeniably the consequences of disregarding those commandments or even changing them into a lie. You do know how much Betty and I, and our audience, you know that nobody is loved more than Robert Jeffress on *Life Today*. You do know that.

ROBERT: It's mutual. It's mutual. Our church loves your ministry. And you know, I've told you a hundred times, before my dad died, you were so kind. You didn't know me, never heard of me. I knew you though. And my dad was a follower and before he died, he left LIFE Outreach in his will because he so believed in the ministry of what you were doing. That's money that could have gone to me! But no, I never would have—but no, he believed strongly in what you do.

JAMES: You can't believe how many people watching us have put us in their estate. And I've got to be honest with you, with all the things happening in the economy, if there weren't some of you who would go into your trust and say, I'm just going to give them a surprise gift. That surprise gift makes up for what people are struggling with when they even give 25. And your dad, it's not a surprise that he would be that way because there is so much in you, that Father put in you, but so did your dad.

I know you'll want to tell us in emails how much you love this man. You be sure to watch the next program and let's talk about this. This book is going to come alive. I've got news for you. It's going to bring you to life in many ways.

Now I think, Betty, everybody here knows, that when you watch us, we're going to ask you to touch an overlooked person, "the least of these," Jesus called them. And Doc referred to that a while ago. By the way, that's the only group you could see so clearly, Jesus made clear, that these are the sheep. You don't have to wonder about their future. These are sheep. They notice.

Betty, we notice the trafficked and we set them free. We reach out to them, we rescue them, and we restore them. But you do it. Without you it's impossible. Listen to our mission director right now. Listen to him. He's going to express God's heart and he's going to show you how you can do God's will effectively.

On the mission field

Open Captions

>> Border Crossing. South Asia. Used by human traffickers.

JOHN: So I'm here and I just walked the last 23 steps between these two countries that a child would take before they stepped off a cliff into a literal hell.

I'm so mindful right now of the trickery of the devil and how deceitful he is and how

much he lies to people to lure them into his pit. And friends, I can promise you right across that border is the pit that young people never come home from.

For children who have been lured, who have been made promises that they're going to have a better life, that they're going to get a job, that someone is going to marry them, that someone is going to love them—and they're all lies.

Standing here I realize how grateful—how grateful I am that we have partners on both sides of this border to help prevent and to help rescue and to help restore children's lives. But the fact is, without your help we can't keep those workers here so we need you and we need you right now. Your gift right now is the difference between someone who is rescued, someone who is prevented from being trafficked, or someone who is literally stepping off the cliff of no return.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: We are right now all over the world rescuing, reaching out, but then we begin to train them. All of this is made possible by the support of people like you. We rescued one child for \$128. That's the cost. That includes reaching out to them, oftentimes stopping the kidnapping and taking them. Oftentimes it is reaching into where they are and getting them out. So we rescue them but then we put them into a home which we built some of the largest and I'm told the largest in the world, in the sex capital of the world, and you're the ones that paid for all of it. It is \$128 to rescue one but now some of our viewers have given a \$320,000 pledge. This is the only outreach that we do where those people, that group says we'll do it again.

We didn't think you'd even watch this. There's too much, it looks like it's talking about sex. Well, it is—freeing people from sexual bondage. And we want to see people who are in the bondage that sends them to do that. We want God to set them free. So that's what we're about with this \$320,000.

Now think about this, \$128 doesn't rescue one, it rescues two. And we tell you the \$1280 will rescue ten now it is 20! I don't know what level you can support at but please God, let people know when they watch *Life Today* we'll not only try to invest in your life because that's really the reason we're here to speak God's truth in love and to your life and your family, but you showed us that you want to do what Jesus said we could do and we are touching the least of these. And he says when you do that, you're ministering to me, you're giving him a cup of water. All the things that we do for the least of these, Jesus says blesses him.

Betty, I believe our viewers are going to perhaps make the greatest gift right now than they've ever made in their life to see it doubled to help rescue these precious girls.

BETTY: I do too. I pray that you will. As you look at these precious children, and that's what they are, most of them, children that are just looking for hope in life. They're looking for a better life and they get trapped in this. And then they get captured and they can't get out of it and their little lives are just destroyed. So please join with us. Let's save everyone that we can.

JAMES: If you can give \$128, or whatever you give it will be doubled. Lord, help people to give the \$1280 that will reach not ten but 20. Help everybody reach out. Please do it! We're going to send you a beautiful 31-day devotional book. This has 31 devotions based on the Word of God and all that it means. But it is a place, also, where you can rejoice in the Lord and just apply what you've just read that day.

And then we're going to send you *The Gospels*, a study of each gospel in the King James version. But on the next page is a place for you to take notes about that chapter. It's Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And you're going to enjoy this.

And then, you know what I think about these beautiful cardinals because our beautiful daughter that is in heaven with four grandchildren here, she has only seen from heaven,

this was her favorite. Okay, she was a St. Louis Cardinal fan too. But she thought the cardinals were so beautiful. And everybody tells us they love this bronze. If you can make a gift of \$1280, we'll gladly send that to you, along with the other material. Thank you for helping us put God's arms of love around the overlooked.

Go online right now, call that number, get your bank card, use it like a check, and make the best gift you can. Let God lead in the giving. Please do it right now. Please!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: *Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, forced into the evil industry of human trafficking.*

Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children who are at risk for sex trafficking, rescue those already enslaved, and restore young lives and give them a future. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to help reach, rescue, or restore one child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help save one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift today, we'll send you "Declare." This beautifully designed 31-day devotional reveals 31 names of God from scripture and gives insight into the character, grace, and the depth of God's love for you.

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive The Gospels book set. This special edition collection of the four gospels in the classic King James version includes journaling space opposite each page of scripture so you can reflect as you read. The perfect companion for your daily time with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help save 20 children. And you

may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Consider the Birds."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Betty, I'm believing for a supernatural response. Let me tell you something. This is really important. Dr. Jeffress didn't write this, he expounded on them. You help us rescue some of those precious girls, and give them a future, and if you want this book, you can get it in the bookstore or online, and we'll send it to you to say thanks. I know Doc will love that.

Dr. Jeffress, we're going to talk about these in very specific terms in the next program. Thank you for being with us.

ROBERT: Can't wait to be back! Thanks so much for having me.

BETTY: Good to see you.

JAMES: See you next program.