

3/11/24

Week 11: Rescue LIFE

James and Betty Robison

Bunni Pounds

In the studio

JAMES: I want to welcome you to *Life Today*. Betty and I are just thrilled you're here. We have a wonderful guest. But I need you to do something for me. Betty, would you mind if I just had them zero in on me right now?

I need to talk to you. I want you to listen up as though somebody just got your attention and said you need to hear this. Everything you care about, every person you love, every person in your family, everything that you know matters in life is at risk. Jay Richards and I have written a book called *Fight the Good Fight*. I'm going to tell you about it.

Our guest has written a book with a very interesting title, *Jesus and Politics*. When you're being told—Jesus people say politics is dirty. Well, it is dirty because dirty people are running it. People controlled by the principalities and powers of darkness, deception, defeat, and division.

So I want you to welcome Bunni Pounds. If you were sitting here, you'd be standing right now. We're here. Do you know why we're here? Because we love you and we love others and we love the overlooked. You help us put God's arms around the overlooked. And you help us love our neighbors effectively. And you help us see things change for eternity. That's the reason we're able to do it. Now today, we're trying to help you save and extend the future of everything you care about—and to freedom.

Okay, Bunni, do you think God might someday call me to preach? Think there is any

chance of it?

BUNNI: I think you're called to preach, James. [Laughing]

JAMES: When did you start listening to what I had to say?

BUNNI: In 1988, my father started listening to you on TV. We moved to Texas for him to come to work for you after he resigned from denominational ministry. I worked for you here at *LIFE Outreach* when I was 18, 19, and 20 and I ran the prayer center at night and it was an honor.

JAMES: Okay. And you've been in Washington in power before you came now to do what you're doing right now which we're going to talk to you about it. You're going to find out what it is to become an engaged Christian that is involved in everything that matters to God. Yes, including politics! Because that's where the decisions are made that determine your future and your peace and your comfort and freedom. How long have you been in politics?

BUNNI: Sixteen years as a political consultant. Managed campaigns for members of Congress, county officials, state officials. Twenty years as an activist if you count all the years as a homeschooling mom. I got involved to try to shift the platforms and make sure that the party platforms were running solidly in social conservative values and fiscally conservative values. So still in that fight today.

JAMES: All right, you know that I've got a book that Jay and I are coming out with right now. I want you to get it today. I would just say this to you. If you read it and heed it, we're going to see freedom extended. If you get every American to help, it's going to happen faster than you could ever imagine and more effectively than you can dream. Do you agree with that?

BUNNI: Absolutely. Your first book with Jay, *Indivisible* was groundbreaking for the

body of Christ. It was where a Catholic scholar, Jay is at the Heritage Foundation but his career is extensive, with an evangelical preacher, leader, together talking about the things that matter for the body of Christ as it relates to government. It was life-changing. And I remember just passing out tons of copies of that book. And I know this book is going to be so impactful for this generation. Because we're in a new time and a new season and your two voices together are going to make a huge difference, James.

BETTY: I think it is wonderful. If you're really hungry to know what's going on, really, truthfully in our country right now you need to read this book. It will enlighten you, it will inspire you, it will fire you up to know as a Christian you have something you can do. God has something for you to do to make a difference in this world. So I hope you will get it and I hope you will read it.

JAMES: And it is really easy to grasp. My secretary said, "James, I read it twice. I mean, I read it twice in a hurry." Now, she is a reader but she doesn't usually read something twice in a hurry. She said everybody needs to read it. Okay, Bunni, you are one of the most gifted people I know at getting people active. When we talk about Jesus in politics, you have what you—what is the name of the ministry? What do you call it?

BUNNI: Christians Engaged.

JAMES: Engaged—that's exactly what it is.

BUNNI: We need to be engaged in prayer, voting, and engaging in our communities. James, so often we are focused on the national, political landscape. We're worried about who is going to be president of the United States, which is important. But the reality is Christians can make a difference in their school boards, and their city councils. They can make a difference in their community and their chamber of commerce, their Rotary Club. We have to get the church out of the building.

And so what we do with Christians Engaged is we teach Christians how to pray for their

elected officials, how to engage with government and to believe God for wisdom and discernment for all of their politicians, regardless of political party. We teach them to vote in every election, not just the presidential year but every city election, every primary, every propositional election. And then we teach them how to engage. We have built an unbelievable curriculum to teach them how to engage with civics and biblical worldview topics; to engage on a city level, county level, state, and federal level.

JAMES: Do you believe that we have given people both in *Indivisible* and here in a more simple grasping form the principles that are essential for the future of every meaningful relationship, whether it is business, whether it is marriage, whether it is national, whether it is education, it doesn't matter what it is, you have to have certain things in place that have to be unshakeable foundation stones. Do you believe we pointed those out? And do you believe that what you're doing, you can show people how you bring those into play in your community?

BUNNI: Yeah! Actually, I think these books go hand in hand because you all are giving them the biblical foundation for what we should believe as believers. Our foundations are set on one thing, it is the Word of God. If it is not based on the Word of God, we need to throw it out. So you all establish that in *Fight the Good Fight*.

And then, in *Jesus and Politics*, I kind of share crazy stories of my life walking with God in politics for the last 16 years. And how God can use a simple woman to impact members of Congress or the vice president of the United States. Or even people that weren't from my political party; having a divine encounter with Beto O'Rourke; having amazing moments where I was able to share the Word of God and pray over members of Congress and see their lives changed.

So how do we live it out every day? I hope *Jesus and Politics* teaches people how to walk out the principles that you all teach in *Fight the Good Fight*.

BETTY: How has the journey been, though? Because Jesus is in politics. As a good

Baptist, I know I was a Baptist, it's supposed to be separated. You don't dare step into politics as a Christian because that's just—basically, "none of your business" is what they'd like us to believe.

But as a Christian, I feel it is a responsibility. I didn't vote, start voting, I'm ashamed to say until I was about 30 years old. I was busy being a wife and a mother of three children. But I began to see the importance of being involved. Now I haven't run for office or anything, James and I had the ministry and that's a good way to share with people the heart of God, and to let them know. The involvement of a Christian is very, very important. So how has the journey been? Have you had a lot of resistance?

BUNNI: Well, Betty, we talk in our pulpits a lot of times, you'll hear ministers of the gospel talking to the businessmen in their church say, "Go be Jesus" in that business. Public educators, go to your classroom and make a difference. Take Jesus with you. Right? But sometimes we don't have a grid for people going into a field like politics or government and making an impact. But we should be carrying Jesus wherever we go.

There is not this division, and I bring this up in the book, there is not this division between secular and sacred. Everything should be sacred. And so my heart with this book is to help people, number one, see themselves the way Jesus sees them. If they're a born-again Christian, they're a new creation in Christ. They can dwell within the presence of God and take Jesus with them wherever they go. And be those hands and feet that he calls us to be.

So politics is not inherently evil. My dad thought that as a pastor. He was concerned I was leaving the call of God on my life to the side and going into this mud-slinging profession. But later in his life, he realized you're right where you're supposed to be. And who better to influence and disciple politicians than someone that has learned and studied the word for so many years and attempts to walk with Jesus every day?

JAMES: Well, Betty got involved politically when she watched me get involved in the

nation that was declining rapidly. The stage was set for the Marxist communists to take over, the Soviet Union. And God did get me involved and we had some positive changes. We've had a whole lot of negative changes now for quite a while. But can we turn it faster than people could imagine?

BUNNI: Absolutely, James. If the percentage of Christians that were not voting, which is extensive, if they would start voting in every election, we could make a huge difference. A few years ago in my city, Garland, Texas, we had 250,000 people in our city, we had a three-part mayoral election, and only 5,300 voted. That's less than one percent of the population.

So we can make a huge difference. One church could change an election. One mom can go in and impact their school board or their library or their public school. It is amazing what people can do. And we're seeing that with Christians Engaged every day, Christians activating, learning the systems, and going out and making a difference. We train them up and we send them out.

JAMES: Let me tell you what. I've just got to come back to this because I want everybody watching—.

Father, I pray that every single person in this country says I love freedom, I love my family, I love my neighbor, I want the best for everybody. We believe you know, God, the best for all of us. We want to find it. In Jesus' name.

Please listen. We have put the principles that are the principles of God, confirmed and taught clearly in His Word. Now listen to what I'm saying, and we will prove this to you in the book, you don't have to quote one Bible verse to confirm and prove every principle that is irrefutable, and undeniable. And if you break it, if you cast it aside, the consequences are catastrophic and cannot be hidden. If you build on those principles soundly, and faithfully, the effects of it and the positive profound benefit of it and blessing of it are undeniable.

We prove that irrefutably in this book. You don't have to quote a scripture. Listen to what God said in Romans one, "You are without excuse. You know the truth." He said, "I have revealed myself, who I am, I am the truth, I have revealed my will, I have revealed my way, I have revealed truth in what I created so you're without excuse." You can see it. You can't hide it. You can't deny it. It's there; it is irrefutable, it is historically confirmed. And the effects of building on it, are irrefutable, undeniable! We prove it. Just get it and go through it. You'll be amazed. You really can't even find an argument that will defeat it because it is the truth.

If everybody would get these principles and understand, I'm going to bat not for religion, not for what I particularly believe, I'm going together for what is confirmed in all of creation by Almighty God. And he says if you go against it, you will be given over to your appetites. You can't deny it. Then says if you change it into a lie—all of this is in Romans one, starting at verse 18. First, you're given over to your appetites to control you. If you can't do all things in moderation, that's a command, you won't do anything necessarily in moderation and there will be many things that will control you and will take over because you don't do it in moderation. And it controls you and then it takes your mind, and you have a reprobate twisted distorted mind and you can't think straight. And you will be given over to destruction.

We can see it, can't we? Would you say the stage is set for destruction if we don't have a turn back to God and his principles?

BUNNI: We're seeing that, James. But God is bigger. Jesus is bigger! And there is hope.

JAMES: Yes, there is!

BUNNI: When you see an 80-year-old man that's yelled at the TV for years and says, he sends me an email every single election saying "Bunni, because of Christians Engaged I'm now an election judge. I'm now impacting things." When you see a young person that

goes to D.C. with us and has an experience with God in the Museum of the Bible and then gets to meet ten members of Congress and pray over them, their life is changed, right? And they go out and make a difference.

Second Corinthians 5:20 talks about how we are ambassadors for Christ pleading—pleading that people would be reconciled to Christ. That's what we're doing every day of our lives, James. And so, as people think about getting involved in government or politics or business or media, all these different spheres of influence, what they're doing is saying, God, use me for your glory. Let me be in this place through my network, through the people I'm impacting, will you cause me to be an ambassador for Christ? And to plead for them to know him. That's what we're doing. And when we do that in every sphere of influence, man, the testimonies of the glory of God. And that's what America needs. America needs the body of Christ to disciple people one heart at a time.

JAMES: And we can turn the tide in the direction faster than you dreamed. The effect of those changes and return to sound unshakeable principles will be undeniable—world-changing.

I want you to call right now and say I want this book. Betty and I know that all of you thank God that we don't overlook the overlooked, the least of these. Bunni, our viewers know, and you know because you've watched us for so many years and you've worked here, God's love flowing through his family changes people that thought nobody would ever notice. You are the ones that make it possible for us to put God's loving arms around the overlooked, the poor, the helpless, the hungry, the thirsty.

Right now we're trying to rescue girls, children that are being trafficked sexually. We have found the most effective way on this earth to do it—and it is love. But you have to underwrite that. You have to set the people free by taking care of them. It takes an average of \$128 to set one girl free. We have a group of friends like you who gave a \$320,000 pledge to match that when you give it. \$128 is what it takes to rescue one. If you give \$128 now, it will be doubled—you rescued two. \$1280 rescues ten. You give

that now it will be doubled and you'll rescue 20.

We're talking to you about saving the future of freedom. We're talking to you about setting girls that are being trafficked and sexually used, and boys, setting them free. Would you make that gift of love and life? Please right now. Watch this and then you be the answer to the need and the prayer.

On the mission field

CLAYTON: Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and it is broken up into two categories. One, labor trafficking, forced labor. And the other is sex trafficking. The best estimates are that there are 50 million people trapped in human trafficking, and five million of those are in sex trafficking. It is a \$150 billion industry.

I would not be in this work if I wasn't seeing lives transformed. That causes us to keep pressing forward. We have this built-in hope and redemption that we're seeing as we meet new girls that have been rescued. And God is still a rescuing, redeeming God and we continue to move forward trusting that he will restore lives.

Our team is great at building the case that will allow us to get warrants to shut down brothels and rescue girls. This is a thinking person's game. How do we outsmart someone who is operating in the dark corners of the world? How do we find out who is doing what, when, where, and how? And we're seeing success that we couldn't ask or imagine.

So much success that the second thing we do, we provide restoration care. Our restoration home is overflowing. This is a problem and guess what? It is a great problem to have. This is something where God is answering our prayers to rescue victims of trafficking.

The third thing we do is we go upstream to the community; source communities trafficking where these girls are coming from and work in schools, and churches, and outreach programs to at-risk youth believing that heart transformation is the only long-

term solution.

We're fighting a true evil. And we're seeing in the midst of that God transforming lives. And all of this is only possible because of partners like *LIFE Outreach International*. And with your help, we're going to keep going on this good fight.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Do you realize that they are fighting for the freedom, not for them to have freedom like we're calling freedom, you know just to go out and do things like we want to do, they're living like in a cage. They're living in a trap. They are slaves but they're sex slaves and they're taken captive. And many of them we find already captured. But we're also, because of you, sending people out to find them where the sex traffickers are going to buy them. They'll buy them for a radio or a television or a little bit of money and tell them they're going to take—the family, they'll tell them, and we're going to give them an education and give them a job.

Yeah, they're going to give them an education all right. They're going to likely hook them on drugs and they're going to get them to be sex-addict trafficked people for the rest of their life. They're going to be used like a slave. Betty, you've seen it. It is the most awful thing. It is like animals in a cage being used for sex, for somebody's pleasure. And then we find them before they get them, we get them out after they get them, and then we get them and you'll even see how we begin the restoration process which that is like an education, it is like a school.

And all of that takes love. Only love, Betty can provide that. The love of our viewers makes those miracles happen.

BETTY: It really does. This has always been a tough appeal for me because as a mother I can't even imagine my child being captured and taken away from those she cares about

and those that love her. And being taken away, maybe possibly never to be seen again. And to be used and beaten and controlled like this, and their bodies to be destroyed because of the evilness of this world. I hope you see that in your heart. You look around at your little ones and you think, God, I'm so grateful.

Let's rescue these precious children. They never asked to be where they are. We used to think this is mostly in other countries. No, it's right here too. It is in our state, it's in our communities, our towns, it's not far away. So let's do what we can to now reach out and get these kids out of the entrapment that they're in.

JAMES: And yes, it works. Love never fails. And this is one of the greatest expressions of it I've ever seen.

Would you right now get your checkbook or your bank card? Would you make a gift of \$128 to set one free, only this time it's two because we have a matching gift of \$320,000? If I ask our friends who are capable, and we have friends who are capable of giving enough money to drill a well, \$4800 and I always ask people, could you give \$1280 and rescue ten girls? Could you rescue ten from trafficking? Now then it will be 20! You'll rescue 20 with a \$1280 gift. Would you just take your bank card and use it like a check or write a check and make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it? We need to know what we're talking about doing for these girls to give them a future, a life. And together we can extend freedom all over the world. Yes, we can! We do not have to give the future to the deceiver and the destroyer. We don't have to! This is God's earth and God's will can be done through his family on his earth and that's what we're going to work together to see.

Please, right now go online, dial that number, or go make a check but call us and tell us what you're sending. Thank you so much. We'll send gifts to you that we'll share with you including a Bible that will be a great blessing to you. I promise!

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 rescue 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 the brand-new book from James Robison and Jay Richards, *Fight the Good Fight*. This book will open your eyes to what's at stake and the unwavering truth that God isn't finished with our nation. It's time to fight the good fight and return to unshakable biblical principles.*

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the NIV large print Thinline Bible. This easy-to-carry, easy-to-read NIV Bible with comfort print allows you to take in more of God's word each time you open your Bible.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help save 20 children. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video**On the mission field**

>> As we partner with *LIFE Outreach International*, we are making a difference in the lives of children. It's people like you who with unwavering support, dedication, and

generosity have been the driving force behind every rescue, every smile restored, and every life transformed. We know there is still so much work to be done but your contribution has made it possible for us to stand up against child trafficking and for these children to be pulled from the darkness into the light.

Every smile, every step forward, every dream reignited. These are all a testament to the incredible impact that your support has on these young lives. I personally want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has made a difference in a child's life already.

With your continued support, we will help to create a world where no one is subjected to the horrors of child trafficking. A world where love, compassion, and justice prevail. By working together, we can reach every person and rescue every child. Thank you so much!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: This is one of the most beautiful, and the most, I think, easy-to-read Bibles I've ever seen. Bunni's book can show you how to change things all around you. And we will show you the principles essential for the survival of freedom. Bunni, thank you for being with us. We'll be praying for you. You know we're going to be supporting you, the ministry is going to always support you. We love you.

We love you. You make everything good you see happen here—you make it happen all over the world. Love—love never fails. Thank you.