

10/7/24

Week 41: *Mission Rescue LIFE*

James and Betty Robison

"The Father's Dream"

In the studio

JAMES: I'm so glad you joined. Betty, God told us to call the family in the family room; and help the family get to know the Father. Well, I feel like—now listen to me—I don't feel like I've ever needed the family in the family room more than right now. Because Betty, I need the family; not only your prayers—and by the way, you, the family, have no idea how much you have carried us on your shoulders, oftentimes. When you have seen what the Father wants, you make it immediately clear you're in agreement with the Father. When you believe it is possible to effectively put the Father's arms around the suffering, those he gave his Son to die for, you immediately want to do it.

Betty, our viewers have made it possible for us to fulfill our Father's vision all over the world many times.

BETTY: They really have. You really have. We couldn't have been able to reach all the people we've reached—all these precious children's lives have been saved because you've joined with us, not only in prayer but in your giving. So thank you so much.

JAMES: Well, when you talk about like in feeding alone, 18 million children's lives saved from starvation which was reported now nearly ten years ago already. We've not even asked since. But we were so amazed at what was happening, and you were too. But you were saving lives. You were giving life because of the love of God that throbbed in your heart.

But here's what I want you to hear. Betty and I are both, and I know she says, "Why when

you tell people how old you are you tell them I'm basically the same age?" Well, we're both 80, about to be 81. Now 62 years I've been preaching. 60 years we've been married—61. Let me just make this clear to you. If I were not able to stand on her shoulders, I would not be able to sit here and talk to you.

I want you to listen closely. This could be the most important program in the programs that we do this week, the most important we've ever done because the future not only of what I believe God wants to do with us but what he wants to do through his body, his family on his planet for his glory and to fulfill his will and his kingdom purpose on his earth, beyond anything that's ever happened in history prior to the return.

Now remember, the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all nations, and then he comes. The gospel of the kingdom has not been preached in even 70 percent of the nations. I can promise you that. The gospel of the kingdom is not even understood by people in this area, in the advanced United States, which is supposed to be in many ways very advanced.

But in understanding spiritually, we have the same challenge the disciples had. With the greatest teacher teaching them, they still didn't understand what it was to do the kingdom's purpose and his will on his earth now; That it can happen. That his will can be done on earth. "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Not wishful thinking. That's a prayer we were taught to pray.

Jesus said, "The kingdom is at hand. The king is here." Then he said, "The kingdom of heaven is in you." The disciples didn't seem to understand it. Then after the resurrection, he came back and said, "The kingdom of heaven is in you in resurrection power." They didn't get it. But as I preached to you many times in the last weeks, the kingdom power got them when they were in the upper room and carried them out and carried them through the book of Acts. They still didn't understand it fully.

Well, we're going to have an opportunity to help the whole church understand that God's

will can be done through his family, his church, his body connected to one another, submitted to the one head, and his will can be done on his earth. That's what we're going to be praying for.

Here's what I want our viewers to understand. As surely as you have carried us to the ends of the earth to put God's arms around the people he gave his Son to die for, you are going to help right now James and Betty, and our ministry here more clearly than ever the exact perfect will of God at this time. A little later, I'm going to give you an address, a place where you can write or email and make suggestions or ask questions.

But here's what I want to know. How do you think Betty and I, with all the contacts and communication opportunities we have, how can we best help you grow spiritually? How can we help you overcome the battles and the difficulties and challenges that you face? How can we help you walk over the enemy like dirt? Like a scorpion? Like a spider under your feet? How can we better help you do that? I want you to talk to us.

Today, I want you to be praying with us that God will show us exactly what he wants us to do. I want you to hear today how I'm convinced, this 80-year-old couple, who will spend the last part of our life primarily focusing our time on you, the viewers, and the people that we together as a family seek to put God's loving arms around, and get them in the shelter and the shadow of the Almighty.

You know, Betty, I've shared it with our viewers. You were stunned when you knew the little boy who once stayed with your pastor and his wife until he was five, and then my mother took me away, as you know. And then I went into total poverty. For ten years I lived in hell.

When you hear psychologists saying today that the main age when you are shaping a person is from 5 to 15, well, Betty, I was shaped by the most awful forces. So when I met you after my father had come back, who had raped my mother and gotten her pregnant, and when the doctor wouldn't abort me, that's when she put an ad in a paper and I ended

up in a pastor's home. I thought they were my mommy and daddy, except my mother would come and get me for a few days.

The thing I remember, Betty, is when she would take me, I wouldn't know where I was going. The pastor and his wife said, "You have to go with her for a few days." She would leave me with people while she worked. And Betty, I would press my little three- or four-year-old nose up against the screen staring all day long wondering if my mother was coming back. I think that contributed to me looking at people who feel like they've been left. All over the world, we've been able to put our arms around people like that.

Well, Betty, when you met me at 15, I think I was the most damaged goods on the planet. And somehow, you were attracted to me. Can you tell me, I don't think you could tell how damaged I was, but why were you even attracted to me? Because you were the most amazingly sweet, beautiful, the purest person and girl I had ever seen. Why were you even drawn to me to spend time with me?

BETTY: Well, first of all, I thought you were pretty cute. [Laughing] And still are. But no, I thought too, you're living with the pastor and his wife, there's got to be something there in this shy guy that would hardly even talk. I was shy too so we didn't have real talkative dates, did we? We would eat out a lot. But anyway, I just saw—I don't know what it was. I don't know if I can describe it, James but I just thought you were, inside a good person, a good guy. We enjoyed each other's company.

JAMES: Well, I think I was as damaged as any boy has ever been. I think when you first dated me, I had been exposed at age 12 or so to Playboy, the first edition with Marilyn Monroe. I always thought girls were the prettiest things God ever made. And I was always attracted to all beauty—just the marvel of beauty. Like I said, I was attracted there but I was damaged deeply. I could almost say when you met me you met a boy that was deeply damaged. And yet, I want to tell you that the purity that was in you, and the love, and I even told you, "Whatever you do, don't you ever compromise because you're the most amazing person I've ever met."

You know what I realize? I realized that this beautiful girl—by the way, I had never had another date. I didn't have a car, I didn't have a home, I didn't have a house to live in that was ever stable. I moved 17 times in 10 years. People didn't know me. And I dated an angel. You just—you loved me. I want you to know that you became God's healing balm in my life. You were the great ointment of God, his holy oil that he put on me through this beautiful girl. You started the process of transforming a boy that I think could have been as damaged in self-defense, trying to protect me and my mother. My father had come back into our home, the one who had raped her and gotten her pregnant, that he tried to kill her and thought he had. And then he was going to kill me. He didn't know but I had gotten a rifle and I nearly shot my father. That would have been a 14-year-old that would have killed his own dad. Just a miracle of God.

Betty, I believe it was the prayers of that Baptist church that you went to with Brother and Mrs. Hale that never stopped praying for a little boy. But I believe the prayers of those people put you in my life. I want to look at you in front of the whole world and I want to say that this instrument of God, this precious witness who wanted to please God so much, started the transformation of my life. And because I knew what it was to be damaged deeply. I knew what it was to experience the miracle of God. Right before my 18th birthday he called me to preach, the shyest kid on the planet. When he called me, it was like he dropped his power and his love, and his ability all over me instantly. I was just bathing in his power. It was something to see. And together, we watched God move mountains. Within a year Billy Graham had seen what God was doing with me and he said, "You're the most amazing sight I've ever seen! You're just a teenager!" And he helped me. And then I was able to help his family and bless him and bless Franklin.

But the point is, this change in my life started with a girl. How do you explain that? What was going on? Were you amazed at what happened to me when he called me to preach?

BETTY: Oh, my goodness! Yeah! I could not believe it. Because it was so different than who I knew you to be, as far as outgoing. You weren't outgoing; you were very shy, like I

said before. But you know, James, there was just something in my heart that God had—it's still there. A lot of times, we have to start the journey with God before we can know the gifts he's put within us. I didn't know that it was necessarily a gift. But I look back and I think it was a gift of goodness that I wasn't feeling like I was capable of having. But I wanted to please God so much. I wanted him to be pleased. I think it was more that. I wanted God to be pleased with this vessel, with this girl who tried so hard to be good. But just knowing that God was pleased with me, meant so much to me.

So maybe that was a part that you saw that was good to you was that I wanted to please God. But when he called you to preach, my goodness, did God light a fire in your heart and your soul! And I caught it. Because even though I knew all the right things to do, I didn't know him like I saw you come to know him. It lit my fire. I actually got saved after we started dating. Been good and done all things right, as I said, but it is that personal experience that means so much that God's waiting for us to ask him in. And I finally did that before we got married. I'm so grateful that I did.

So thank you! You're thanking me but thank you for allowing God to do what he began in your heart because I caught it.

JAMES: I've got to tell you when she married damaged goods, I did fail, I missed the mark. I want to make sure you understand something. Everybody has missed the mark except Jesus. There is only one perfect person and it's Jesus. Even the great people in the Bible, the father of our faith, Abraham made a mess. He tried to help God get a baby. He committed immorality. He got his wife to commit immorality. He lied. He got her to lie. And yet, God used him.

You look at King David. It's the most amazing thing how that shepherd boy could kill the bear and the lion to protect the sheep, and then bring the life down, how he could look out over the balcony and lust and commit adultery and commit murder. And then think about it, when you repent, he said, "I know what's wrong. My sin is ever before me. I don't want it." When he repented, David wrote his greatest works after his miserable failure.

Look at Solomon. How is the man the wisest, even still in the Bible when he talked about—he had 1,000 wives for God's sake! Surrounded by women. He understood that. But at the end, he talked about the emptiness of life, the vanity of it all. Look what he shared.

Look how God used Simon Peter after he denied Jesus three times. And he became second only to the Apostle Paul as the lead apostle in the early church.

God uses broken vessels. Betty, I failed and you picked me up. You held on to me. You just loved God. I couldn't get you to compromise. Why did you have such a commitment to just want to be good? Everybody wants to know, Betty, where did that come from?

BETTY: It came from God. I know that. It's just something about I wanted to please him more than anything. I wanted every part of my being, everything about me to look like him and to express his love. So I guess that's part of it—that's a big part of it.

JAMES: Let me just say here in front of all of our viewers that you are so special. I wish you knew. You don't even know, maybe you sent a small gift, maybe you sent a big gift, maybe you sent \$1,000 or more, I don't know, to help us put God's arms around people. But you're so special.

And if you would pray for us right now, I think we could help God's family begin to look more like him. I think we could help get all people in the arms of God if his family would put those loving arms out together. I think together we can inspire that. So I want you to hear me say this to Betty. Betty, because you held onto God, you didn't want to fail God, I could never move her the wrong way if I tried. You say, did you ever try? I'm so sorry. I made a lot of mistakes. God uses broken defeated vessels. God uses the weak. God uses those who miss the mark. And if we want to please him, he so faithfully reaches down into any pit that we may have been thrown in, we may have fallen in, or we may have dug with horrible actions. But he reaches down, he's looking saying, "I want to lift you

up. I want to put you on an unshakeable foundation."

This girl, time and again, stood right by him lifting me up. All right, I want you to join with us in the deepest work *LIFE Outreach, Life Today*, has ever accomplished. I want us to join together as a family. I want to inspire his family to lose their life to see his dream. Now listen to me, to see the Father's dream come true. He fulfilled a lot of our dreams. He promised that if we would lose our lives for his kingdom's purpose, he would fulfill our desires. That's amazing! He said to me when I said God, why have you blessed me? So many of my dreams had even become idols. How have you blessed me so much? He said, "Because even when you put beautiful things ahead of me, I knew that you and Betty wanted to live your life for my kingdom purpose even though you didn't understand it. So I did fulfill so many of your dreams, but you wanted to fulfill mine."

And now then, Betty, as clearly as we can understand it at this point, and we will all grow to understand it more, I want to live my life to see the Father's dream fulfilled where his will is done on his earth. His kingdom's purpose is fulfilled. His will done on his earth, as it is in heaven, and the kingdom—the gospel of the kingdom preached in all nations. And then he comes for the bride that looks like him.

I want you to join with us more than ever. You can contact that address right there and say, James, here's what I think you can do for me and the church. You and your wife and your family, your ministry, here's what I think we could do together. We want to ask you some questions and you do that. We're going to find a way to help you and answer them.

I want you to look at something that Betty, when I saw this today it tore me up. I want you to look at what love does. I want you to look at what the enemy is doing and what love enables us to do for people who are being totally destroyed by the enemy. I think we're going to have one of the greatest responses today we've ever had in the history of our ministry, to put God's arms around desperately defeated prisoners that God's love can set free if we join together. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: Predators target vulnerable children and innocent children. They are being bought and sold for sex and labor.

Open captions

>> I was so young and I did not know anything. The men forced me to do bad things.

ESTHER: Right now and every day, there are millions of children that are suffering. They're suffering in homes. They're suffering in the streets. They're suffering in motels and hotels and even brothels. They use them to make money off of them. And this is happening every day.

Open captions

>> If I resisted, they beat me with electrical wire. And if I still refused, they said they would kill me.

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry. Over six million people are trapped in the sex trade. Of that number, over one million are children.

DAVID: So when we look at these big numbers of statistics, they are just demotivating. What we choose to do is we choose to focus on the one. We work alongside law enforcement and so we rescue one today, we rescue one tomorrow, and we rescue one next week. Because every single child matters to God, and so they have to matter to us.

Open captions

>> When my life gets really bad, I cry out, please save me!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Sweetheart, I wish you could hear me. I hear you, and our viewers hear you. I wish all of you could know that over the last 20 years or more, we've saved thousands and thousands of girls from sexual trafficking. When I say we, I'm talking about all of us together because we couldn't do it. Betty and I are really good givers because we love to give love and we love to give life, and we love to help people be set free. Right now, we have opportunities that are greater than any we've ever had, and the need is greater.

I say, Father, I'm so sorry that men can be so distracted by the beauty of a girl, the beauty of sex, and be so twisted by it until it is totally abnormal and even damagingly destructive. Please, dear God, help us help those precious girls and boys that are damaged; in Jesus' name.

Would you consider making the largest gift you can right now? We're asking you to help us by making gifts that cost an average of \$128 to begin the process of setting a child free, getting one of these girls free. We reach them, rescue them, and restore them. That's the process. You can do that. Could you give \$1280 and rescue ten?

Well, here's the beautiful thing. Right now we've got a \$320,000 matching gift, which means if you rescue one, \$128, you've just rescued two. If you say we're going to rescue ten. We can make a \$1280 gift. You've just rescued 20.

Would you join us in the miracle of putting God's loving arms around people? If you've ever seen people who needed to be free, who needed to be loved, Betty, to know that somebody cares? We can show these girls God's love. That's what our viewers do.

BETTY: I know your heart was touched, as mine was, as we listened to these beautiful children, their desperation. They have nowhere to go, they have no one to turn to but us. We can reach out and make the difference. If we join our hearts and our hands together, we can do so much. The Lord is waiting on us, together, to reach out and rescue the little ones.

JAMES: Well, you've helped us literally give life and give a home and give a future to tens of thousands of girls all over the world, most of the third world, but also even here. Please, right now would you go and get your bank card and would you use it like a check? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Make the largest gift you can knowing you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life.

We have a beautiful gift. This is *Worship, Wisdom, and Wonder*. This is the Psalms and the Proverbs. It is so beautifully presented in the Passion translation. Here's a beautiful picture. It is literally a picture of the water of life flowing freely that can flow into us and through us like a river. We also have the bronze.

Would you make the best gift you can now? Please? You keep praying with us that together we'll be the family God wants us to be. Please get that card and use it like a check. If you write a check, call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail, and what you're putting on the card. Would you do that? Thank you so much!

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.

*To say thank you for your gift, we will send you *Worship, Wisdom, and Wonder*. The*

pages of this beautifully crafted book are rich with words that will inspire you as you experience the worship found in Psalms, receive life-giving directions to the wisdom of Proverbs, and be reminded of the wonder of our God.

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the Refuge of Life framed artwork, a beautiful, matted picture frame with printed scripture that reminds you to set your mind on worship through the words of Isaiah 44:3.

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

In the studio

JAMES: When I think about this bronze, you're giving the water of life. We send this for gifts of \$1280. You won't just rescue 10, now you'll rescue 20. I hope you'll do all you can.

Join us in the next program because we're going to be asking you to help us walk out the next phase of our life as an 80-year-old couple. We're more excited about what we're going to watch the rest of our lives than we've ever seen. Thank you for joining with us.