

Week 40

9/24/12

James: Thank you so much. You're kind and thank you for welcoming us into your home or wherever you happen to be watching.

I'm James Robison. Betty and I have been told for some time, and it is really, really quite impactful the movie, *October Baby*, might be one of the great, I would call "kingdom imprints" or "impacts" on our planet at this time of anything that perhaps has been produced that's gone into the theaters and it is now available in DVD.

Of course, I don't know if you understand much about the story but it is the story of a woman who had an abortion and actually, there were two there, and one of them lived. It's quite a story.

The actress in *October Baby* is Sheri Rigby. She's been in a number of soap operas and other productions. She is a very gifted and beautiful actress. But the incredible thing is not only the phenomenal emotional display of what happened in this very true situation but also how it related in a very direct way to her.

I want you to welcome this very gifted actress and a very powerful, powerful presentation that I would say you show to your whole family, the DVD. I would even recommend that you consider showing it to the church; you might call a special service or screening. It would be really important that you do that.

Would you welcome Sheri Rigby to *LIFE Today*?

Sheri, we're glad you're here.

Sheri: Thank you! Thank you so much.

James: I want you to just take us on your journey because what happened, a lot of people didn't know, and you were playing a part but they didn't really realize how connected you were. Just tell us a little bit about your journey and your story and we'll see how it relates and we'll actually see one of the more emotional moments in the film, in the movie.

Sheri: Well, I was actually a little girl -- I grew up in a little town, in Cooperstown,

North Dakota so I spent most of my time in a broken down movie theater. This is really where God had put this place in my heart for acting and this passion.

As my life kind of went on, my family moved to Arizona and life really took a turn. We were kind of what you would say fish out of water from a little town to a big city. I had been raised in the Lutheran church when I was a little girl and then my mom took us into the Baptist church when I was about 13. That's when I dedicated my life to Christ. At that point in time I didn't know what that meant. I sat there and I raised my hand and I was so blessed that God knew what it meant because I knew at that point -- there was a change but my life didn't emulate that change. I walked a very different path.

I ended up getting involved in a very abusive relationship at a very young age. At 16 I found myself pregnant and I had my first baby when I was 17. So at that point in life, I was considered very much a statistic to most and that I wasn't going to do a whole lot with my life. So just in this moment of time for me, I was married to a man that was abusive. He dove into drugs and alcohol and I found myself in that same place just trying to cope with life.

My first real -- God just grabbing me and shaking me up was I had been doing drugs myself and I walked into a room and I saw my beautiful 18 month old little boy and I just knew he didn't deserve an identity like this. And walked into the bathroom and I just had this moment with the Lord and cried out to him as Hagar cries out and he heard her and he heard me. He just gave me this vision of this woman standing in this mirror that was just a dead woman.

Within a few days he turned my life around and he gave me this first job as a model. I thought wow, here's something life-changing. I went on this trip and I came back. Little things started happening. I ended up getting out of this abusive marriage. I went back to college and I was really determined to be something with my life, to make it better. Unfortunately, on the outside it looked good but on the inside it wasn't healed.

So I got into school and I was working real hard and the next thing I knew I found myself at this law firm. I was doing great, in another relationship, but not being healed, wasn't really sure that this was a relationship I should be in, and I found myself pregnant. I just knew that this was not something I could face again. I could not be looked at like that again. I just knew in that moment that this was not -- I wasn't going to have this baby. So the gentleman I was with at the time, that was it, we decided that I was going to go in and have this abortion. Unfortunately, 20 years ago, I

can't even tell you what the procedure was. I can't even go back to it but that was another turning point of my life.

I remember very briefly after that the relationship ended and God gave me another change in my life, and another reversal of destiny and he brought me to the most godly man and he gave me another chance. This godly man, he said to me, on our second date, he said, "Would you come to church with me?" And I just remember going into this church and it was the first time that I had heard the story of grace and just the powerful message of how much Christ loved me.

So as life goes on, we were doing different things. I was planning a whole house full of babies. By 2002, that wasn't going to happen. They told me I wasn't going to have any more children. Within a very short time after that, I had a man walk into a coffee shop that my husband and I had started at church and said, "How would you like to do commercials?"

I said, "Commercials? God? Babies? Commercials? Where are we going?"

And within a very short time things kept rolling and happening. Then by 2008, I had gone off, I had gotten the role on *The Young and The Restless*. Started working with the Erwins; they called me to do the Casting Crowns video for *Slow Fade*. Went home for a routine hysterectomy, because of all the damage that had been done; I almost died. I was on my death bed saying good-bye to my family. And God just once again restored my life and he gave me another chance. The doctor leaned over me after they rushed me into surgery and said, "You shouldn't be here." Renal failure, you should have had a heart attack -- all these things. And I just knew God had a plan for me. And he gave me Acts 20:24 in that and that my life means nothing but to finish the race and complete the task and to glorify the grace with my Savior.

So the next few things he started doing in my life in 2009, he just rolls us into Hollywood -- and this was another thing. You go from one place to going, "Okay, God, we're in a economic crisis and this is where we're going." And then by 2010, all the sudden this phone rings and it is John Erwin and he's like, "I've got this great film for you. We would love to have you. Could you please read it and let us know?"

And I go driving home on the 405 that is not fast but I get there and there's this beautiful print out of this script that I'm holding in my hand and it was the first thing that God just really gave me with *October Baby* and it was the picture of Rachel Hendrix and my husband looked at her and he said, "Oh, wow! This girl could be your daughter."

And God just started this process and he really got to me. He gave me all these different moments where he showed me my little girl, I got to meet her, and he heard my cry again. He showed me in that, also a moment of a sea of women's faces and he really spoke to me saying, "This isn't about you, this is about them."

And in 2010, when this, I didn't know, I got on the set a few months later and I started shooting and I walk in and here's the glorious gift of standing and looking Rachel Hendrix in the eyes and going, "This is what my little girl would have looked like all grown up."

Then all of the sudden I walk into the next scene and here's this note. And as believers, we know the power of the living word, that Christ has died for our sins and we've been forgiven but to see it written, I can't even tell you what that meant in that moment and Christ, he just met me there.

And in that moment, that when people see this, that was not acting, that was me sitting in the lap of my savior and him cradling me and saying, "You have been forgiven."

The last scene of it was I go in and sit down with my husband because I have to share with him that this is something that I've done and that also had happened in my life, six or seven years into my marriage I had to share with this very godly man another thing in my life that had occurred. So it's just this moment of all of these healings.

Now here we are in this place where the movie has been released and what I'm seeing is that men and women all over the United States, all over the world, are being touched by a film of forgiveness and hope and that it's okay, we don't have to be captivated by this -- and life is so precious.

James: I want us to see that moment that she's referring to and the forgiveness that was extended to the person who had tried to abort the baby that it didn't die. Let's watch.

Begin video clip:

>> Stacy, could you --.

[Sighing]

[Sniffling]

[Crying]
End of clip

James: Whoo! What was going on inside when you saw that? Because that looked like you moved beyond acting right there. What happened?

Sheri: That was just my moment. Christ was just there with me. He was just standing there and he just put his arms around me. Really, I -- it was that moment that I just sat there on the floor with him and he just cradled me and he held me. It was just that moment that he said to me, "You have been forgiven. It's done. It's over."

To have something in 20 years of your life to be in this moment where God just so meets you there, and just this peace; to have that restoration and to feel that power of love was the most incredible moment. And I sat there for probably 15 minutes. The set was quiet when we were done and I was mourning my loss of my little girl.

And our wardrobe stylist came over and she had just had a baby and she just sat and held me. And we just sat there and she rejoiced in hers and I mourned in mine but rejoiced in knowing that she was in heaven.

James: We had a couple here recently that aborted their baby, they were both here, they made the decision and they actually went back and named their little baby. Had a little service; they love her.

I think some of you know my story; most of you who watch us do. My mother conceived me in a forced relationship; it was a rape. She was 40 and gave birth to me at 41 only because a doctor said, "I won't abort the baby you're asking me to abort." Because she had every reason, she said, to abort the baby in her 40-year-old womb. The doctor said, "No."

And the beautiful thing is that I really, really -- I am full of forgiveness and my mother knew that I forgave -- my mother knew that I forgave the alcoholic who not only forced his way on her but actually came back in our lives later and tried to kill her and said he was going to kill me and I almost killed him. And I forgave him. And said, "I don't know you." I picked him up in a drunken stupor. He had thrown up on himself. I held him and I said, "I don't know you. You're my dad, I don't know you but I love you."

And there's something about not only being forgiven but forgiving. So for the girl in the movie to say that, that was huge for her but it was huge for the mother as you played that part. Somehow you've got to wonder, your little girl, you'll see her some day and even now, if in the witnesses... there is a great cloud of witnesses, don't you sense she's saying, "I forgive you," and don't you want all the women who have made the mistake, that it is a mistake because it is a life; there was in my mother's womb possibilities. You may not like these possibilities. You may have wished I had been aborted. You may not like me but my kids like me. Betty likes me. She likes me a lot. My grandchildren like their Papaw. They think their Papaw is cool.

I had the nicest compliment. One of our grandkids said, "Our grandparents are cool!"

[Laughter]

And it's -- I think that --

Betty: Well, the beautiful thing is that God is ready to forgive us. He's ready, right there with that forgiveness and maybe there are women that have carried that guilt around from aborting a baby but just knowing that there can be healing come through that forgiveness if they'll only receive it.

Sheri: Absolutely. And the men and women both. Just in the screeners, when we've been watching *October Baby* and going to the screeners all over the United States, and we've had men sitting there and they start sharing their stories about how they participated, they had taken their girlfriends and they're seeking forgiveness and healing as well.

I think it's such -- this is where we need to be those arms of Christ and really say, "We need to forgive these people."

James: And you needed to feel that forgiveness. And you experienced it, as you saw it there, you were sensing it and you were sensing it because your first reference was, "Jesus was holding me." And I think that if all of you could, and you might not want me to give you a shoulder, you might not want me to put an arm around you, you might not want to -- but you could lay on my shoulder and you could cry your heart out and I would care. I would want to heal the broken heart. If I feel that way, of such an ordinary person, how much more does God feel that? How much more does the Lord Jesus Christ feel that? That he wants to hold you forever, he wants to forgive and heal the broken heart; You don't need to live your life with the shame that he died to

take. He took the shame, the blame, the sin, the failure -- he took it all for us in order that we could be freed from that load.

So wherever you are, whatever you've done, you've made this decision that is not the wisest or best. You were dealing with a very real little life that had incredible potential but God is a forgiver. We forgive, God forgives -- ask him. No matter what you're dealing with, no matter what you've been through, you know you heard Sheri tell so many of the things that went on with her that God forgave her. It was like okay, you forgot and you got right, then you made a mess again. It is like you just keep falling in the pit and he's still there. He doesn't leave because you made another bad decision. He's there. He didn't leave you like sometimes people do, even family.

Father, I pray for every person that you're reaching out to, that they would just receive your love and your grace. In Jesus' name.

If you want someone to pray with you, right now, could somebody just pray with me? Well, dial the number, it's a prayer line, and just say, "Just agree with me, I need prayer. I want to be forgiven." You're going to be talking to people that have been forgiven. You'll be talking to someone that cares.

I just want the best for you that God has. That's forgiveness and life and a new beginning.

I'm so grateful for *October Baby*! Get it. Go get the DVD. Show it to your family. Watch it. Show it to others. Show it in your church.

Would you say thanks to Sheri for sharing with us? Would you just --

Thank you! Thank God for you. I pray God blesses you. What's your web site if people want to know how they could find out what you're doing or what's going on?

Sheri: SheriRigby.com, that's the way that they can find me. Also looking on the OctoberBabyMovie.net is a great way. And also with OctoberMovie.net they did the Every Life is Beautiful campaign, and so that's just a great opportunity to look at that too.

James: Check that out and she does speak occasionally, I'd say what you'd say a major function for the glory of God but she really believes she is supposed to be in Hollywood as a light and a witness, and I agree with that very much.

Sheri, we're trying to put little shoes on little babies that have life and don't have much and shoes on older kids. We call it "Christmas Shoes and Christmas Smiles." I want you to watch this. I promise you, you're going to be blessed. Now you'll be moved, but you're going to be blessed because when we get to bless in a special way, we get a special blessing. Watch this.

On the mission field:

James: And I'm asking you to give as many pairs of shoes as you can to put on these beautiful, beautiful feet of these beautiful children! Thank you! Thank you for your help!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: That's... I tell you what, that's Christmas smiles and shoes right there for Christmas. She didn't have any cleft palate surgery, she got some shoes and put that big old smile on her face.

Betty, I'm praying everybody watching during this last week when we take the Christmas shoes and Christmas smiles emphasis that everybody watching will help us at least give 10 children shoes. That only takes \$36; \$72 will give 20 children shoes; a gift of \$144 -- you've got to do the math -- \$144 will give 40 children shoes. At some level you can help us. Would you do that? Is there any way you could say, "I'm going to make 40 children really happy for Christmas. I'm going to give them shoes." But don't step out if you can't do that.

If you can give ten, those ten because we'll target, with the missionaries, 200,000 little children and their feet to bless them. And then the smiles, Betty, I think everybody wants to give a smile to a child.

Betty: I do too! You had to have a big smile on your face when you watched that little girl dancing around in those shoes. It had to make you grin. We want to put some shoes on some children's precious feet but we want to put some smiles on some children's faces too, James.

James: And we can do that together. Would you dial the number right now? Like I said, this is our last week of this Christmas Shoes and Smiles emphasis. You dial the number, please. Take your bankcard, use it like a check -- the wisest way to use it --

and make the largest gift you can. If you want to write a check, make the check to *LIFE* but call that same number, tell us what you're mailing.

Many of our friends like to go online now and make their gift. You can go to *LifeToday.org* and just make the gift God puts on your heart. We've got it immediately and that helps us, we can tell the missionaries, "Hey, you're going to have shoes for the children in your area." That's why we work way ahead of time. I know it's way out, the little Christmas ornament, I'm excited about that right now but you will treasure it and it will bring back great memories.

Our son's book, *God Wants You to Be Happy* -- great Bible study, great lessons. What a gifted writer. I'm proud of our son. He's a treasure. We want to send you the book, as well as the other things we've mentioned like the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze if you'll give those smiles, those gifts for a couple of children to have a smile, \$1,000, will give two smiles. Would you do it? Whatever you can do, we're asking you to go to the phone or go online. Make that special gift and from the bottom of our hearts we thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water, but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today, you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pair and a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift, be sure to request the inspirational new book, *God Wants You to be Happy* by James and Betty's son, Randy Robison.

With your gift of \$100 to help provide 28 pairs of shoes, you may request this beautifully crafted shoe ornament to place on your tree each Christmas.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze sculpture.

This is the last week! Please call, write or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I want to say thank you from the bottom of our heart. I do want to remind you to be praying that we make good decisions this year; the Christian VOTE pin is available. You can go to *LifeToday.org* and we'll tell you how to get the book, *Indivisible*. It is available both in hardback and soft cover. We're trying to show you the things that matter that we really need to be praying about.

Of course, among that is the preciousness of life and boy, does *October Baby* do that so well. Would you say again thanks to Sheri?

Sheri, you're a real blessing.

Sheri: Thank you so much!

James: We pray God blesses everything you do and I know that he will.

Thank all of you. Thank you so much. Thank you for making some little children really, really happy! You're such a blessing!