

2/15/16
Week 8: Rescue Life
Jennifer Rothschild

James: You are so kind! What a wonderful audience. Thank all of you. Thank you for joining us. I'm James Robison; my wife, Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Jennifer Rothschild has been one of our guests many times because we'd frankly like her to come every month if she would. I wouldn't care if she came and stayed for a long time. But she is a blessing.

If you don't know Jennifer and many of you do, you're going to want to hear what she has to say. But if you don't know her, Jennifer lost her eyesight when she was about 15 years old; it was kind of a process. So she was sighted and her eyes still actually look like she could focus because she did for so many years but she hasn't seen. We won't get into how long she hasn't seen. We'll let her tell you that if she wants to. But she lost her sight around 15.

We think she is one of the most beautiful expressions of the love of God and the miracle grace of God to enable you to deal in, let's say, a most positive way with one of the greatest challenges, I think, that anyone could face.

She's written a book, *Invisible*: How you feel is not who you are. I'm really curious to ask her, when she's not sighted, and you might think the whole world is invisible to you; where did you come up with this title? So why don't we welcome Jennifer and let's just ask her about it. Would you welcome Jennifer Rothschild?

Betty: Good to have you back!

Jennifer: Thank you! Well James, I will say this. You said I lost my sight at 15 and you're not going to say how long. Well, I will say this; I have been in physical darkness longer than I lived in physical light. So it's funny though. Even though I have been blind longer than I was sighted, I still don't totally get used to it.

You're right. As you ask the question, isn't everything invisible to me? It is in a physical sense. Obviously, I'm looking at you and not seeing you so in many ways you're invisible. But why I

titled the book, *Invisible* is because there is a lot of people right now hearing my voice that can see perfectly fine and they feel invisible because they feel overlooked, they feel undervalued.

It may be a stay-at-home Mom who all she does is work all day and change diapers and try to keep the house clean and can't keep up with the laundry. And she just feels invisible -- nobody notices what she does.

Or it might be somebody who's just come home for lunch from work and they're sitting at lunch and they're alone eating thinking, you know, every time I share an idea somebody has a better one and I feel ignored like I don't even matter.

Men and women, we all can feel invisible. So I have felt that believe it or not and it has nothing to do with blindness. I have felt invisible and it has everything to do with me getting my identity in Christ confused, thinking that I was what I did or how I felt. So I felt invisible.

James: Also, don't you think you find yourself that way when you make the mistake of comparing yourself in some way to others? And how you see them perceived? Or how they don't seem to be invisible, they seem to be quite effective and you wonder about yourself?

We seem to make the big mistake of doing what Paul cautions us not to do, comparing ourselves with one another, even measuring ourselves by one another and when we do we are void of wisdom, of understanding. And don't you think that happens to a lot of people when they do that? They look at others and they see themselves as less significant?

Jennifer: It happens to me. You know one place that is a real trap for that is social media. Here I am, in Christ; right? I feel he's given me identity. He's saved my life. He's given me joy. If I can live with blindness and still be teaming with joy, what an identity right?

Then I get on Facebook and I start to notice my friends have more likes than me or they say something clever and think, I'm so dumb compared to them. Or --

James: Look how many shares they have. People just passed on what they said and nobody passed on what I said. It's terrible! I'm just feeling bad myself.

Jennifer: Now is that not a lie from the enemy?

James: It is!

Jennifer: But what happens is when we begin to compare we become more self-aware. When it becomes all about us, when we don't really have a sense of identity because we're looking to find ourselves in all the wrong places, we forget that we're already found in Christ.

So I really entered into this crisis and I didn't like it. So I went to the Word, because if we're going to know our worth, James, we've got to go to the Word; that's the only place you know your worth is in the Word. I found a woman that I realized she and I had a lot in common and her name was Gomer.

James: What a name! Tough start right there.

[Laughter]

Jennifer: Not a pretty name. But I hear she was a pretty woman. So Gomer was this woman in the Old Testament. Unfortunately, she is described as a promiscuous woman. I'm probably being polite in the way I describe her. Probably, she was more than that. But she's like the least likely woman you'd ever want to identify with and say, "Oh, yeah, I'm like her."

But the beauty of her story and the reason I realized I was like her is because she was chosen by a prophet. God said to Hosea, "I want you to marry this woman who is promiscuous and she is going to break your heart but she will be a good example, your relationship will be a great example of how I feel about my people."

So Hosea marries Gomer. And here this young woman, who is grown up probably seeing all the wrong things. In fact, her dad's name was Diblaim. Okay? Diblaim -- I know it's all bad! Bless their hearts!

[Laughter]

Diblaim means: Double portion of raisin cakes. Which could be utterly meaningless at this moment to people except let me tell you why that matters. Back in their day, raisin cakes were an aphrodisiac. So for this daddy to be named "double portion of raisin cakes," we're saying he was not a nice guy. Poor Gomer was probably exposed to things a young girl should have never been exposed to. Probably, the only time she got attention was in all the wrong ways for all the wrong reasons. So of course, she is promiscuous.

And then Hosea marries her and her identity changes. She is this beloved bride. And what does she do? Instead of identifying with her present truth and reality she wanders off and goes for other lovers, and she ends up enslaved.

Well, we do that too. The lover of soul says, "I call you my own. I choose you. I love you. I'm calling you my own." And we have this new identity because if any man is found in Christ behold all things are become new. Right? Then what do we do? We think, oh, but hmmm! I'd feel better if I looked this way. Or maybe I'd like myself more if other people liked me more. Or maybe I'd be somebody if I had that job or that man or that woman. And we wander off from the God who loves us to these "other lovers" of approval or acceptance.

And what happens? We get shackled up and enslaved by the insecurity that it creates and we feel invisible.

James: When that happens, and Betty, when you listen to this, because you've told me in our relationship, the 50 years we've been together, how often you've felt very insignificant. So what brings you past that? Because I want to hear Jennifer say in a moment how she's going to recommend to people, which is really the purpose for the book is to try and...

Jennifer: Yeah, but I want to hear Betty too.

Betty: It is all about our identity and knowing who we are in Christ. If we're searching for that, I searched for it through works. I thought if I be this good girl and I go to church and go to all the activities they have at church, I'll work myself into that place of being significant or being worthy of something.

That didn't work either because I didn't have that relationship with God that would bring me that identity that I was searching so hard for. So we do! We go wandering out as you said working and searching for other things that will bring us the identity and even in...

Jennifer: In good ways!

Betty: Yeah! In good ways -- God gave me a wonderful husband. I know a lot of women would say, "Hey, boy, that should give you your identity!" But it put pressure on him because I was searching, expecting him to bring me all that joy and that identity and it just wasn't happening. As hard as he would try, it wasn't enough.

I finally had to say, "Okay. God, what do you want me to see in this?"

He said, "I want you to know who created you and how much I love you and your purpose that I put you here for."

When I submitted to that, and just said, "God, my identity is in you and I receive that." But we do have to make that choice. God offers it to us but we make the decision whether we'll accept it or not.

Jennifer: I think too, exactly what you're saying is true because if we try to find ourselves in another person or in an achievement then we'll never be found.

The point is, God is our source of self. He is the one that gives us identity. When we stray from our source of self, we can't help but lose our sense of self. We'll have no idea who we are. But the Lord has taught me, we've got to constantly go to his Word.

In fact, in the book I expose some lies. And you just shared one of them, Betty, some lies we believe when we don't have our identity in Christ. And it is who I am is what I struggle with. That's a lie! I'm failure. My marriage failed. Or I have an alcohol problem. Or I can't get over my profanity. I lose my temper. This is what I struggle with so that's who I am. No! Who you are and what you struggle with are not the same thing. That's a lie!

Sometimes the lie we believe is who I am is not good enough. You were trying to do all the right things, be the good girl. The problem is, we never know when it's good enough.

But the truth is, God is good and he is enough and we're found in him then we're complete. That's what Colossians says; that we are made complete in him who is the head of all principalities and powers.

So I've learned that I will never know my worth unless I stay in God's Word. I've got to stay in the good book, not Facebook -- to know who I am!

[Laughter]

James: I appreciate Facebook letting us see what our kids and grandkids are doing.

[Laughter]

You know one of the things that I've actually enjoyed is watching our friends and our family use Facebook as a witness, and share good things that actually inspire people. It doesn't have to be just a puppy or a cat video; it can be something that actually happened that's very meaningful.

Jennifer: It can be a source of encouragement.

James: If we would see every vehicle of communication as an opportunity to communicate the greatest message that's ever been told and it is the message of the love of God expressed in Christ.

Jennifer, I want to talk to our television audience very directly and to those of you here. One of the things I try to get every one of you, when I talk to you, if you're ever in a meeting where I'm speaking in person and if you watch this very often you will know this. I try to let you know how important you are, how valuable you are to God not only in the issue of his grace and his love poured out in your behalf, but the fact that you're such a valuable asset in expressing his love, his grace, his care for others.

When you really begin to say, "Lord, I'm going to receive this love that you have for me and release it," it is amazing.

Jennifer, when we look beyond ourselves, we will see so many opportunities to touch someone that needs the master's touch like the leper that needed it or the person who needed a miracle. We actually become the expression of that miracle.

I know you've been with us actually for many years and you've watched us over the years try to give fresh water to people who don't have it and they're dying because of contaminated water. You've watched us feed the hungry. You've watched us reach out to those that are trapped in sexual predation and bondage and set them free. You know when we do that, we can only do it because viewers have decided they're going to reach beyond themselves and touch someone.

I want to ask you, as you go out and share, do you not find the greatest blessing when you can release blessings towards others and know that you are somehow pointing them at not only the grace of God, but what he can do through them if they'll simply yield the clay of their life into the master's hands? Do you not find great joy in showing them and seeing them lifted up by the grace and love of God and then begin to express it?

Jennifer: Well, and I've seen the proof of that, James. The truth is, there is many viewers right now that are thinking, don't ask me to give anything because my burden is so heavy. What I've learned is when your burden is heavy, it gets lighter when you choose to carry someone else's.

And there is such a blessing when you get outside yourself and you become the hands of Jesus then you're not grasping your own issues because you've become God's hands. And your burden will get so much lighter when you say, "Jesus, I trust you more. I'm going to carry somebody else's burden," the joy increases.

James: You said so much, so wise, so many. I hope you got that because one of the things that comes back to me that I say often, and once I communicate something that resonates, it impacts the people who hear it and it's like they get it. Its one thing to hear it it's another thing to get it. I've said over and over, if you really want to see your prayers answered, seek to be an answer to someone else's prayer.

Isaiah said in the 58th chapter that if you want him to answer quickly, begin to notice others. Specifically, he says, those in need, those that have been overlooked, those that are hungry. When you notice others, and you call, I answer quickly. So I found tremendous joy in knowing that we're an answer to somebody's prayer. You're an answer to someone's prayer.

Do you know that you were talking about not being seen on Facebook or somewhere. What we've done many times that you don't necessarily know, we've taken things you've put on Facebook and we've just spread them all over the world through other means of getting it out. And you thought, nobody even noticed. That thing is going to the ends of the earth because you're saying so many things that help lighten somebody else's load.

Let me ask all of you out here in this audience. When you're sitting here looking at this beautiful lady and she can't even see how pretty she is, so when she came in tonight I said, "I want you to know you're still beautiful; in case you're just wondering."

Jennifer: And what did I say to you?

James: I think you said thank you.

Jennifer: I said, "You're still handsome, James." He said, "You can't see me!"

[Laughter]

James: But I gave you a high five anyway.

Do you appreciate this lady and her sweet spirit? And you are dealing with a heavy challenge.

Now listen to me. I don't know what you're facing. You might say, "I don't even know if you'd care." Yes, I would! Let me tell you what I think about you. I think if I told you that Betty and I had a burden and a hurt because sometimes you've known that we have had, and you know what? You cared. You cared so deeply and I think prayed so faithfully you lightened our load and Betty and I want to say thank you.

But I also know that you've lightened the load of many people all over the world that you never actually got to see in person. But maybe we just pointed to a need and you said, "I can help."

Did you know, Jennifer, we had a man come in our office yesterday and he said, "I had watched your programs about water wells and you said, 'Maybe you could drill a well.'" He said, "I was watching in a hotel room," and he said, "I turned to my wife and said, 'You know we could drill a well.'" He drove all the way up here to the office just to say, "I wanted you to know we could do that."

I said, "Well, thank you so much!"

Isn't that exciting that he saw that and said, "I can do that."

Well, here's the thing. Everybody can do something to touch someone with God's love. If you need someone to pray with you, you see the telephone number there? You notice it is an 800 number? It's paid for by love. Betty and I support *LIFE Outreach* but I promise you, we don't pay that phone bill. We wouldn't be able to handle that and be very comfortable ever. But love pays it -- somebody that loves you. Because we know people call who may say, "I really couldn't afford the call." And yet you can't afford not to call. But somebody else covered it with love.

We're going to give you an opportunity to call and say, "Somebody pray with me." And someone who cares will pray. They may actually be one who shared similar experiences. So don't hesitate to call.

The other thing, Betty, about that number that is so beautiful, it's a lifeline. When we give you an opportunity to reach out and lift someone out of darkness and defeat, you can do it. I want to remind you that this is a powerful book because so many people do as Jennifer said, "feel invisible."

So if you'd like to have it, go online -- but I say this to you. If you say, "I think it will help me," I want you to look and I want you to listen and I want you to listen to a young girl and just ask the question, could I help her? Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: In impoverished areas of Southeast Asia all too often, girls like 15-year-old Srey Neang fall for too good to be true offers of a better life in the city. It's most often presented as an honorable job but is soon discovered as something much darker.

Open captions:

>> A man came to us and told us that there was a good opportunity with good pay to work in another province as a maid in someone's home. When I arrived, the people locked me in a room. It was a brothel. I found out that I had been sold. If I didn't sleep with clients I was beaten and starved. When the man came in, I didn't know what to do. Afterward I would just cry out for my mom.

Announcer: The cries of this child are lost in the noise of the city around her. The brutality she's endured has left her utterly demoralized.

Open captions:

>> I am so desperate. If I cannot escape this life, maybe I will kill myself.

End of clip

In the studio

James: No, sweetheart. That doesn't have to happen. Our mission workers are so committed and with the help of viewers like you we've been able to prepare places for children before the predators get them. And then we've been able now, because of your help, to establish areas of rescue where we can get them out and keep them safe where they can't come get them.

To think that somebody would promise her a future and then take her and just make a prisoner out of her, she didn't want to live. The very fact that she is talking right there to us and to our cameras -- oftentimes these cameras have to be hidden cameras. There she was talking to someone that expressed love, our mission team. And so she's sharing because someone convinced her that there are those that care. We believe that.

Because when we first brought the opportunity to rescue girls like that to our viewers, our first impulse was, probably people won't want to hear about it or see it. But I've got to be honest with you, your hearts leaped out with compassion. And you made it very clear to us, "We want to help rescue as many as we can and we want to keep children from being vulnerable to that predation." And so we've been able to establish those safe havens. When I say "we" I'm talking about people like you.

So I'm coming to you in behalf of that beautiful girl and so many she represents now in about ten countries that we're working with specifically right now.

Would you reach out and touch someone with love? Would you, in essence, say, "We'll offer you hope and we'll offer girls that are headed where you're headed a way of escape." Would

you dial the number or would you go online to LifeToday.org? Just go there. And would you take your bankcard and say, "I'm going to make a gift of love and life today and I'm going to set someone free."

A gift of \$128 is the average it costs for us to rescue someone and then care for them for a year. Would you do that? Do you know we have many people who say, "I will help rescue ten" because our goal right now in the areas we've targeted is to rescue 5,000 as quickly as we can. Well, we're going to have to have your help to do it. A gift of \$1280 and we're able to rescue ten and give them a new future and train them in a new way of life.

Many of the children we rescue years ago are now teachers. Some of them are college professors. It's a miracle! Would you be a part of that miracle? Would you do that? Would you reach out right now and touch someone with love?

We want to send you a beautiful "Light of the World" candle. I'm telling you, there is no lighting that does this justice. It's beautiful! But what you're doing is more beautiful than we can describe. You're giving people the hope, the future that only love can provide. So would you make that gift?

We have a beautiful bronze that literally illustrates the majestic creative artistry of God. We want to send that to you if you'll help us rescue ten or more. Would you do that?

Please right now make that life-giving call or go online LifeToday.org. Thank you for doing it. If you want to write a check and mail it, make it to *LIFE* and put it in the mail. But call us. Would you call us and tell us that you're putting it in the mail? Thank you for doing that.

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'll send you the "Light of the World" scented candle. This beautiful encased in a frosted glass burns with a wonderful scent. Its flame is a reminder of your part in being a light to the world, especially to young women trapped in the darkness of human trafficking. Your gift helps provide them with hope and a way out.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request our beautiful new "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to thank you so much for your help. But also mention if you'd like to have Jennifer's book, *Invisible*, then we'll gladly send it to you. I want to mention this because this just went into the stores or online.

This is for young women; I would assume this is for teenagers?

Jennifer: Teenage girls. Yes! Help them know who they are.

James: I've still got some teenage granddaughters. But if you'd like to have it, you say, "Oh, we've got a teenager in the family." Well, we'd be glad to send it to you if you'll help us rescue some of these precious, precious girls and boys in many instances, children, we'll send this expression of gratitude to you.

Would you join me and Betty in saying thanks to Jennifer for being such a blessing?

Jennifer, you are a blessing. We love you -- you know that!

Jennifer: I love you! I love you, Miss Betty!

James: Thank all of you so much. Thank you for watching. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. Thank you for sharing *LIFE Today*!