

4/13/15
Week 16 Mission: Rescue Life
Pat Layton

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*; I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And we've something that really just kind of bothers me. Now I know it is a pretty picture; it is a shoe and the title of the book is: *Life Unstuck*. But there's gum stuck to the heel. Now just tell me the truth. When you step in it and it sticks to your shoe, do you just kind of wish you could find out how who put it down there and have a little discussion with them?

[Laughter]

When you get that stuck, it is just not comfortable. But this is a book about getting unstuck when you really find yourself stuck in life. I like the little phrases: Finding peace with your past, purpose with your present, and passion for your future. This is Pat Layton; she wrote a book called *Surrendered Life*. But this is really her story, this incredible story. Would you welcome the author of *Life Unstuck*, Pat Layton to *LIFE Today*? Pat, good to see you.

Pat: Thank you. I'm honored to be here.

James: We're glad you're here. Like I said, that's kind of a yucky looking sight. I really do -- I think I could punch some folks out if I could ask, "Why did you put it there? It's on my shoe. Get it off!" I know that's not being very Christian but you help me get unstuck, I'll be nicer to them. I want you to just tell us what led you to write the book because it is in so many ways your journey and about issues where you were stuck and you're convinced many people are stuck; and in fact, they are. Just tell us about how you really began to unload, and tell us what was going on.

Pat: Well, the book is based on Psalm 139, the 24 verses of Psalm 139, which has been basically the foundational verse of my life. I had an abortion when I was 23. I was raised in what I thought was a Christian home but I didn't know Jesus. My family and I, my sisters and I attended church when we were young but I never had a personal relationship with the Lord. So I went into college, met my husband...

James: By the way, do you think a lot of people go to church and never really meet the Lord and don't have that relationship? They miss that. You were one of those.

Pat: That was me. We were holiday Christians, basically, Easter and Christmas; and went to vacation Bible school in the summer. So I knew about the Lord but I didn't have a personal relationship with the Lord. So I actually became a mom, I was married as a teenager so I started my feisty years very young. Got married as a 16 year old and had my first son at 18.

When he was just a few months old, my teenaged husband left us. He left a little note on the kitchen table that said, "I don't want to be a father, I don't want to be a husband. Bye-bye!" So my son never saw his birth father again after that. So I became a teenaged mom, a single mom, and started going back to college where I met my husband in college. My husband today, we'll be married 39 years very soon.

James: How did he accept the fact that you had a son and so forth?

Pat: He loved my son. Actually I used to tease him that he really married me because he wanted my son.

[Laughter]

So he fell in love with my son very young in college, and my son was just a baby because his birth father had left so young. So my husband fell in love with him so that was great. We fell in love. We were in college together. But we both came from very liberal backgrounds and we were just living that immoral lifestyle of those years, never really knew any different. During my college years, I became very pro-choice. I was very adamantly pro-choice because I had been a young single mom, abandoned by a man.

James: Had you looked back on that and ever thought, I wish I had done away him though, after having this little boy?

Pat: Gosh, no. No.

James: Isn't that strange that you would have gone through a traumatic experience and had a child and yet I guess you were thinking, maybe at least it should have been my right, I should have had the choice. But you became kind of what we would call a very liberal thinker in that regard.

Betty: As a couple, did you kind of feel like, well, we're not ready for another child right now?

Pat: Actually, it's kind of worse than that. When you talk about, when you think back, there are things that I think about on those days that are really unbelievable. I cannot believe that I

was so blind. But I never offered my husband an option. When I discovered I was pregnant, I just decided, I'm not going to have this baby. I'm not going to be stuck again. I didn't believe that being in love meant that you would stay forever. So I was not ready to be a single mom again. I just wasn't in trust.

So I made the decision; I was very convinced that abortion was a woman's right. I bought all the rhetoric, I signed all the petitions, I even wrote an article about abortion that was publicized -- I mean it was published. So I was very convinced. So when I discovered I was pregnant I just made the decision myself. I just informed my husband, "I'm going to have an abortion." It was just during those days, even my O.B./G.Y.N. that I went to for my abortion never said, you really shouldn't do this. Do you know how far along you are? Do you understand the risks? Because I believe that men, especially in the early days of abortion were very silent about this issue; this is a woman's right to choose.

James: Pretty well what people have been told, actually.

Pat: Right. So I just announced to my husband I was going to have an abortion. And very long story short, I basically had a very botched abortion, basically. I had an allergic reaction to the anesthesia that they used to put me to sleep. I stopped breathing in the middle of the abortion. I had to be put on a respirator.

My husband had to call my parents, so my secret was immediately not a secret anymore. So I ended up having to, for again it's kind of a long story but I ended up having to have the abortion a second time because of that emergency reaction. The key to that was that when I went back for that second abortion the doctors announced to me, "We're going to have to do this abortion again because during the procedure parts of the fetus were left behind."

So as a 23 year old woman, young woman, who had been convinced that this was the right thing to do, that this was a good thing to do, for me and my future, hearing "parts of the fetus were left behind," I'd never thought about a fetus or a baby. I'd only thought about the crisis I was in. So I had the abortion.

My husband and I went into our marriage, we were married, basically it was just a life of hell. We hated each other and we weren't really sure why. My parents knew about the abortion right away. But I walked away from that abortion because I didn't know Jesus and because I really wasn't even really sure what was wrong with the abortion -- I was very convinced that this was a good thing -- I wasn't sure what was stuck in my life.

Betty: You said earlier, that you, of course, being left once before by a husband, you didn't

want to be a single mom again, and you said a while ago you didn't know how long love lasted. So that had to have played into it.

Pat: It did. I just had so much wrong information about love, about marriage, about parenting, about women's rights -- what it means to be a woman. I was just a lost young woman. So after the abortion, though I got up from that table and I knew that my life had changed but I wasn't sure why. So we spent the next seven years basically, hating each other.

We broke up, got back together. Sometime during the middle of that, we had another son. I always say that was a miracle in itself because I don't ever remember us getting along well enough to have a son but we did. So we had two sons. Our marriage was just horrible; things were just very bad and dark.

One night in the middle of the night during a really dark time I heard God's voice during a break down in the middle of night. I heard him say, "Try me! Come to me!"

All I knew of the Lord was what I had learned in Vacation Bible School. So I didn't know anything about Christ or anything about salvation. But I knew that Jesus lived at church, or I thought he lived at church, that was the only thing. So I picked up my two sons and I started going to church. I was hanging out in the Sunday school class and a woman saw me there and said, "This is my passion, woman-to-woman, sharing the love of the Lord."

This woman just recognized my lost self and she invited me to a woman's conference. I heard the gospel for the first time. I just went barreling my little self up to the altar when the opportunity came when I heard the gospel for the first time. Just fell in love with the Lord. And immediately, I started going to Bible studies and prayer groups; I had my own insurance business but I was never there, I was always at a Bible study, just eating the Word of God up and just loving on the Lord.

Until then one day, I was all of the sudden I started turning off all my rock music on the radio, and all my bad TV shows and watching shows like yours. And one day I was riding on the road and I was listening to a Christian talk show and there were two women talking about abortion. That was the first time that I even knew that God knew I had an abortion. So I thought, oh, my gosh, I'm not saved! Jesus doesn't know about this; what I did.

Just through a series of his divine amazing encounters, I began to be introduced to the truth that yes, he did know and he still loved me. And he was there during the abortion and he knew my pain and he knew the brokenness of my marriage. It was then that I was introduced to Psalm 139. I had only been a Christian for a few months when I heard that radio show. So I fell in love with those words of scripture. That's kind of, when you ask where my journey starts...

James: What in 139 jumped out at you?

Pat: He knit you together in your mother's womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. But even the beginning, "O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise. You know my thoughts before they come and my words before they're spoken." All those intimate details...

James: So he knew the little baby that you...

Pat: Yes! But the good news was I realized in those verses that he did know my unborn baby but he also knew me.

James: And loved you.

Pat: Yes! And every day was ordained before it came to be. My husband got saved. Actually, I surrendered my life to the Lord on June 9th, 1984 and from June to December, both of our sons, and my husband all got saved. We turned our lives over to the Lord and he began to heal our marriage and heal our abortion. I wrote my Bible study, back then in those days, it's called Surrendering the Secret; it's a post-abortion recovery study. LifeWay published it about six years ago.

James: But you had something else happen too related to what could have been an abortion; what happened?

Pat: Yes. We, my husband and I, we surrendered our lives to the Lord. God healed our marriage supernaturally within just months. As I said, we were all going to church and living this new wonderful Christian life. My husband wakes up one day and he says... I'm trying to learn how to be a godly wife. I had no clue how this was done but I knew you're supposed to submit and I wasn't really familiar with that word *submit*.

[Laughter]

I didn't really like it at all. So one day my husband wakes up and he says, "Pat, I think we should adopt a little girl."

So I tried that submission thing and I said, "Are you crazy?"

[Laughter]

"We have two sons."

At this time, God had called us to open Tampa's first crisis pregnancy center. So he healed us from our abortion and called us to open the pregnancy center. This was a new movement. I'm sure you're familiar with them now, they're about 3,000 pregnancy centers around the nation. So we were the first one in Tampa. So we were putting this pregnancy center together, and so I said, "No way. You're crazy."

He goes to work that day and he gets a call from an attorney that he works with. And the attorney says, "Mike, do you happen to know anybody who wants to adopt a little girl?"

Mike says, "Well, I don't think it's Pat."

[Laughter]

"We just had this conversation this morning though but we are new Christians and we're learning to trust God, and this has got to be a divine appointment."

So the attorney starts to tell my husband about this baby. He says, "I just got the legal paperwork on this baby."

She was born in a hospital here in Tampa. Her birth mother was a teenager. She was visiting her grandparents for the summer. She started having stomach pain so the grandparents took her to the emergency room. They sent her to the bathroom to give a urine specimen and she starts screaming. She has delivered a baby.

So they start screaming; the nurses and all come running in there. They scoop this baby up. They take the baby to the doctors and they check the baby out. It is amazing that the nurse that was involved in that, just told me a story the other day that they do all these tests on these little tiny babies to kind of determine their life value. Is this child going to live or not live? So they determined that the baby was about 22 weeks gestation and she weighed about a pound and a half.

So there was this nurse on duty. They were told, "The baby is going to die; she's not going to live. She is too little." They instructed the nurse to wrap the baby up and just let her die naturally.

But this nurse, who was a believer, and she wraps this little baby up who is ten inches long, she is estimated a pound and a half, 22 weeks gestation. All the scores say zero, no life here, and

this nurse wraps this baby up in a blanket and she starts walking around waiting for the baby to die, praying for this baby. And the baby starts trying to breathe and live. So the nurse takes her back to the doctor and says, "Doctor, this baby is not going to die. She is trying to live. We have to try to help her."

And the doctor says, "Take her back; we've been instructed not to revive her."

So the nurse takes the baby back and she's waiting, praying, "What am I supposed to do, God? The baby keeps fighting for her life."

So the nurse decides, there is times when you obey man's law, and there are times when you obey God's law. She takes the baby and she sneaks up an elevator, takes the baby to the neonatal intensive care unit and weighs the baby; the baby weighs 688 grams. By law, in the state of Florida, if a baby weighs 650 grams or more, you have to try to revive them.

So the nurse takes the baby back downstairs and says, "Doctor, this baby is going to live and not die. And you have to try to revive her."

So that's what happened. So this nurse backs him into a corner. They take this baby in, they start caring for her; they care for her around the clock for three days. So that's when the baby does live; she keeps living and thriving, and that's when the attorney called my husband.

James: Tell us where the baby is now.

Pat: My baby is now 25 --

James: That baby! That little bitty baby, and she is your daughter, and your husband's daughter who heard the Lord, and that nurse, and a miracle occurred. And you talk about getting unstuck. I think that pretty well got you unstuck; didn't it? And you're getting a lot of people unstuck. I really want you to get this incredible story, *Life Unstuck*. You can get it online. Do you have a web site? You go and you speak, don't you? If somebody wanted you to come, what's the web site?

Pat: Well, I'm at Pat Layton.net is my personal web site, and we have a new web site for the book; it's LifeUnstuck.com.

James: I really pray you'll get it. Don't you appreciate this incredible testimony? What God did on a little baby?

I think you may know, my mother tried to have me aborted because I was the product of a forced relationship. I just want to say to you, you may have made mistakes, you may have made an awful mistake like you just heard but God is greater and his grace is greater.

Father, I pray for everyone who has missed the mark. We've all missed it. Lord, we're all weak, we've all failed. You're so anxious to lift us up and to cover us and to heal us and look at the miracle you can make out of anything that has ever gone wrong; you're a master maker. With broken up pieces, you create masterpiece after masterpiece. Do it in the lives of people who are watching right now and listening; in Jesus' name.

Pat, I just thank God for what he did. We're reaching out and putting God's arms of love around people all over the world. Right now we're reaching out to women who have been trafficked; who have actually been sold into sexual bondage.

I want you to watch this. I think when you see you're going to say, "What could I do to make a difference in what I'm seeing?" Please watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: Rani's blessings are few. Life, here under an overpass, offers little; little in provision, little in protection. Yes, Rani's blessings can be counted on one hand.

But now those blessings she holds dear have become targets of predators, so dangerous and volatile, her environment, we felt we could only capture her story from the safety of a moving vehicle.

(Open Captions)

>> We have no doors. There is nothing to protect us from being taken. Men come down to where we live. They look for those who are young, weak, and helpless so that they will be easy to abduct and rape.

Announcer: Young children are a prize to the predators of the sex slave trade. And these areas run rampant with the most vulnerable and at risk.

(Open captions)

>> There was a man who came down from Bihar. He tried to take my older daughter. He was unable to get her, so he took my 4 year old daughter.

Announcer: Sometimes those taken disappear forever, held captive and sold again and again. Mothers are crippled with questions unanswered. Other times those questions are answered.

(Open captions)

>> He raped her and threw her into the sewer drain. We searched the entire night and found her dead.

Announcer: While Rani's loss will forever haunt her she's fighting to protect her treasured ones who remain. But it's something she cannot do alone. With your help, Rani and her children can be provided the safety and security they so desperately need.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I can't even imagine... I can't imagine the warped sense of the mental condition for someone to hurt a little child and kill a child. I don't understand people taking people and using them for some kind of a trafficked, predatory... let's say some sort of pursuit or for the love of money. I don't understand that but they're doing it, Betty.

Betty: Well, what that mother, Rani said was, "These are my treasures."

To a mother a child is her treasure, but yet it's a profit to those who want to take them and abuse them and trap them and mistreat them and hurt them so badly that they never, most of the time don't come out alive. But there can be something done. There can be some hope for Rani, and other families like that that think sometimes, James, they come and they say, "We want to help your child. We want to make life better for them."

But they're just lying to them so they can get them and use them for a profit for their own cause.

James: Well, we can, though -- this is the thing you've got to understand -- just like you saw those children, we can help them. Here's how depraved this predatory industry is -- and I want to remind you of something. This is the last week now that we're asking you to help us rescue and literally restore those that we're able to set free all over the world -- thousands that the

missionaries and relief workers have found; and \$128 is the average it takes to rescue one and take care of them for a year. We're asking you to help us with that. I'm praying many people here during this last week would give \$1280 and say, "Let's rescue ten!"

But I want you to look at something. This is something I can't even show you anymore because these people are so evil that when we've actually rescued some of these children, I want you to look into the greatest *LIFE* Center, now you can only see those children from the back. These predators are so evil that once they find out somebody's helped them or gotten them, they will try to get them if they can identify them. So even when we show you the children we've rescued we can't show you their faces.

We're dealing with something so vile and indescribable that the only way you overcome is the love of God that's expressed through you. And the missionaries and workers say, "We want to take care of these children and we are."

So much of what we do is a hidden camera too. You say, "Why do you do that?"

Because God loves these people that are held captive, and Jesus came to set captives and prisoners free. That's what we do together when we support this outreach.

Would you right now dial that number, during this last week, and say, "I am going to use my bankcard as a check and I'm going to make the largest gift I can"? Would you do that right now?

We have some gifts to send you to bless you -- that's why we're here to bless you. But we're asking you to experience the greatest blessing of all and that's blessing others, reaching out in love, and literally set people free and give them a future. Would you do that right now?

You can go online, LifeToday.org, many of you are giving that way. It's wonderful! If you mail the gift, make the check to *LIFE*; put it in the mail but call us and tell us what you're sending. We really need to know as this is the last week. Please do what you can.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children created to be happy, loved, and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can reach out to save children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved and you can restore their lives with hope for a future.

Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their destiny forever. With gifts of \$64 or \$32, we will combine your support with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of sexual slavery.

With your gift of any amount we will send you the *Songs of Freedom* CD, a collection of ten uplifting worship songs that are sure to become a favorite for your quiet time, drive time, or personal worship.

In addition to the CD, you'll receive *Indivisible*, a powerful soul-stirring book by James Robison and Jay Richards.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I just say thank you. Do remember this is the last week. Songs of freedom, the book *Indivisible* -- I want to remind you to go to stream.org -- go there for your news and to find out what we can do about the news we're concerned about.

I want to say thanks to Pat again, *Life Unstuck*. And there is her web site. She does speak, communicate, bless, and help you. And this book will be a tremendous source of inspiration and encouragement to you.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Pat.

Thank you, Pat! Thank you for being a blessing. What a great, great story! Praise God for what love does in impossible situations. Thank you so much for sharing that love.

And thank all of you for being here.