

3/20/25

Week 12: Rescue Life

James & Betty Robison

Lorenzo Sewell

**Studio discussion:**

**JAMES:** Betty, do you like this guy?

**BETTY:** Oh, I do. The first time I saw him I liked him.

**JAMES:** I'll tell you what. This guy prayed the stars down at the inauguration. I'm going to tell you something, that was an incredible day because God was moving mountains that people thought could not be moved. But when Lorenzo stepped up and prayed, and I've heard a lot of prayers.

**BETTY:** I did! I started shouting.

**JAMES:** I'm going to tell you something. To God be the glory! Lorenzo, you don't have any idea how you blessed everybody who heard you.

**LORENZO:** Thank you so much.

**JAMES:** I mean, it was a God thing. Did you feel a special touch from God?

**LORENZO:** Well, when you look up in the rotunda, can you imagine that? Can you imagine praying and talking to the good Lord? It was almost as if to pray -- you could see the prayers of our forefathers and our foremothers. Something I never -- Typically, they allow you to stand behind the podium at the RNC. They let you speak. But they didn't let us in the rotunda. It was locked down.

**JAMES:** There you were in it.

**LORENZO:** Franklin Graham, we tried to go up the day before the rehearsal, but they didn't let us. So, in that moment when you're praying, "My country 'tis of thee. Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing." And you look up -- ain't no party like a Holy Ghost party because the Holy Ghost party don't stop. Right? So the Lord moved for his glory and I'm very excited. It was on Dr. King's birthday, as we know. President Trump announced that it would be Liberation Day because I still didn't know if the good Lord, Betty would have me pray that prayer. I still didn't know it. I didn't know until he said it. When President Trump said, "This is Liberation Day," I said, Holy Ghost, I got it. You want me to pray Dr. King's dream. So, we prayed. You and I know that when you pray, free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty.

**JAMES:** I remember when he said it. I was watching him.

**LORENZO:** But when you pray it, we know the scriptures, "Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed. But I didn't know until the end of the prayer that the Lord would get that verse out of me with the spirit of the Lord. Now in Detroit, that's on the back of the spirit of Detroit. The verse is there, Second Corinthians, chapter number three, verse number 18, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

So, I knew that as I was praying -- the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray. As the Lord was praying through me his will on earth as it is in heaven, when I got to that verse, I said, Lord, I know that's what you wanted. Then I turned around to go and shake President Trump's hand, he hugged me full hug. Can you imagine that? All for God's glory! All for his honor, and all for his name to be praised.

Because only God can take a kid like me from the east side of Detroit, mentored by murderers, can you imagine that? A student of the street. My dad is in prison for murder today. I was sitting on the corner of Kilbourne and Queen, shots rang out. They shot up a house I was in, 11 years old! Playing Atari video games. That's when –

**JAMES:** It was in the Detroit area?

**LORENZO:** It was right there on the corner of Kilbourne and Queen, Detroit proper. That's when heroin had just flooded the streets and crack cocaine had come. My uncle was breaking into my home and stealing things. I would see my uncle and I would wonder why he would take things. He was addicted to crack. The house got shot up; you know, I'm 11 years old. My mother packed us up and moved us to a city called Fraser. I was the only black kid in the community but didn't know it.

**JAMES:** Was it near Detroit?

**LORENZO:** It was a suburb of Detroit. So it was 13 miles. But I became a street pharmacist.

**JAMES:** You don't mean a drug seller?

**LORENZO:** I became a drug dealer? That's right. Street pharmacist. You like that, don't you?

**BETTY:** It kind of cleans it up a little bit, right?

**LORENZO:** So, I'm dealing drugs. I'm dealing drugs. I'm dealing drugs. And it was April 18th, 1999, I'll never forget it. I'm down in Daytona Beach and I was on ecstasy, acid, blew out of my mind. Literally. I was cutting myself. And I was approached by a security guard. He said, "Hey, you've got to leave! Because if you hurt yourself or someone else we're liable. You've got to get out of here." He walks me out of the resort that I was paying for with drug money. He said, "Can I pray for you?"

**BETTY:** Wow!

**LORENZO:** But the power of prayer -- the power of prayer. Now remember in the Old Testament, the false prophets were cutting themselves. It was a form of idol worship, self-mutilation. You know, cutters. It's a spirit. I was cutting myself, trying to destroy myself. He

said, "No, no, no! I want to pray with you." He grabbed my hands and started praying for me. Can you imagine that? He's just started praying for me. I'd never had anybody pray for me like that. Immediately, I knew drug dealing was wrong. First time in my life! I thought it was a business, and I made a lot of money. Bad health insurance. You can't pull it out of your 401K. But that's a great cash business, though.

So, I go up to the only church that I knew of, Straight Gate Church. "Enter ye into the straight gate because broad is the way and wide is the gate that leads to destruction, and there be many that enter therein. But straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads to life and there be few that find it." I go to Straight Gate Church, on April 18th, 1999. I have drugs in my pocket. I was selling something called ketamine, it was special K. Kids were snorting it. They were going to rave parties and I was selling it. I had it in my pocket. But the way they worship, can you imagine it? The way people worship the Lord? I'm sitting there with my driver, Mike Jessop. He was my driver. I'm crying. Bishop Merritt preaches. He said, "Does anybody want to give their heart to Jesus Christ?" I looked at Mike. I said, "I'm going down there." I go down. I'm crying. Can you imagine that? A bloody brow, a broken soul; had everything on the outside. But what can a man give for his soul? Bishop Merritt gave me the microphone, 3000 people, and the place was packed. He gives me the mic. Like out of my belly -- out of my belly like a river of water, "I love Jesus" just comes out of my mouth. At that time, the elders would take you to the back of the church and they would explain the gospel to you. I got baptized. But I'm still a drug dealer. I go home. I called all my friends and said, "I'm done. I'm not dealing drugs anymore." They say, "Yeah right!" I said, "I'm out of it." I go to the guy I was distributing for. I sit down with him, I give him all the drugs, give him all the money. I said, "I'm done." He said, "What's wrong?"

Now remember, this guy had bodies under his belt. He was a real murderer. He says to me, "What's wrong? Are the cops onto you? Are you sick?" I said, "No. I gave my heart to Jesus." I get up, I'm telling you, I'm thinking he's going to pound me, shoot me. I put my hand on the door, he said. "Zoe!" I turn around. He says, "I respect you." Can you imagine that? On Friday I was a dope dealer, on Monday I'm a hope dealer.

**BETTY:** That's great! I love it.

**LORENZO:** I'm preaching the gospel! And the good Lord put that boldness in me. President Trump came to my church last year. He called and he said he wanted to come by. Couldn't believe it. Now, I voted Republican my whole life but I just couldn't believe that a president would come to my church. Now the Bible says we ought to pray, first of all for those in authority, so we can lead an honest and peaceful life unto all godliness because it's God's will that none shall perish, but that all come into the knowledge of the truth. He comes in. Before he leaves he says, "Will you pray for me?" Unscripted! I pray for him and this is what I pray, "Lord, protect him from things seen and unseen." Before he leaves, he shakes my hand and says, "At the inauguration, you'll be there." What's that?

**BETTY:** What just happened?

**LORENZO:** So, 30 days later, what happens? He experiences the millimeter. One millimeter -- if he moves one millimeter he's dead. The good Lord -- we believe the good Lord protected him.

**JAMES:** He believes that.

**LORENZO:** Totally! So, we preach at the RNC. We preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We lifted up Jesus. Even said all sinners need to be able to come to Christ. We preached the gospel, and then at the inauguration, we were able to pray Dr. King's dream, all for God's glory, all for his honor, and all for his name to be praised. We give him the glory for it.

**JAMES:** Okay. You are called, I promise, to literally help move the whole church to look like Jesus. And the family to look and behave like the family of the Father, the perfect Father. You can do that. I've been preaching for 64 years, and I'm here to tell you, I know preachers. I've never seen anybody that I believe is any more anointed, or gifted. And so, what you're going to need is great wisdom. I want you to start praying that for him. And, I'll give you his address but I want you to be very prayerful because you may want to send support. But what I ask you to do

is not send support until he tells you what it's for. Just like when we tell you we're going to feed, we're going to drill wells, you know, we're going to do outreaches. Whatever we tell you, we've done it and we've done it for 60 years, faithfully. But I want you to keep up with us now. If they wanted to send you something in the mail just to tell you they love you or that they are going to help you, where would they send it that it would connect?

**LORENZO:** Thank you so much. Our address is: 13660 Stansbury Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, 48227. This area is the number one area in America where kids get taken out of their homes because their parents have mental illnesses. Number one area in America for a to-do –

**JAMES:** Do drugs contribute to that?

**LORENZO:** Absolutely. Cross addiction drugs. We have right now, as we speak, we have teenagers who called us and said, “My mom and my dad left me on the streets.” Now, Detroit is cold. So, we put these young people in a home that we're renovating right now. We're renovating a home right now. We want to be able to make sure that we can provide not just housing, but transportation because they've got to get to school. These are teenagers.

**JAMES:** You've already started doing it?

**LORENZO:** We just started. We just got the home. We're renovating the home.

**JAMES:** Okay. We're going to try to have a check and meet you out back. That has nothing to do with where you are right now. But he just told me something. But you saw the address. We'll have it up. You can get it back, at the prayer center, or you can get it online. But boy, I want you to listen to what he says. This is a chosen vessel. We've never met. He didn't know me. You know, most people know me. I've been around a while. Okay? He didn't need to know me because he knows him. But I am telling you, Betty, we knew that we heard somebody. And the minute you got through praying, I said, “He has to come to our studio.”

**BETTY:** Absolutely. And you know, I listen to you and I think, really the people that you describe that are so needy, that's all of us, no matter what background we have. I know this man. I know where he came from. His situation was impossible. But for God! And His life through the impossibilities that you'd never think God could change, changed my life as a little church girl. I mean, my mom and dad had four kids. We thought we were rich, but we weren't. We were far from it, you know? But we had food on the table. We had clothes to wear, we had schools to go to. But when I met him, God changed my heart completely. I saw somebody who really knew Jesus. That's what it's all about, isn't it?

**LORENZO:** Amen. Absolutely.

**BETTY:** That's what you're trying to show people. With God all things are possible. Every life!

**JAMES:** I'm the product of a rape of a home nurse, 40 years old, who could not have a child; never had had a child. She got pregnant and took me to be aborted and the doctor would not abort me. She put an ad in the paper and gave me away. I ended up, basically living on the street, so to speak, no home that ever faced a street for ten years. Anyway, God saved me. Boy, when he saved me, it was like you. It was in orbit and hasn't stopped now. But a lot of the rest of my life, and I feel like I just heard the Lord whisper this to me, a lot of the rest of your life is going to be lived out through your life.

**LORENZO:** Wow!

**JAMES:** I'm going to help you. But here's the thing now. We're going to help more people than you can ever imagine. And we're going to help people that you never, ever dreamed of even being noticed. Just like you, you didn't think -- I didn't think it either.

Betty, do you know any better way I could spend my life than helping him?

**BETTY:** Well, we feel like we're living in the best season of our life. We're 81, you know? We feel like God's not through with us. Every breath he gives us is an opportunity to do something

for him, and we want to go out in a fire of glory just praising him and doing our best to serve him. When we see some people like you who love the Lord and want to make a difference in the world with God, it just excites us deep down.

**JAMES:** I'm 81. I've lived 80% of my life if I live to be 100, so I'm living my last days. But let me tell you how the last days are supposed to be fulfilled. His will being done on his earth. The gospel of the Kingdom -- Kingdom impact is preached in every nation. That's not just in word, that's in demonstration. That's His will. Are you listening to me? The will of the Father, His will, kingdom will be done on his earth. Then he comes for a body, a church that looks like him, and a family. Does that make sense?

**LORENZO:** Glory to God!

**JAMES:** (Unintelligible) Okay, we're going to stay close. I've already told you what we're going to start doing. I want you praying for us right now. We are literally rescuing the trafficked. He knows lots of trafficked people.

**LORENZO:** Well, right next to my church we have women being human trafficked today.

**JAMES:** We're going to help you every way we can, and so will they. But what I want us to do, according to the Father, and we'll spend some time praying together, I want us to hear every word he wants us to hear to help get his family looking like him, the church looking like Jesus, and get the family healthy.

**LORENZO:** Amen.

**JAMES:** Okay. Anything else you want to say?

**LORENZO:** Well, I want to tell you, first of all, that I'm very humbled. You know, my wife and I, our church, we have given everything. We really have. We don't take a salary from the church. We don't. We stopped doing that since Covid because everything was decimated in



Detroit like never before. We give everything. So, for you to partner with us, it's a harvest. It's a harvest and I'm very humbled and very grateful that the Lord has answered our prayers through partnering with your ministry.

**JAMES:** I mean it. I mean it! We love you. Watch. Obey God.

**Transition roll-in:**

**TAMMY:** Here I am in Southeast Asia, spending another day with one of our incredible missionary partners on the ground. They will go to every length possible to reach these girls to rescue them, and to give them a new life. I've been able to see that today. I've been able to hear that today. And I want you to hear it for yourself. I'm going to protect her identity and her name, but we'll call her Soka.

>> When I was 13 years old, I started working at a bar to get some money and take care of my family. The customers would beat me, but I still had to serve them drinks. But then I was told I had to sleep with the customers, and they would hit me and make me take drugs. It was like being in hell.

One day I heard about this ministry and how they could teach me to do a new job. I wanted to try it, but I still felt like I didn't belong anywhere but the bar. Slowly, God began to enter my heart. And now I know that God loves me. He's always near me, and he has given me great joy and hope for my future. I thank God for this ministry, my new friends, and my new job. I pray every day for women like me who feel hopeless and worthless. I pray that they can join me here and learn how much God loves them.

**TAMMY:** God is on the move in Southeast Asia. She's just one girl. She's one. And she represents so many other girls that need that same hope today. If we don't try to make a difference today, I don't know where they'll be tomorrow.

**Studio appeal:**

**JAMES:** Do you know how much somebody who loves puts it in the hands of love can get God's arms around the broken? Betty, we've been doing it a long, long time.

**BETTY:** We have.

**JAMES:** I want to do it a lot longer. But I can't do any of it. All I can do is show you a sad situation, and we could weep, and we could say a prayer and walk away. Or we can find a way to put our hands out with something that we'll put in the hands of those who have hands-on, and we'll put arms around, and we'll get involved to rescue these girls. And now even provide 50 more rooms in a beautiful building that we're renovating but we need \$1.25 million to do it.

Father, you are the miracle. You're the one who makes miracles happen, but we're the ones who provide the miracle with your love flowing through us. Move everyone watching, in Jesus' name.

Would you go and get your bank card and use it like a check? Get a check. Make a gift to LIFE. I know by now, you remember \$128 is what it takes to rescue one child. \$1280, ten. Would you please right now just make the gift God leads you to make? We have some beautiful gifts. Here is Dr. Jeremiah's beautiful devotional book, *Sleep on This*. My goodness! And you can put a place there that's new technology that will play it to you beautifully by someone who is gifted to read these great devotionals. And these cups, Betty, I mean, they're the prettiest cups I've ever seen. They have a beautiful scripture on each one of them. Ceramic. Then "The Lion of Judah" with the cross; that's my favorite one we've ever done. We've been doing them for 25-30 years. Maybe longer than that. And boy, do people like them. You're going to like this one.

Please make the gift God put on your heart. Remember, you're giving life. You are providing the miracle that changes everything for people who never thought they'd have a chance. Thank you.

**Rescue Life Cause Spot:**

**ANNOUNCER:** *Innocent children longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold into the evil industry of human trafficking. Through Mission: Rescue Life, your gift today of only \$128 will help reach, rescue, or restore a child and change their destiny forever. Gifts of \$64 or \$32 will be combined with support from others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of sexual slavery. Currently, one of our Rescue Centers in Southeast Asia is at maximum capacity. With the need never greater, we need to secure and renovate a new Rescue home that will offer refuge and restoration for up to 50 trafficking survivors. Please consider an additional gift as we urgently need \$1.25 million above our normal budget to secure and renovate this place of hope. With a gift of any amount, we'll send you Sleep on This by Dr. David Jeremiah. This nightly devotional will help you let go of your anxieties and rest in peace as you reflect on inspiring promises from God's word.*

*With a gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the elegant mug set, "A Beautiful Morning." Both generously sized mugs are inscribed with encouraging scriptures to begin your new day. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will help save 10 children. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah."*

*Please call, write, or make your gift online.*

**Field appeal:**

**KIRIE:** James and Betty, just earlier today I watched several girls be rescued. I can't imagine what would have happened to them had these heroes not been standing right there where they are. They are fighting the very last line of defense for these children to prevent them from being taken into a life of slavery. It happens right here, right here on this line.

But that doesn't happen without our support. So, I'm asking you to once again go to your supporters who are so faithful and present to them another need, a need that is great! It's so much easier to restore a life that hasn't been broken than to rebuild a life that's been crushed. If

we can stop it from happening here, just think of the joy in those families' lives. Think of what joy a child would have to not have to walk through darkness. Please, James and Betty, let's do what we can. Let's raise the funds that we need to keep these people standing guard.

**Studio good-bye:**

**JAMES:** Well, I think you can tell I get excited about Jesus in people. I do want to mention that we want to give a home. You see, there's no more rent property where we're trying to help these girls that we're referring to in Southeast Asia. We've got a building; it's a decent building. It just needs to be reshaped; over \$1 million. And then we want you to help us rescue those girls; \$128 will rescue one. You can do that so please do it. Whatever God leads you to.

And then you be praying for me and be praying for Lorenzo because I have an idea we're going to be together. Now whether you see us together or not, he's going to. And you are going to see him, I hope you see him some through me but you will see him through Lorenzo, and he's going to inspire people like you to let others see him through you very clearly.

Sure love you. Will you come back?

**LORENZO:** Love you, too! Yes, absolutely.

**JAMES:** Thank you for watching.