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Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life

Jimmy Evans

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you again for joining us. I hope you watch us every day of the week. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And we need some marriage counseling so we brought in a marriage counselor to help us. We've been married 51 years; so you know we've celebrated the 50th anniversary and so we made it another one -- thanks for your prayers! But we're bringing Jimmy Evans in, maybe really help us add another few months along.

Betty: Yeah, I gave him a few suggestions.

[Laughter]

James: He wrote a whole book! Really, this is... I think it hit home with us because the title of it is: *When Life Hurts* -- and it does hurt. As a matter of fact, Betty wrote one of the encouraging endorsements of the book referencing hurt that we never thought we would ever experience. Would you welcome Jimmy Evans?

Jimmy, good to see you!

[Applause]

First of all, I want to thank you for caring about what matters to people, and the fact that they do struggle. But we find some answers and you're anxious to share them. And you've been willing to speak out of your own, let's say feebleness and failure, and what you've learned. What inspired you to write this one?

Jimmy: Well, when I've done seminars over the years and spoken to congregations, one of the questions that I ask sometimes, and this interests me, is I ask people, "How many of you would say that something devastating has happened to you in your life?"

And I ask that question and immediately 90% of the hands go up -- is devastating -- it's not just hurtful, it's not just pain, but what you guys experienced with Robin and many other people experience, maybe not on that level but just the death of a loved one that is untimely, a tragedy in your life, the abandonment as a child, abuse as a child, divorce, rejection, whatever it is -- life hurts. That's the first emotional reality of life is no one is going to get out of here without being hurt.

The second reality, and the reason I wrote the book is to help people understand when you don't deal with pain, it doesn't go away, it accumulates. I call it "The hurt pocket." There's a place in our hearts where unresolved hurt goes and it stays there.

When I was a kid growing up, I didn't know how to deal with pain. When I married Karen, she knew how messed up I was and she kept asking, "When that happened didn't that devastate you?"

And I would say, "No."

And one of the reasons I was so messed up was all that pain was inside of me, and you know there's the old saying that says "time heals all wounds." Time heals nothing. In fact, I think things get worse over time emotionally.

James: If they don't get healed.

Jimmy: If they don't get healed, they fester. And that hurt pocket, another reality of life is the more that hurt pocket gets filled, the more it compromises us mentally, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, and this was my experience growing up. I had some truly devastating things happen to me as a child but I don't talk about them; it just wouldn't be appropriate. I talk about one thing that happened in my life that formed my life in a great way. When I was growing up, I have two older brothers,

Damien and Lucifer.

[Laughter]

They also went by Randy and Mike, but they deserve those names -- trust me! But you know them, they're part of my fans.

James: He loves you guys!

Jimmy: But we all went to the same schools, we went to an elementary school, all of us did, and I was the youngest. So when I got to the 6th grade, which was the last year in elementary school, they changed the boundaries. All my friends were there, all of our friends were there but we didn't move. We lived in the same home, they just changed the boundaries and I had to go to another school. So that was kind of a hard deal.

And the first day of school I actually went to my old school and tried to fit in and they shipped me off to the new school. So I had kind of a tough year in that new school.

But at the end of that year they changed the boundaries again and they said, "You can go back to your old school now" -- the middle school that all of my friends were going to.

I said, "That's fantastic!" So I played sports. I played all sports -- basketball, football, track, all that. So I played all sports, had a great time; kind of rekindled all of the old friendships.

Then in the 9th grade they changed boundaries again. We had never moved.

James: It was only because of you.

[Laughter]

Jimmy: I think they singled me out. But when you're a kid and you're building relationships and everything... so they told me that I had to go back to this other school. My parents went down and argued with them.

And they said, "Well, okay. He can stay at that school in the 9th grade but he can't play sports."

I was an athlete, all my friends were athletes. My parents told me, "You can either go to the new school or you can stay at this school but you can't play sports."

I said, "Well, I'm going to stay with my friends." So I stayed there and I watched the sporting events.

I want everybody to know this is not the worst thing that ever happened to me but this is something that changed my life; is that I was at this football game watching my friends play and there was a vending truck at the end of the field. So during the game I thought, well, I'll go down and get a coke.

So I walked down to get a coke and while I was down there the cheerleaders from the other team started talking to me, I knew them, and they walked over and started talking to me so I got my coke, walked back over, watched the game and went home.

So I came to school the next day and there was a note when I got to school for me to go to the principal's office. So I went to the principal's office and I didn't... at this point I was not fond of teachers and administrators and things because they were the people that kept shipping me back and forth. So I went to the principal's office and he said, "Bend over, Evans you're getting swats."

I said, "Excuse me?"

He said, "Yeah, bend over you're getting swats."

I said, "Why?"

He said, "You know why."

I said, "I don't know why."

And he said, "Going down to that vending truck yesterday."

I said, "At the football game?"

He said, "Yeah. You went down to that vending truck."

And I said, "Yes, sir."

And he said, "Well, those cheerleaders came up and talked to you."

I said, "Yes, sir."

And he said, "Well, when they did, you stepped on the other side of that vending truck; that's the other side of the field, that's against school rules. Now bend over, you're getting swats."

I said, "Sir, I didn't go to the other side of the field."

He said, "That vending truck was in the middle of the field. When you took one step past it, you were on the other side of the field. Now you bend over."

So he gave me swats. Now I had been in the office a few times before, let me just say that, but it broke my spirit. They had been messing --

James: I can understand that. It's making me mad right now.

Jimmy: They had just been messing with me; that's the way I felt as a kid.

James: That's a dumb rule in my opinion!

Jimmy: Well, when that happened, they broke my spirit. And so I was going back to my class and I thought, I'm going to pay these people back. Now they're on my list. So I got back to class and my friends said, "Evans, what did you go to the office for?"

I told them and they said, "Gosh, that's unbelievable!"

I said, "Hey, let's have a contest."

And they said, "What?"

"Let's see who can get the most swats this year."

And I meant it -- and I won!

[Laughter]

I was in trouble all the time. That day is when I started drinking, smoking, fighting, and being immoral -- that day! Because I got...

James: That breaks my heart. Lousy rule and the way they handled it, how it hurt you, it breaks my heart. By the way, I appreciate rules and good boundaries.

Jimmy: And teachers and administrators have a tough job and they were just trying to do theirs but a little kid was getting shuffled around and frustrated and all that. But I remember I was in high school and I was really rebellious. I was still an athlete in high school and everything but I remember one day I said to myself, "When did I become a bad kid? I wasn't a bad kid." It was that day. So the rest of the year I was in trouble all the time.

And the principal who later joined my church, I thought I'd -- he was seeing Jesus or something. But he joined my church. But he saw me in the hallway and he said, "If you see my face one more time you won't make high school."

Well, then I got to high school and they were -- it was the same kind of a deal. But the accumulated pain in me compromised me.

James: That was that pocket you were talking about.

Jimmy: That's right. When Karen and I got married, I loved her to death but I was such a mess and she kept exploring in there saying to me, "Jimmy, didn't that hurt you when this happened? Didn't that hurt when this happened?"

Another thing that kind of shaped my personality was my dad. My dad never came to an athletic event; wonderful guy and I know that he loved me. He had his own issues that he was dealing with but I remember being in a football game, looking on the sideline fantasizing that other boys' dads were my dad.

You know what that's like, James.

And I would sit there and look at that and Karen would say, "Did that devastate you?"

And I'd say, "No!" It devastated me but since I didn't know how to...

James: Do you think people get that dishonest over their pain pockets?

Jimmy: Yeah, because the thing is if you go through that door, it's so painful if you don't know how to deal with it -- and I didn't. I just didn't want to open that door. And she knew I was in denial.

But the other reality is we all deal with pain. See everybody deals with their pain, whether they deal with it right or wrong. And I used the family of David, King David because his family was highly dysfunctional. And David had tremendous pain.

A lot of people say, "What was David's pain?"

Well, it started with out of eight boys, Jesse, his father had eight boys and when Samuel the prophet came to his home to anoint a king he was the only one -- he wasn't

even considered. He was the only one that his father thought he could never be king. So he kept him in the sheep pen. Then his brother, when he came to the battle line, his brother rebuked him. He didn't have a positive role model in his life. King Saul, after he killed Goliath tried to kill him. So David didn't have a positive role model in his life and he was used to sitting by himself writing Psalms and visiting with the Lord.

But his family -- you look at David's family, the way they dealt with pain and there is three ways that people deal with pain when you don't deal with it properly: You medicate it, you motivate it or you meditate it.

Medicating means you drink, you take drugs, sex; you do something that feels good that for the minute makes pain go away. Well, David had sexual problems. His family, the boys in his family had sexual problems. Solomon had 1,000 wives. You know you have problems when you have 1,000 wives; now 200-300 wives is not a problem, 1,000, that's a problem!

[Laughter]

But David, remember, had multiple wives and Bathsheba came along. He already had multiple wives and he not only slept with Bathsheba and he had scoped her out, so as soon as her husband went to battle, he brought Bathsheba over, then he killed her husband. And his addiction was to the point that multiple wives couldn't satisfy him and he would go to the point of murdering someone to cover it up.

The issue is never the issue. To an alcoholic alcohol is not the issue. To a drug addict, drugs aren't the issues, pain is the issue. And when a person goes to Alcoholics Anonymous, the first thing they say is "Fess up; talk about that pain." They have these T-shirts that say "denial is not a river in Egypt." You've got to stop denying the pain because the reason you're medicating, the reason that you're looking for something that feels good is just for this moment it makes my pain go away but pain keeps coming back.

James: Do you think people are not aware that they have that pain pocket, though? You seem like you were aware something is going on and yet when Karen would ask

you, you would say, "No, it's not. No, I don't have it." Do you think these pockets of pain are blind spots to people? Or do you think they know it and they're just holding on to it and they don't want to talk about it? What's the deal?

Jimmy: Well, there are meditators... a medicator is in denial; they literally have shoved it back. It's like in the basement; the pain is in the basement and they're trying to keep doing something that makes that pain -- keep it at bay but they are in denial.

But the meditators like Absalom, see, Absalom was a good kid and his brother violated sexually his sister; his half brother violated his sister and David did nothing about it. See Absalom didn't start out being this guy trying to kill his Dad. Absalom started out as a good kid, but his sister was raped and then David did nothing for a couple of years -- never had a family meeting, never addressed anyone, not an apology, not a trial or anything. So finally, when he kills his half brother, Amnon, it's been after a couple of years of nothing being done. Then he has to flee to another country. David does nothing.

There has to be this little drama that goes on to get Absalom back. Then Absalom comes home, sitting at the back door of the palace, David won't talk to him. Finally, he has to burn down a field to get somebody to come talk to him. Then he becomes Absalom. And Absalom is a meditator; this is a person who is stewing on it. They've been thinking about it forever. For these people, they're not in denial, they live in their pain every day. These people are mad; they know exactly why they're mad. They remember everybody that made them mad and they don't forgive.

Betty: And that pain grows.

Jimmy: You bet! Well, an angry drunk is a medicator and a meditator; they're medicating and meditating at the same time.

Well, then there's the motivators. Solomon was a motivator. Solomon had to kill his brother to become king.

You say, "Why would Solomon have pain?"

His parents were David and Bathsheba. He was like on the front page of the National Inquirer every week. So Solomon had this -- his family was highly dysfunctional, had to kill his brother to become king. All these things, and what did Solomon do? He never stopped. He was the ultimate overachiever. In the book of Ecclesiastes, at the end of it, he says, I did this, I did this, I did this, he just lists all of his accomplishments, he says, its vanity and striving after wind.

James: Emptiness.

Jimmy: Because when you stop that's when the ghosts show up. When you're a motivator -- and this is what I was -- with the pain in my life, I didn't medicate it, and I wasn't angry, I couldn't stop. I didn't know why I couldn't stop.

As a pastor, I couldn't stop. I could talk to God about business, I could talk to God about the church, my family, all these kind of things but see God... the book, Boundaries, God has never read that book because he doesn't -- he comes right up in the middle of your cereal bowl, puts his finger in it and stirs. He wants to talk about what he wants to talk about. He doesn't small talk. God doesn't talk about the weather, he doesn't talk about that kind of stuff; he wants to talk about the inside of us. What I knew about God is if I ever got quiet in the presence of God, he would bring those things up.

Karen kept telling me, "You've got pain in there, Jimmy, that hasn't been dealt with."

I kept telling Karen, "No, I don't!"

But when I sat down in the presence of the Lord he would begin to touch those areas of my life.

And the fifth emotional reality of life is: You'll never resolve pain until you turn it to God. The medicating doesn't work, the motivating doesn't work, the meditating doesn't work -- all those things perpetuate the pain in our lives and keep that hurt pocket full.

But Jesus said something very interesting and this is in Matthew 5:4. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

You guys know, you've been all over the world helping people and you know that there are a lot of people in grief that are not being comforted. Because when you read that on first glance it's kind of like, I don't know if I completely agree with that because blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

Well, let me give you another translation of that or paraphrase, Jesus, what he was saying is, "Blessed are those who bring their pain to me, I'll heal it."

See when you come to God and you're honest and you say, "Lord, this is what these people did to me." And there are people watching right now that have had such devastation in their lives it's unbelievable; the abuse that they've been through.

You guys help people who are in the sexual trafficking and things like that, it's unbelievable, the people that you're helping -- thank God for you guys and thank God for the work that you're doing because these people's lives are being devastated. And the only way that they can ever deal with the devastation in their lives is Jesus Christ.

James: You know, Jimmy, the love of God is the answer to the pain -- he's the healer. He's the one that overwhelms that whisperer that keeps us down and trapped in denial -- whatever you're doing, medicate or meditate or motivate, whatever it is.

But now I want you to listen to this very real situation. I'm going to tell you about a miracle. You're going to get to be a part of a lot of them, and with all my heart, I think you're going to want to be. Watch and listen.

On the mission field

Announcer: Words -- they can inspire, they can abuse. For a young child, there may be none more shocking, more disorienting, and painful than the four words 15-year-

old Lena heard, "You have been sold." How can the heart or mind of a little girl even process what that means?

Subtitles:

>> The woman in charge of the club told me to go inside and sleep with the men. I refused. Then the woman said to me, "Look, your mom has sold you to me. And I've spent a lot of money on you! I will kill you if you can't make me money."

I still refused. But then she beat me and forced me to.

I began to ask myself, "Why... Why are others born with a good life and have parents who love them? Why do I face such pain and trials?"

One day I escaped to look for my mom, but she had sold the house and moved. The brothel owner caught me and forced me back. I asked when my mother's debt will be paid so I can leave and they said, "When you're dead."

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! Let me just tell you something, because of people like you we got her, and we got her away from there. And it's a great risk for the missionaries. We have to spend a lot of time protecting.

It's one reason, Betty, we have to build a safe house for areas in Cambodia, and places like that, and be able to take them where we don't put them in with the orphans because of the extremities of what they've come out of. If we take a lot of little children they're headed to be sold, parents will let these predators take their children because they tell them they're going to take them and train them and give them a good job and they will send money back to the family. But they never see them again. And the story she told, Betty, it's typical.

Betty: It really is, James. As I listen, it just breaks my heart. I can't even imagine a mother selling her child to get money. But they're desperate -- the parents are

desperate. A lot of times they're lied to and they were told, "We're going to take this child and give them a good education and we're going to take care of them."

James: That's normally the case, they normally lie to them.

Betty: But this little girl, she was so hopeless and there are so many more like her. She thinks, why me? Why me? What did I do to deserve this?

And we can be an answer to those questions because we know who it is that loves her and holds her. And God wants to use us to reach out to precious little children like this, there are so many more of them, to give them a place that they can come and know that they are safe, James; and they have a hope of life, of living, and she so desires to have a good home and a good family that she won't be afraid anymore.

James: She's actually asking, how is it that some people have a good one? And she's saying it with a hopelessness that there's no way I could. But the fact is, because of God's love she meets a family -- a family of faith and love and God, and that really is exactly what happens.

I've got to say to all of you who watch us, I don't care what country you're watching us, or what state, you have made it possible to rescue girls like that. That girl we've rescued; she's becoming a miracle. And it is my hope that you'll see in another year or so a testimony of where she is; and I'm telling you, we could spend years showing you those testimonies.

Here's the issue a lot of times; when we show you the positive, people just start rejoicing and then the process of help will stop. But just understand, we're going to keep bringing some of those back. We've been doing it because we know you rejoice and say, "Let's do it again."

Here's what I'm asking you to do. I want you to reach out and dial that phone number. People are calling right now to be prayed with and for but I want you to call and say, "I'm going to help rescue."

\$128 will rescue one of those girls or a child that's about to be sold -- that's the average cost. We've got a group of viewers and friends who said, "We will match what people give; that's how much we believe in this cause and this need." So you give \$128, it's doubled -- we've rescued two. \$64 it will be doubled. You may say, "I wish I could rescue one." Now \$64, it will be matched, you can.

But remember this too, we've got to build a safe house. We've got a *LIFE* Center in Cambodia, we need a safe house. The situation is such that we need to bring women like that in, not in with the little children and others because of what's happened around them; not because they're a problem, it's just what they've been through. It will traumatize the children that we're rescuing before they get trapped. We need a safe house. It's going to cost about \$350,000. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 350 people watching would say, "I've got \$1,000."

I don't know what you can do. You may be able to do more than that. All I'm asking you to do is whatever you can. Any gift you make, we're going to send you some gifts to bless you, a beautiful devotional guide, a beautiful side by side Bible, if you'll help us rescue one of those children.

Please go online LifeToday.org or dial that number and make the very best gift you can so we can share life with those who are desperate just like that precious girl you heard. Thank you so much for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Human trafficking -- it's impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young, are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable. And someone must save them!

With your help today we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future. And now a miracle opportunity of a matching grant means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help rescue two children.

Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. This year, with your help, we also hope to build a safe house in Cambodia

where young rescued girls can find safety, loving care, and direction for a new life. The cost of this safe house is \$345,000.

With your gift, please request *My Daily Gift*, a beautiful new devotional describing the great love of God, who treasures you more than you can imagine.

With your gift of \$128, which today will help rescue two children, you'll receive the side-by-side Bible, which includes the easy-to-read New International Version and the Amplified text with its additional words and insights.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 to help establish the safe house in Cambodia and you may request our 2014 commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I do want to mention also that we will gladly send you Jimmy Evans' book, *When Life Hurts* -- and boy, it does so often. I think what he reveals and shares is so helpful to find the healing. We'd love to send it to you if you'll just help us reach out and heal the hurt in some of these precious, precious people. Most of the time its girls but you'd be surprised how many little boys are now being sold and trafficked. It breaks my heart!

Jimmy Evans is going to be back with us. He's going to talk to us more about how we deal with pain; and the whisperer, the sounds that you hear in the spirit realm that sound so clear and so convincing -- so damaging.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Jimmy Evans for being us? Look forward to sharing again with you. In the bookstores, *When Life Hurts*, we'll send it to you today if you just help us rescue someone. Thank you so much!