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Week 47

James and Betty Robison

Christine Caine: Moving Past Your Past 4

James: Hey! Thank you! You're great. We appreciate you being so kind to welcome us, and we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; my beautiful wife Betty is here.

Christine Caine, *Moving Past Your Past*: How to Turn Trials into Triumphs. This girl has a special touch from God. Now she speaks with more proper English than Texans do and it has that Australian accent. We've tempered it a little bit with Texas and U.S. but she's still... boy, she's going. God's all over her.

She knows what it is to have a terrible past, to be abused, mistreated, to feel so empty. She also knows what it is to be trapped by your past. And she's teaching a series, "One More Night with the Frogs," which is another night with the plague because Pharaoh wasn't ready to turn the people of God over to freedom. I spent another year, as I said, with defeat. I think sometimes we spend unnecessary time when God has pointed something out to us. Well, this is kind of the wrap up of this teaching.

How about we welcome Christine Caine?

Begin video clip

Christine: I grew up in a culture where women were just encouraged to only kind of get married, have kids, have lots of them, which is a great thing, but then if God's called you to other things as well as like I've done that and now what are we going to do? Although I don't have lots of kids, I have two: An 11 year old and a seven year old. I call them my Catherine Bobby, and my Sofia Joyce, and they are my alpha and omega. They are the beginning and the end. I just want everyone to know that because my husband is the 12th of 13 living children. I'm like I know there was no television in

that part of the Australia.

[Laughter]

I feel a moral obligation to have to tell my mother-in-law, "This is it." And I don't know if she really feels I'm a woman. I don't think she thinks womanhood kicks until after 10. But at this point, I've got alpha and omega. That's got nothing to do with anything but that's all right, humor me.

So I grew up whether it was any socioeconomic background, my gender, my ethnicity, extremely marginalized. And pretty much every week of my life for many, many years I was sexually abused at the hands of several men. And that messes with you, there's no doubt about it. I was full of shame. If you want to talk about frogs, the frog of shame, the frogs of guilt, of condemnation, of anger, of bitterness, of unforgiveness - - I was riddled.

Now I didn't realize I was because they had just latched themselves on to me. See sometimes people can throw frogs on you and you then have a choice. I could not control what came on me but then I came to a place where I discovered that I could control what I was going to do with what was on me.

And although I can't change the past and I think sometimes that's the challenge we have, we try to change what we will never be able to change. So then we either try to deny it or bury it or pretend it didn't happen and put on a nice little face and try to walk into the future carrying our whole past with us but we brought us with us -- that's the biggest problem of wherever you go, there you are.

And so at some point, you've got to try to deal with it. We try to change our external circumstances, we try to change what we wear and how we act but you must understand, Christianity is not a behavior modification program. It is a heart transformation program and Jesus Christ comes to transform our hearts and he says, "I want to deal with these frogs. You don't have to carry them around with you everywhere you go. We can actually rid you of them. I can't change what happened to put the frogs on you but you can make some decisions where you are right now to

move past that past and step into the future that I have for you." And so that abuse messed with me, messed with my ability to interact in any healthy way; I didn't trust anybody. Thank God that God gave me the strength and the grace to deal with a whole lot of that or I would be like a psycho wife and a psycho mother.

It could affect every single aspect of my life and my ability to work and to work with men and to submit to authority and to serve in church. A lot of those issues we bring with us that we think we don't have. Those frogs are screaming loud! And we jump from church to church looking for the perfect thing. We jump from relationship to relationship, and we jump into one bed to the next trying to somehow find love and significance and security.

If somebody squeezes a certain thing, we just start to explode and we don't know what that is. And what that is a whole lot of the frogs of our past coming into our present because we've never dealt with them so we're unable to step into the future frog-free because we've got a whole lot of this stuff with us. And today I'm really hoping that there's a like a frog-killing anointing, in the room; that's what I'm hoping. That we're going to kill some of this stuff so that we can step into the future that Jesus Christ has for us.

About -- I'm now 47, so two weeks before my 33rd birthday, so now that's 14 years ago, I received a phone call from my older brother George because when you're Greek, that's what your brothers are; they're called: George, Con, Nicko, Spiro. And so they're like that's just what happens when you're Greek. So George called me and he says, "Christine, I just got a letter from the government department and it says that I've been adopted."

Now when he said that to me, I thought he was joking. Because you know when you're growing up you always say to your siblings like, "You're adopted. Your mother's from Mars. We're not really related." You know you say all of that just because we're mean. And so but when someone tells you it's really true, I just started -- I went, "No way! George, they've sent this letter to the wrong person. They've made some kind of administrative error." I said, "Call..." In Australia, this department is

called the Department of Community Services. I said, "Call DOCS and tell them they've sent this letter to the wrong person."

So he called me back about maybe ten minutes later but this time he was sobbing. And he said, "Chris, it's true. They told me the name of my biological mother. They told me the city where I was born, where I went to school, when I was immunized. They have an entire file on my life."

I started to freak out. And then this is what also was going through my mind because we're Greek, I don't know if you know anything about Greeks, but Greeks are extremely volatile. We act first and think later. And I'm thinking he is going to explode.

My father had died when I was 19 and so my mum, at this time, when the phone call came was 61. I'm thinking, here's my mum at home alone. Obviously, there's been this family secret for 35 years and she's about to find out. I'm thinking, is she going to have a heart attack? What's going to happen? I started to think ahead and I knew my brother was extremely emotional. So I jumped in my car and I raced to my mother's house.

But I walked in, I saw my brother's car was there when I pulled in and I walked into the lounge room in my mum's home right at the moment that my brother was giving my mother this piece of paper from the government department. And I could see my mum take it and there was this moment of hesitation in her eyes. I thought, oh, no! I could tell this is true. And my mum just started crying.

She said, "George, I'm so sorry. All of the adoptions in Australia 35 years ago, they were all closed adoptions and we never thought you would find out. We signed documentation that we would never tell anyone, we never thought you would find out. And one of the very last things before your dad died, one of the last things, I promised him was that I would never tell you. So I took all of the paperwork, I tore it all up and I threw it away."

You have to imagine this is like a moment. I'm standing there thinking I'm watching a Monty Python show, that this is not real. I'm thinking this is like a movie. My brother's crying, my mother's crying, the dog's crying -- snots flying -- you know it's all kind of happening. So I didn't know what to do.

So what do you do when you're a Greek daughter and this moment happens? I go to the kitchen and think, I'm going to make coffee; get some baklava food. Food is the answer to life, the universe and everything in this moment. So I go to the kitchen.

Now a few minutes later I feel my mother behind me in the kitchen. And I turn around and she says to me, "Christina, since we're telling the truth, do you want to know the whole truth?" I froze. At first, I don't actually even know why I said this. I turned around and I went, "I've been adopted too."

You've got to understand this is two weeks out from my 33rd birthday. Like I've been adopted too. She just -- I'll never forget. She just had tears streaming down her face and just nodded her head. I did not even know what to say. I just stood there like dumbstruck for a few minutes. Didn't say a word, which in and of itself was a miracle greater than the resurrection of Jesus. But anyway, I didn't say -- I just sort of stood there. And then the first thing -- the first thing that came out of my mouth I went, "Am I still Greek?"

And I thought I was called a lot of names in school for a lot of years; I wanted to there was a reason for it. Then the next thing, right there in my Greek orthodox mother's kitchen, I went "Oh, well, mum. Before I was formed in my mother's womb, whoever womb that was, he knew me. He knitted together my innermost parts. He fashioned all of my days before as yet there was one of them. I'm fearfully and wonderfully made."

And to this day, whether you're watching me on the other side of the screen or in this room, to this day, I still do not know the facts around my conception. I do not know if I was the result of a one night stand. I don't know if I was a result of some ongoing adulterous affair. You know I don't really know if I was the result of a rape. But although I do not know the facts, I have discovered there is a force on the planet much

higher than the facts and it is the called the truth of the Word of God. And the Word of God does not say that I am the result of someone's mistake in the past. It says in Ephesians chapter two, verse ten that I am his workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared before I ever got here, and that you know what? The truth is no matter how I got here, God intended for me to get here. And if I choose to believe the truth of God's Word over the facts of my circumstance then I can move past my past. I don't have to think, why did my mother have an adulterous affair? Or was I an accident? Or was it a one night stand? Or was it a rape? Even if they were the circumstances that surrounded my entry point into getting into that birth canal to come on the earth, the truth is before that all happened, because you and I are not a product of time, we are a product of eternity. God has plucked us out of eternity, he has positioned us in time, and he's given us gifts and talents for the purpose of serving our generation.

Now some of us had a great start. Some of us love the birth canal we came out of. Some of us love the fact that our parents had a lot of fun when they were making us. And some of us haven't got a clue whether it was fun or not, but that doesn't need it dictate where you're at. The fact is God planned for you to come here before the beginning of time. And however it happened, and sometimes some of us that don't even know, it's because the enemy sent an assignment to try to steal, kill, and destroy our future and our destiny because God's got a great plan and a future for our lives.

And if you want to move past your past, you have to take the power away from your past and give it to the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "I am going to build my life on the truth of your word and not the facts of my circumstances." And you can have the destiny he has for you. You can! You can!

I don't know what your story is on the other side of this screen but I do know you haven't tuned in by accident today, and that God has a plan and a purpose and a destiny for you. And if he can take this girl that was left in a hospital, abused and adopted, and give her a life beyond her past, he can do it for you whatever brokenness you come from. And you know what? Don't let the regret of the past dictate what God has for you in the future.

I just want to show you three very quick documents. Sometimes you can get stuck in your past based on what someone said to you. A teacher may have said you are dumb, you are stupid, you'll never amount to anything. Maybe a parent said, "I wish you were never born." Maybe an ex-lover, an ex-spouse turned around and said, "No one could ever love you. You're not lovable. You're a loser." Everything in our society is designed to make us feel like we're not good enough. You buy a magazine, it tells you you're not thin enough, you're not attractive enough, you're not smart enough, you're not educated enough, you're not connected enough. And it just says you need more, more, more so that you can become somebody.

And Jesus says, "In me, you are more than enough! Because I am the more than enough in you." So we have to learn to believe God's truth over the facts of our circumstances. I'm just going to show you, when I received my birth certificate, it was very sobering to me and you'll see that it says the child's name: Unnamed -- number 2508 of 1966. Who would guess that? Who would put unnamed on a birth certificate? But there it is! And I could allow that to define me and so many of you listening and watching, perhaps that's what's happened to you. You feel like you're just a number and you haven't been given a name. Perhaps you think you were an accident, and you have this -- there it is -- there it is! Black and white ink on paper -- it's the facts.

I have another document from the social worker. It was written two weeks before I was born. And on that document it says that basically, my biological mother, that she doesn't seem to be too emotional involved with this child. She seems to want to get it all over and done with and get back to work as soon as possible. So imagine having another document that says I'm unnamed, and I'm unwanted.

And then I've got another document from an educational institution in Australia and it was an university that basically, when I was running a community-based youth center, (before I was running a global anti-trafficking organization 20 years later,) what the expert said to me 20 years ago was that I was not qualified to work with young people and to work in Geo sector. It says, "If your career ambition is to remain in the area of youth services in the longer term, I would strongly urge you to take time out to study for a basic social work, welfare work, or other relevant professional qualifications." I love this part: "The comments I have made may be difficult for you to digest but they

reflect my honest assessment in the most appropriate way forward for you. I see you as a young woman with enormous innate potential," -- very perceptive -- "and I sincerely hope that you'll enhance your innate aptitude by the formal training that will provide you with a theoretical basis that you need to compliment your many talents." Basically unqualified.

So there you will see, right there in front of you, three documents, unnamed, unwanted, and unqualified all standing side by side. They all say, "Christine, you're not enough!" "Christine you're unnamed, you're unwanted." See, that's how we define our lives. The first document is from the government, and of course, we know if they say it, it's got to be true. And then of course we have the medical profession that says, "You are unwanted, Christine."

And oftentimes, we could just take that as the report. "Christine, that's what the medical profession says, this is what the government says," this is what they've said about me. "Christine, can't you see the facts?" Or perhaps look at what the education department said. I can't do what God's called me to do because I'm not qualified, I'm not smart enough.

But you know what? And although it's there and we can see it right in front of our faces, it is the facts, black and white, ink on paper. But here's the power. I found myself another black and white ink on paper that's a whole lot more powerful -- a whole lot more powerful than the facts! And it is called the truth of the Word of God. And ultimately, if you want to move past your past, the facts say "unnamed," the truth in Isaiah 49 verse one says: "From the womb of your mother I've named your name." The facts say "unwanted," the truth says "before you ever got in that womb I wanted you." The facts say unqualified. The truth says, "He whom he calls, he qualifies." You can move past your past whatever your past is if you choose to build your life on the truth of God's Word and not the facts of your circumstance.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I pray with all my heart that you really respond to what she said in closing, and that you really allow God to move you into a new day.

Father, I pray that for every person. That this will be the end of the defeat, the despair, being held captive and really stepping into a new day; in Jesus' name.

I encourage you, if you want someone to pray with you, the number's there. Call -- a caring person is waiting to pray with you because we care. I hope you'll get the CD series or the DVD series, get both, get the books we're offering, *Moving Past Your Past*. Christine taught this series here to help you there. Get where God wants you to get -- past your past.

I want to show you something that I know is going to touch your heart. And with all my heart, I ask you not for one moment to look away because I promise you, what you're going to see is going to move you closer to God and enable you to respond as a representative of God. And what greater joy can you find? Watch this closely.

On the mission field

Tammy: I once heard an analogy of somebody walking near one of those big water fountains and a child was sitting on the edge of it and had fallen in. And his first response was to run over there and to rescue that child. Gosh, it is that same feeling that I had when I walked into a little village here in Africa. I felt like I was seeing a bunch of little children sitting on an edge someplace or a ledge and they were about to fall in.

These children are dying because they have no food. Gosh, I felt like I just wanted to reach out to every single one of them saying, "I'll rescue you! I'll help you! I'll save you!" I'm looking back at all of my friends saying come quickly! Like help me! I need your help. We need to grab them. Like one at a time -- I can't do this by myself. I'm asking you to come quickly. There is a desperate need. These children are dying right now every six seconds we lose another one.

Tammy: That breaks my heart because I can love them, I can love them deeply for moments... but then I leave. So I think the challenge for me was what can I do for them? And I love what I've learned this week. *LIFE Outreach* has a beautiful mission

feeding program and they have the means to go into so many of these villages and communities and set up this program. By just giving each child one bowl a day, which produces life, it could change a future for every one of these children -- that's the beauty of what I learned this week.

End of clip

In the studio

James: What did you see when you listened to Tammy talk about what she was watching? When those children gathered, just take a look at that. I want to tell you what I saw when you saw the crowd coming right there and we zoomed in. What did you see? Did you think you saw children lining up to get food?

Can I tell you what I saw? I saw children gathering to be loved. That's what they were gathering for. They heard love's here. Because see, there wasn't any food there until we had just established it, which they're going to see unfold in front of them. But as you looked into that crowd... now just think about this... you begin to see little faces and images.

Look at that! Look at that little boy; he's right there in that crowd. When I look at him, I see a little boy that I want to hear me say, "Hey! God noticed you and I did too." He's looking up. He's not looking for food right there, he's looking for love. And then did you notice at the end and boy, what an incredible missionary representative Tammy Trent is, her beautiful musical ability and ability to sing and communicate; lost her husband, do you remember? Her husband, they were young newlyweds. He was a great swimmer and drowned swimming. It took them days to find him. Just disappeared! And look at her.

And there she is talking about what she is seeing at the end. Do you remember at the end what you saw when she was talking about what does *LIFE Outreach* do? And you saw those bowls? And you saw her putting it in that *LIFE Outreach* does it and you saw these orange bowls like that? Let me tell you what I saw. I saw love expressed by someone like you. Do you think those missionaries could have taken those bowls out there and put that nutritious porridge mix that's been especially designed for the

nutritional needs in that particular area. Who put it in there? Love put it in there. Someone who said, "I noticed, I saw them, I loved them."

Would you do that today? Would you literally reach out -- I'm asking you right there where you are, I want you to reach out and put the arms of God around a child. Did you see Tammy holding that little baby? -- That precious little baby? Well, you're going to hold that baby. You're going to enable the missionary to hold them, and the mother, a parent to hold a healthy little baby that's been saved because you're going to put something in the bowl that will go into their little body to give them life.

Now will you do it? Let me tell you the miracle God's done for us because if we'll just take care of three children for the next several months, it takes \$30, we can feed them. \$50, we can feed five. \$100 we can feed ten.

Now here's what's happened. Because people have love and they noticed and cared, they said, "We'll match what you give. If you want to help feed ten children, make it 20." You give that gift of \$100 and you're now feeding 20 children. Your gift of \$50 and you're feeding ten, your gift of \$30 you're feeding six. Six prayers answered for little children from a mother like that, from those children that get in that crowd to be loved. Would you reach out please?

Father, I pray every person will right now move to get their bankcard, to go online, whatever -- to say, "I'm going to love those children. I see them like God sees them; in Jesus' name."

Would you right now? Go get your bankcard, use it like a check, that's how you should use them. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. If you get a busy and that's a good sign, because people are either calling to give their life to Christ, to be prayed with or they're calling to give. You say, "I'm getting through because I'm going to give life." Or you can go online at LifeToday.org. Know that what you give is going to be matched. You'll be doubling the number of children because of love.

Would you do it please? You might tack an extra dollar on for every child and say, "I'm going to give all those ten children or 20 children, I'm going to tack another \$20 or another \$10 and give them all a bowl" because that's what they cost. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation, and those hit the hardest are their children.

Life's Mission Feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. But our food reserves are gone and we desperately need your support to replenish our supplies at more than 800 feeding centers immediately. As an answer to prayer, a group of LIFE's friends have set a \$550,000 end-of-year matching challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact!

\$30 to help three children will be doubled to impact six children! \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save ten children. And \$100 for 10 children will be doubled to help feed and minister to 20 children.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Christine Caine's powerful new teaching series *Moving Past Your Past*, on audio CD along with her book, *Can I Have and Do It All Please?*

With your double impact gift of \$100 to help save the lives of 20 children you may request both the audio and video series. And as a bonus, we'll send you Christine's latest book release, *Undaunted*.

Finally, please consider a double impact gift of \$1,000 to help save the lives of 200 children. And you may request our 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, "Brotherly Love." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: How I pray that you will respond understanding that whatever you do... and I wish you would give as though someone's future, well-being depends upon your

response, not just to that need but your response to the heart of God, and know it will be doubled. Where you would try to help ten children, now you'll be able to help us feed 20. Where you could help us feed five it will be ten, three it will be six. Do all you can. Ask for the DVD series. I pray you'll make that kind of a gift and get the books that she's written.

Betty and I just say, in behalf of children and their families, thank you for giving life! And thank all of you for being here. We really appreciate you! Thank you for your encouragement and thank you for your help, your prayers, and your support.