

Week 50

12/4/12

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty Robison and this is James. You're going to meet an incredible couple today!

James: As a matter of fact, you're going to meet them in an unusual setting and then you're going to see them in person. But I want you to meet them in an elevator first because this is pretty incredible. You'll want to kind of tighten your seat belt and get ready not to move.

And you might in a moment want to call some folks and say, "You've got to watch this and see just what God can do with an impossible -- totally impossible situation."

Let's start in an elevator.

Begin video clip

>> What floor?

>> I'll get it.

>> Give me your money... and the lady too.

>> Buddy, you can have the money but I don't think you want the lady.

>> Really?

>> No, honey, that's not what I meant. No, honey, I wasn't meaning that in a derogatory... I'm sorry.

>> What do you think, this is a joke? I said give me your money.

>> Are you sure this is what you want?

>> What do you think?

[Grunting]

>> Ahh!

>> Good catch.

>> Thank you.

>> I told you, you didn't want the lady.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Would you welcome Victor and Eileen Marx to *LIFE Today*? That was fun; wasn't it?

Victor: It was!

James: Now you were in the Marines and you're a seven-degree black belt. Your wife was, I think some kind of a national competitive champion.

Victor: Miss Fitness U.S.A. Black belt as well.

James: So I'll be real nice. Anything I can do for you?

[Laughter]

This is the Victor Marx story. It is a powerful documentary. And Victor as a ministry where he goes and talks to incarcerated young people, especially. This is probably as powerful as anything you'll ever see. You can play it to the whole church. But where would they go if they wanted you to come because they believed you could have an impact?

Victor: Most churches and organizations can find us at: VictorMarx, (with an X,) .com. They can just e-mail us right through that or on Facebook or any -- if they go to YouTube, we have all of our information right there.

James: Now you worked for years with FOCUS ON THE FAMILY. They're actually the ones that encouraged you to start telling your story because it was tough to tell. So I want you to kind of cut to the chase. We have less than 15 minutes for you to cover a lot of ground, a lifetime, but the thing that opened you both up was when the two of

you had been married for a while, you were having a little bit of tension. Right? Was that even while you were at Focus? While you were there; so there at FOCUS ON THE FAMILY you've got some tension and then you found out about his past. Isn't that right? And you began to see what he'd been through.

Eileen: Well, it was in pieces that we were finding out about his past because he really didn't even know about his past. When he started walking in and talking to the kids who had been incarcerated and hearing their stories, he started remembering his stuff. And that started -- he wasn't able to hold it in anymore and that's when he started -- the doctors were saying it was posttraumatic stress disorder. So yes, that's when I started to see this bizarre behavior and irrational thinking and things that he was going through. He was actually diagnosed with bipolar.

James: Well, cover the ground as quickly as you can because it's in the book, *The Victor Marx Story*, and it is incredible what he went through. But what you need to hear is not only how difficult the circumstances and how damaging but how great God was to bring him out.

Victor: My father was a drug dealer and a pimp who didn't claim me as his kid. When my mom got pregnant, he said, "That ain't mine."

My mother ended up marrying six times; I went to 14 schools, 17 different houses. But my life, I would say radically changed, outside of the rejection that you feel when there is not a dad there.

When I was five years old in Mendenhall, Mississippi, in the middle of the summer I was caught by a child molester. He went to abuse me, then he tried to kill me by locking me into a commercial cooler and leaving me there for dead. My family would look for me for hours. They looked in the woods, down by the pond; they thought maybe I'd drowned. But when they came in there, it was at a chicken farm, when they came into that building and they opened the cooler I was unconscious.

Now they ended up taking me -- they didn't take me to the hospital, they just rushed me up to the house. They actually found the fella who did it and then they hung him from behind my mamaw's house. Now, they didn't kill him; they just wanted to put fear in him. But when he was hanging limp, they cut him down.

So that was kind of the basis of the formation, and I wish that the abuse stopped there but it didn't. A lot of times when people get abused, they almost have a big X on them and they become a target.

My first stepfather was very abusive to us. From the ages of three to seven, I would be tortured and abused. Meaning... and I don't like to bring great darkness, I don't want to give the enemy any type of -- but I like to tell enough so people understand what God has done because it is a miracle.

But I've been dumped in a tub until I passed out. I was electrocuted as a kid. And the reason why I'm known for this gun technique is because at seven years old, that stepfather put me in a chair and held a loaded pistol with the hammer back to my head. And he said he would kill me if I ever told anybody what he had done. So that was a driving factor in my life, to excel at martial arts to say, "No one is going to touch me and if anybody ever puts a gun to my head, I'm going to be able to disarm them."

So through this basis foundation, my life continued to be crazy. I had one stepfather who I would later find out as a teenager had killed somebody and went to Chino Prison for murder. And I'm asking my mom, "Really?"

Another one, and believe it or not, my mom was doing the best that she could because she came from dysfunction. In our family, our issues had issues. You're just kind of doing the best that you can. I think most people do when they come from that background.

My grandfather died in a mental hospital and it was the same mental hospital that my dad went to. And then I had to go into psychiatric care. I had 123 visits to a trauma specialist in nine months. I was on Depakote, Depakene; did Prozac, Zoloft, Lithium, Buspar -- I was having flashbacks that were interfering with my life. They would be at night, night terrors; daytime: high anxiety and panic. We didn't know what was going on.

People say, "Well, was there anybody, another grandparent?" My other grandfather actually killed his wife and shot himself in public in Louisiana. So that was my foundation.

I would end up finding a place to take me in and it was the United States Marine Corps, and it was good for me. They taught me structure, discipline but I had all that anger, all that anger and with an M16 I became a competitive shooter. I could shoot or -- you guys are hunters so ten rounds in a target of a man at 546 yards without a scope. So that was again a driving factor but I didn't have peace.

The Lord has really set me free to be able to tell my story and give people permission to get help. Ask God for help. Don't --. If there is one common thread that I see and people say, "Well, if God is such a loving God, why would he cause this?"

You know what I've learned? There is a difference between causing and allowing. The enemy, the devil who hates us, and then evil people with their own will to choose to do evil, that's who we believe blame, not God. God is a loving father, just like you have always taught and you've stayed steady on. And I'm about to get it.

[Laughter]

But he loves us and it breaks his heart. And it took -- it really took an encounter with God for me because I asked, "Where were you in my abuse? When I was being laid on a bed and beat? Where were you?"

And the Lord showed me one time and I'll never forget. As I'm laying on the bed, my stepfather had been drinking and he grabbed that leather strap and he went to hit me. I saw the Lord appear in-between me and him. And then I'm watching this and I'm thinking, well, touch him, kill him! Blow his heart out! But it wouldn't have been real, because that did not happen.

What I saw next changed my perspective of how loving Jesus is and God the father. You know Jesus what? Jesus turned, and I'm on that bed, and he kneeled down and he mashed his body into mine right before I got hit. And he took the hardest beatings so that I could survive. That's a God who I can love, that's a Jesus I can trust, who will take my pain for me. Nobody else can do that; no other gods, no other addictions or sources, that's real.

And you know what? That impacted my life in a huge way. I would see through layers of being healed and when she talked about stuff that I didn't remember, it was stuff I didn't want to remember. Stuff I had pushed down. But I tell people, you know what? Pushing down abuse and trauma from your past is like holding a beach ball under water. You can do it for so long but eventually it's going to pop up. And our behavior tells on us. That's what caused us --

I've put this poor woman through hell. And you know, one of the things she did that proved to me... because for me, can God love me? I believe this with all my heart, even in the Christian -- even Christianity in the church, most people really don't get that God loves them -- loves them!

And one night I had a complete breakdown, flash back. I was curled up in a ball. We were up in our bedroom and our door was shut and I ended up ripping my clothes off and screaming and ran into the shower and I fell in a ball and I just held my knees to myself because I kept yelling, "Don't let him kill me! Don't let him kill me!"

My wife, she came into that bathroom, fully dressed, opened the shower door. She walked in and she kneeled down and she held me. She didn't try to fix me. She just cried with me. And for me, it was God showing me, I love you. And He was loving me through her and that impacted me in a huge way.

I tell people, if you've got a spouse who has suffered from the past, it is a gift to be there, because you can be used of God in a way to prove to them and replace lies that the enemy has planted because those are the strongholds, the lies. And that's why we love you guys so much.

James: I love you, Victor.

Eileen, thank you for showing him love. What did you see happen to him? What did you watch God do?

Eileen: I watched God show himself -- the misrepresentation that he had of who God was, was broke, was crushed. God showed him who he really was -- a loving God, one that loved Victor and had a plan and purpose through all of his pain. It wasn't just because this man or these people were evil, God is using it to show other people that God is love and he is real and he wants to take their pain.

Victor: He is a redeemer. He is a redeemer of what evil people meant for bad.

James: Your story is in the Victor Marx story and we would love to send it to you. And we just have just... boy, just a couple of minutes but you actually were led to Christ by which man?

Victor: It was my biological dad that actually came back into my life through a letter. He said that something had happened to him. I was blown away because he said he had given his life to Jesus Christ.

Now this is a man who, the last I'd heard, he was a practicing warlock. But he invited me to go to church. And I took a leave of absence from the Marine Corps, flew down and I went to church with him and I heard just a simple message, how much Jesus loved me, and he died on the cross for my sins. It was the first time I stopped blaming

everybody else. I took responsibility because I knew my sin, my wrong put him on the cross, and he loved me.

And even at the point of my salvation, an elder came and put his hand on me and when he did, I turned around and grabbed the man. I was going to punch him.

[Laughter]

I said, "I don't like to be touched."

And my dad was on the front row, he was like, "I know the boy, he'll hit. Let God do what he is going to do."

James: And he did; didn't he? God did what he was going to do.

Victor: And my biological dad ended up being my best man at our wedding. Only God can do that.

James: You went back later to the stepfather that was so mean and he was in the hospital, he had open heart surgery.

Victor: And he was sick and dying at that point. You know what? I remember him; this was a chance for God to show himself really strong in my behalf because here I was not a little boy getting ready to escape. Because we had to hide in the closet from him the night we left.

And I just want to tell you this. The night we left, we were hiding in a closet. He came to the door with a gun and my mom started praying, "The blood of Jesus covers the door. The blood of Jesus covers the door." And he couldn't get in to shoot us.

That night -- (My mom wanted me to tell you this, I didn't know this. I did not know this until yesterday. My mom said, "You make sure and you tell Brother James and Miss Betty.") That night my older sister was supposed to come home. And we got out the window but she didn't come home that night that time, because she was at a crusade by James Robison in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

[Applause]

Or she would have got killed. My mom said, "You tell him his obedience to God is

what saved her life." I didn't know this until yesterday. She's in that movie. She is in that film; that's my sister Debbie.

James: Thank God! Tell them what happened to this guy.

Victor: Well, my stepfather, there he was in the hospital and God put it on my heart the night before that I'd see him no more. We woke up and I was crying for him to get saved. I went in there to that hospital room and there he was. I'd try to tell him but he said, "Don't tell me about Jesus, just show me."

That morning I went in he introduced me to his nurse. He said, "Nurse, this is my son." He said, "I'm proud of him." I'd never heard them words. He said, "He's been worried about my security in heaven." He said, "He don't have to worry anymore. I made it right with God." And he gave his life to the Lord that night and I was able to -- I mean I couldn't believe it. It was such a holy moment. She backed out.

And I said, "What would you want me to tell this man?"

He said, "Tell him you love him."

I looked at him and I said, "Dad, I love you."

And he looked up at me and said, "Boy, I love you too."

Then I took a pillow and put it over his head.

[Laughter]

I'm joking! I'm joking! Don't laugh. That was wrong!

James: Do you appreciate this incredible testimony? Do you thank God? From the depth of my soul, thank you, God. What a mighty God! What a mighty God! And He loves you. He gave his life for you. He's been raised to live in you; to not only love you but love others through you. And just yield, just say, "Jesus, be my Lord. Come into my life. I give you my life."

Do you want to call that number? Do you want somebody to pray with you? It's paid for by love. I've prepared a book called "*Knowing God as Father*." Victor and I, neither one, really had a father but we know the Father and I'll send it to you just to say, I

want to help you grow" and show you scriptures. Tell someone, "I just asked Jesus to change my life."

We'll be so glad to send you The Victor Marx story. We've got some other gifts we want to send you. Here's what I want to ask you to do. I want to ask you to stop the dying. I want to ask you to be a part of a miracle. Listen to the prayer from a brokenhearted friend, and then you be the answer to that prayer because you can be. I think you'll want to be.

Begin video clip:

>> Africa, what an incredible place! What beautiful people! Their fight for survival -- oh, how they fight for life.

But every six seconds a child here is losing that fight. It is not right. Such injustice...

Every six seconds malnutrition takes another child here. It seems hopeless. Is it hopeless?

Every six seconds. God, what are you saying here? What is your heart for this situation?

Every six seconds -- you're bigger than this. I know your arms are long enough.

Every six seconds, rescue them. We have to rescue them. What is my part? Another child. We have to stop it. It is not hopeless. It can't be hopeless! But another one. This isn't an incurable disease, it is food! It is so simple. It is food!

God, if there is anywhere in the world that your heart runs to, I know this is it. These innocent children. Oh, how you love them! We can do this. I know it is your will. We can do this. Please help us turn back the clock.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't know how many of you noticed but while Tammy was talking and really praying and crying out for help in behalf of the children, she is the beautiful singer that lost her husband not long after they'd been married. He was a swimmer, and yet just went out for a swim and never came back. And she's so precious.

While she was talking about those children going every six seconds, one dies from malnutrition and you saw those pictures every six seconds a child would disappear from the frame. Twelve children disappeared, every six seconds, while I'm talking. We really are the answer to the heart cry of the parent of that child and those children, to the ache and the heart cry of the child. We're the answer. We're the answer to the prayer, to the need, and we can be the hands of God, the hands of Jesus.

Jesus said, "If you do it to the least of these, these overlooked, forgotten, feed them, care for them, clothe them, you've done it to me as directly as possible." Would you right now in the last days of this mission feeding emphasis where we're feeding hundreds of thousands of children, but I want you to think of them as those individuals, not just as a huge crowd. It is a huge crowd because the missionaries have found them and because we said, "We will help you" because we knew you would help, otherwise it would only be talk.

So we're asking you to dial the number. Take your bankcard and use it like a check: \$30, \$50, \$100 -- no gift is too small, no gift too large. I'm praying there will be people today who will say, "I want to write a check for several thousand dollars." Thank God there are people who write one for \$10,000. Many who will write a \$1,000 check, I pray you do today -- and many who will write the \$100. I'm always going to press for the largest amount to reach the largest number of children and to help them.

But here's a wonderful thing you need to know, we've been offered a \$3.8 million food grant. This just comes like a miracle from God. All we have to do is guarantee the delivery of it. But that's going to require an extra \$640,000 above what we had anticipated having to raise, which means we have to complete raising the funds for all those children the missionaries have in place and now we're just trying to put the food in their hands and the lives of those children, we need another \$640,000. 600 people could make a gift today, 640 give \$1,000 we'd have it.

But let me tell you what could happen today that is so incredible. Whatever you give will be multiplied six times because if we can raise that \$640,000, we get \$3.8 million. That means \$100 becomes \$600, \$1,000 becomes \$6,000. Whatever you can do, it's kind of like multiplying the bread and fish; it really is a miracle answer to prayer. But it only comes to pass if you offer what you have in your hand; that's how it happens. Give what you have, I'll multiply. Would you do it?

Dial the number, take the bankcard; make the best gift you can. You can go to LifeToday.org and make the gift. We have some special gifts to send you to say thank you, to bless you as you help us bless others. Thank you so much for doing it.

Pre-taped video:

Announcer: At this very moment children are drawing what could be their last breath, struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Today you can stop the cycle of death. You can help save a life.

Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 suffering children in remote areas of Africa. And now we have a miracle opportunity, a 3.8 million dollar food grant has been offered to us for our mission and relief efforts. All we have to do is guarantee we can deliver the food at a cost of \$640,000. This means your gift today can now have six times the impact. \$30 to help feed three children can have a \$180 impact. \$50 for five children can have a \$300 impact. And \$100 to help feed ten children can have a \$600 impact for feeding.

With your gift you can receive James Robison's newest book, *God of All Creation*. Through his personal observations of animals and wildlife, James shares heartwarming stories and spiritual lessons of God's love and grace.

With your gift of \$125 to help feed ten children, you may request the new *Jesus Calling Devotional Bible* featuring 260 scripture insights from the author of the *Jesus Calling* devotional, Sarah Young.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help save the lives of 100 children, which today can have a \$6,000 impact, and you may also request "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I just say thank you from the bottom of my heart. You may get a busy. There are a couple of things going on. A lot of people are calling to say, "We gave our life to Christ." In the greatest crisis, 80% of the calls that come to our prayer center every day are from people calling for help, only 20% call who say, "We are going to help." But if you get a busy, get through. Help us get the help you need.

Betty, were you impressed with the story you heard today?

Betty: It was awesome! Really awesome! What a mighty God we have.

James: *The Victor Marx Story*, we're going to send you the documentary of his life. It is incredible. It's been in the theaters. You ought to show it to your whole church. It's awesome. I'll send it to you as a gift.

Remember *The God of All Creation*. This is the life lessons we can learn from pets, believe it or not, and wildlife -- consider the birds. Consider the pets. You'll see why.

Would you join Betty and me in saying a big thanks to Eileen and Victor Marx? What a blessing! You two are a tremendous blessing.

Eileen: Thank you.

James: Tell mom I'm glad that crusade was there. I remember it. I don't remember her, of course, but I remember the crusade.

God bless you folks in Mississippi too. I love you! All over America, all over the world, we love you!