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Week 35: *Christmas Shoes and Smiles*

James Robison

Dennis Quaid #2

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I feel like I'm talking to a very famous person. Actually, Dennis Quaid is here. He is such a gifted person and *I Can Only Imagine* was a really big deal.

DENNIS: That was a beautiful movie. Bart was on the set every day and I can't imagine watching your life played out like that. It was pretty amazing. What an incredible story of redemption.

JAMES: And what you've done with the *Reagan* movie is an incredible story too. How did Reagan handle the challenges he dealt with, with those bullies? How did he handle that?

DENNIS: Well, he felt the only way to handle a bully was to stand up to him. That was a lesson he learned early on. When it came to the Soviet Union and communism, he had seen the effects of it. It's a free country and like Reagan said, democracy can handle it. I have faith in the American people that they will right the ship when it comes to this. The alternative is not so great. We've gone through periods in this country, many, many, eras where we've had division, people at each other's throats. We had a Civil War. We had a great challenge during Jefferson's time that basically got down to the Constitution. It's been tested but it's always righted the ship. I think through prayer and the education of people; just read the Constitution. That's all you have to do.

JAMES: They can go back to it. Get it back in place. And there will be no perfect person. God doesn't have perfect people. He uses imperfect people to accomplish his perfect will. But those people who accomplish his will, will be moving toward the principles in line with his will. And in line with not giving the deceiver, the father of lies, the divider and the destroyer, not giving him the controls. You don't do it. Because he throws out all principles, everything sound. Reagan restored those principles. We've got to have that.

We don't have perfect people. Reagan would have said I'm not perfect. As a matter of fact, he probably looked down on himself. He was a man.

DENNIS: We're all people. We all have a past and we all have a present we're not perfect in, as well. It's about people's hearts. Where are their hearts? And what are their deeds? I think that's what I judge by.

JAMES: What was one of the most exciting things you remember doing in the movie? What was an exciting moment or what stood out?

DENNIS: First off, we were in the White House. We built an Oval Office, which was really something because I've been there many times and it was perfect. But I really—my favorite Reagan in the sense of playing him and stuff was like—about that time that he was governor of California, the brown suit Reagan. He was tough. He really was. He was tough. He was like—he was principled. That's the unique thing about him. That's what this country needs. Not the men, the principles, adhering to those principles. He lived by them. Even when he was in the minority, he lived by them. That's the wisdom in him. But the speech that—one of my favorite scenes is the speech that he gave for Goldwater.

JAMES: In '64 or so when everybody thought he should be president?

DENNIS: They call it "the speech" but it was basically a clarion call to fighting communism, the number one issue.

JAMES: What a speech!

DENNIS: Well, he changed the world.

JAMES: Yeah, he did. But when he got to be president, he was able to put the important factors that played a big role in the greatness of that speech, he was able to put them in action. He was able to do it with great wisdom with great people around him who were not committed to being seen or praised but were really wanting to lead and protect that, which was essential for the future of freedom. And they did it miraculously.

DENNIS: Well, I think our country had a policy of appeasement with the Soviet Union. And the American people are very generous. They want to be friends with everybody but there are some bad actors out there in the world. When it came to the Soviet Union, I remember the years preceding Reagan in office, when they gave away a B-1 bomber without getting anything back. Meanwhile, the Soviets were building their military straight up. There were the kind of proxy wars going on in Africa, going on in Central America. There was—I think there was about a 90 percent chance that there was going to be a nuclear confrontation at some point. By appeasement, that's the kind of thing that happens if you don't stop people. He was the first to say "no" to the Soviets. And I think that surprised them. That's what—it took a cold warrior like him to end the Cold War.

JAMES: The media made fun of the possibility of Star Wars, a laser taking down the missiles. But the fact was, and they could see it, they just weren't able to buy these scientists and these people. Not the Germans couldn't, nobody could, nobody else in the world could.

But the fact was they knew everything he was saying and what they knew scientists could do, that we could bring their missiles down before they ever reached altitude.

DENNIS: At the time that was maybe a decade or two away.

JAMES: Yeah, but they didn't know that.

DENNIS: But he didn't let them know that. He figured that maybe they believed it 20 percent. But 20 percent is enough to change their mind. We even like in negotiation, what I thought was brilliant, was that he offered to share it with them. [Laughing] Knowing they would say no.

JAMES: It was great. Do you think that the movie and some of my staff, well, my vice president was with Reagan in the White House all the years? His mother was really the person who got Reagan to sit down with me and listen to me when he needed to in answer to the prayers of Billy Graham. That really is what happened. It is a very interesting story.

But I'm telling you that you could just see the greatness of this man leading, and leading us back to principles. Do you think that comes out in the movie to inspire people to see that we can actually take a stand for principles and save the future of freedom?

DENNIS: Well, you see where Reagan came from. You see scenes in Dixon, Illinois. How he grew up. The way he grew up. The generation that he comes from, is the greatest generation that had a tough time growing up in the Depression and fought World War II. Wanted their kids to have a better life than they had, the dream, the American dream that at the time when he became president people thought was over. America was in decline. He brought us back.

Also, he was a very humble man. I also found out at that ranch when I went to visit the ranch, Reagan was not a rich man. He wasn't. He made America rich and stuff—

JAMES: He didn't try to get rich off of us either. That just wasn't there.

DENNIS: No! You go to the ranch and you can tell. He was—you know, history will

continue to prove it. He was one of the greatest presidents this country has ever had.

JAMES: You know you've made some comments; not only did you play the role and respect him, but your faith journey was similar. That's interesting to me because faith is for some reason important to you. Why is your faith in God so important to you? And then tell maybe the similarities and the journey.

DENNIS: Well, I grew up in a Baptist church in Houston. I think my mother had a great influence on me spiritually. Very similar to Reagan, I think, our mothers. My dad was an alcoholic as well but a great guy at the same time. I think it was very similar. But I got disillusioned I think with what I called churchianity.

JAMES: Tiring.

DENNIS: In my teens at the time I started turning to different things, eastern philosophy which led me to study things. I'd read the Bible like when I was 18 but I read The Dhammapada. I read the Bhagavad Gita. I read the Qur'an. And then I came back. When I read the Bible again 20 years later, I came back to the red words of Jesus. That's what brought me back. Because that was the beginning of what it was really all about, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That was the beginning of that and that's what I have now. And that's—you don't need anything else but that.

JAMES: You know, both of us, and I was born in Houston and a product of rape. A doctor wouldn't abort me so here I am. But I had a miracle rebirth. I do see the danger of religious positions that cause you to become self-righteous; think you're the one right and you become an attacker of others. I think self-righteousness, because he is the only one righteous, is one of the biggest enemies God's righteousness has. I think church people can be as mean as the mafia.

DENNIS: Yeah, but they can also be really great too. When you find your home church.

JAMES: It is whether you go with his principles and his practices and his ways, or whether you go with your thoughts. And like the Pharisees—the Pharisees had memorized the first five books of the Bible. They're the number one murderer of Jesus. They were the ones that demanded it.

DENNIS: You're talking about if you make it about Jesus or if you make it about me. Right?

JAMES: And your view and your position and you're the ones right. The unkindness there is so far from the unconditional love of God.

Father, I have been praying and praying and I'm watching it happen where people will put down their differences that have made them violent to where they contradict the very Bible they claim to be defending. Lord, please deliver us from that; in Jesus' name.

If you saw this religious junk—

DENNIS: I think when you're talking about—but I think what you're talking about is really—it is very similar, the times are, back to when Reagan came in.

JAMES: Exactly!

DENNIS: Because really, what we're talking about is a spiritual problem.

JAMES: It is!

DENNIS: It is a spiritual problem within a nation that starts with individuals. It is all local and it grows. But that's what—I think has already happened, I have a feeling, that started around COVID. People stayed home and they had to connect with each other again. And as horrible as it was, I think it was the beginning of a spiritual revolution, which I think is going to spread.

JAMES: And if we come together around those principles that you and I are talking about, we can see freedom saved, extended, and more effective than ever.

DENNIS: I think we also need to reach across the aisle, back and forth. We need, I mean Republicans, Democrats, we pass each other on the streets every day without knowing. We go into each other's shops. We have relationships. We're all people. We're all Americans. And we all want the same thing for our families, for our country.

We need more of what Reagan and the Speaker of the House had back then. If you can fight all day but at the end of the day, they're friends.

JAMES: You said in our last show it was a spiritual battle. And the spiritual force, the father of lies, the deceiver, the divider, the destroyer, he does like to be in control. He is in control of much of what is going on in our country because he is in control of too many of the people. Now we want to see that broken. We want to see his power broken because the king has come. We want his will done on his earth, which means it can be. He told us to pray that.

Would you mind leading us in a prayer that we would return to the principles that made us great, that we must return to in order for freedom to be extended? Would you pray that we would do that as the American people?

DENNIS: Yes, sir! Lord God, we really need you. Our country needs you. We as individuals need you to open our eyes, open our hearts, and also let us be open-minded to hear your voice and hear the way. Let us not be so full of ourselves and self-righteous. Let us allow you to do your work, Lord. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

JAMES: Amen and amen! That is the miracle. Our viewers are amazing people and they are going to be praying for this movie. I hope they'll get their church to pack the theaters. I hope they'll do everything they can do to get out because the movie is going to be in the

theaters August 30th. Why don't you—if you can go online right now—and where do they go online if they want to get the tickets?

DENNIS: Reagan.movie.

JAMES: That's it. So go ahead and look.

DENNIS: Go as your group. You can go as a church. You can go as your office, your club, whatever.

JAMES: You know what we've done is our viewers know we try to put God's arms around the overlooked and the forgotten, the least of these. We have seen the miracle of life all over the world. Right now we're giving away *Shoes and Smiles*. We're also building the number one brain operation center in the world in Uganda. One of our donors gave \$700,000 leaving a \$500,000 need. I've got 500 people watching today give \$1,000 and nail that. You really could—but would you?

I want you to watch this and let's be the miracle that so many children thought they'd never get. By the way, no one who comes to the hospital needing surgery has to pay anything. It's covered by love. Please watch this and be a part of the miracle that must happen and can happen with your help.

On the mission field

JOHN: Well, I'm here in Uganda, standing in what is going to be operation room number three in the brand-new surgical center that we are building in partnership with our mission partners here in Uganda. Specifically designed to treat neurological disease in children, more than 2,000 surgeries a year, more than any hospital in the world, it is going to happen right here.

ANNOUNCER: For many families in developing countries, a child born with a

neurological disability has little hope to survive, largely due to a lack of facilities or funds to get the proper treatment they need. That's why *LIFE Outreach* has joined with mission partner Cure International in building a brand-new neurological surgery center that will provide expert care and life-saving surgery at no cost to families.

This state-of-the-art treatment center isn't just about operating rooms and equipment, it will save lives while providing hope, love, and dignity for children suffering from neurological conditions like spina bifida, hydrocephalus, and brain tumors. Without surgical intervention, these conditions can be a death sentence for those most vulnerable. Yet with access to specialized treatment, these children can defy the odds and continue to grow, play, and learn as all children should.

JOHN: Listen! We do so many wonderful things through *Christmas Shoes and Smiles*, but this facility specifically is the difference between life and death for children who have severe but repairable disabilities. I can't say thank you enough for spreading the gospel through word and deed. God bless you.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I'm believing that every single one of you watching will respond. If you could give \$1,000, several hundred, I don't know what you can do, but we want to bless these children. So I'm asking you right now to go and get your bank card and use it like a check. But call the number on the screen that's always there as a prayer line, paid for by love. Or go online and you make the best gift you can.

We've got some gifts to send you to say thank you. We always want to bless you. But you're going to become the miracle that somebody thought they would never witness. All of you who watch us and help us put God's arms around the overlooked, you know the miracles that are literally brought in place and to bear and to happen because you extend God's arms of love, and enable the missionaries and the doctors and the people who are

nearly all these doctors are volunteers that go there with their special gifts and stay for an extended period to cover different things, and they come from all parts of the world. Many of them are also based there in Uganda. But you are creating a miracle.

Thank you so much for doing it. Please go right now online or call the number. Please don't put it off. Make the best gift you can knowing that you're giving someone a miracle of life and we will point them clearly to Jesus and his love. Thank you so much!

Begin video

ANNOUNCER: For almost two decades *LIFE's Christmas Shoes and Smiles* has continued to provide shoes for impoverished children throughout the world, as well as corrective surgeries for children with cleft palate disorders. By responding today, you can help provide new shoes for 150,000 children in time for the holidays, and for some children a beautiful new smile. Your gift of \$36 will help provide shoes for ten children. \$72 will help provide shoes for 20. \$180 will help provide shoes for 50. And a gift of \$500 will help provide a corrective smile surgery.

This year we have an incredible opportunity to help construct a new surgical center that will provide lifesaving surgeries to children suffering serious neurological conditions. This \$1.2 million project is up and above *LIFE's* normal budget but because of one generous friend for *LIFE*, only \$500,000 is needed.

As a thank you for your gift of support to this life-saving outreach, be sure to request the blue crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake boxed set featuring four crystal shoe ornaments. Finally, please consider an extra gift of \$1,000 or more to help construct *LIFE's* new surgical center. And with this gift, you may request this beautiful bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of video

On the Mission Field

Randy: As we travel around the world, one thing we've noticed is the condition of the feet of so many children. We see children all over the world running around barefoot in some terrible conditions. And it's not just unsightly, it is unhealthy and potentially, deadly.

As we give shoes, which is a wonderful Christmas gift, keep in mind that we're actually giving them a chance for better health, potentially even saving lives. We are protecting them from some really debilitating diseases, things like hookworm, and several things that can happen in their feet. These protect them— so it's double. It's a gift to give them something they don't have and it's something to protect their health.

Just like the smiles when we go in and correct a cleft palate, we're not just giving them a cosmetic change, we're actually improving their health. Everything we do is to improve the health of others physically and spiritually. So join with us as we celebrate the birth of our savior at Christmas and we give Christmas Shoes and Smiles.

Hey, Little buddy! Let's see if we can get this on.

[Children's laughter]

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I believe, Dennis, I believe our viewers are going to help. They're amazing people.

What would you like to say to all the people watching about your prayer and how God uses the movie? But what do you want to see happen?

DENNIS: Well, Reagan was my favorite president. He was, whether you liked Reagan, a

lot of people thought he was a warmonger and couldn't stand him. But those people, I think, would still be interested to see this movie, to tell you the truth. What it does in the end is, I go to movies to feel things more than anything else. More than seeing things I like to feel things. This movie, you'll be able to—he makes me feel like you're a fly on the wall at those places and points in history in Reagan's life that you wish you could have been privy to. There's a lot of in there. It's also a beautiful love story between him and Nancy, which I think a lot of people would be really interested in.

Like I said, for those that weren't born before 1985, you'll get a glimpse of what America can still be. And a reminder to those that were born before '85 of what America was and still can be.

JAMES: Amen! I love you, Dennis. God bless you and bless you in what you're doing.

Thank you for being such a blessing to so many people. God, please extend the life I have freedom because we return to your unshakeable principles. God bless you!