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Week 17: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Mike Huckabee

James: I think there are some folks out here that really like our guest. I really think so. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

We're talking about *Living Amazed*. The book is in the bookstores. This isn't just an amazing journey of a fatherless boy and a very shy kid. I said I think the shyest kid on the planet. None of you believe that now but was I shy?

Betty: Very shy.

James: Indescribably so. Nobody believed it. When I was called to preach I asked them if they thought I could and a deacon said, "No." It was his answer, "No, you can't."

[Laughter]

But God has done something amazing and somebody that is part of that amazing journey is a man that I think you've grown to appreciate and respect and really love and that's Governor Mike Huckabee. Would you say Governor Mike Huckabee is one the great statesman in our day?

[Applause]

Well, he is our guest and he actually started his, let's say, "public ministry" with us; I'll let him tell you how many years ago.

But would you welcome Governor Mike Huckabee to *LIFE Today* as our guest?

Mike: Thank you, James. It's great to be back with you and Betty. You want me to tell them how many years ago?

James: Yeah! Tell them how many years ago.

Mike: Forty-two years ago.

James: You said you were how old when you came?

Mike: I was six years old.

[Laughter]

James: Youngest staff member I ever hired.

Mike: I was the youngest staff member. You'll remember this; I think you even put it in the book, that there were people that didn't think that you should hire me. I was 21 years old or something like that, maybe. Actually I was 20 when I first started doing some contract work but you actually hired me at 21 and people thought you had lost your mind. Later you realized you had.

[Laughter]

But it was an amazing time in my life and part of it was that I was able to see many of the stories that are in the book. When I go back and read them it is such a wonderful journey for me to go back and say I was there for some of these stories -- not all of them, but some of the powerful stories that I can give eyewitness account of what happened.

James: What happened between me and you right when you came? Because you had to get up on a platform in front of thousands of people in stadiums and coliseums and you were kind of my announcer and you did a lot P.R. work. You did radio communications and television. You

actually introduced me on television. We won't here tonight; maybe they will do a quick clip and they can see how very young we once were. Anyway, you didn't have any real suitable suits.

Mike: No. I owned one suit and I had paid \$25 for it at an outlet store and this is the truth.

James: And that's what it looked like -- it looked like it.

Mike: No kidding. It did. Thanks, James.

James: I've just got to be honest, Mike.

Mike: I had grown up dirt poor in south Arkansas. No male upstream from me had ever even graduated high school. So I was the first in my family to get out of high school, much less go to college. There wasn't money for nice clothes. So you hired me and the first day I got called into your office and I thought, what I'm getting fired already? I hadn't even been there a day.

[Laughter]

James took me to the nicest department store in the mid cities between Dallas and Fort Worth and personally went in there and picked out three suits, shirts, ties. He didn't trust me to pick them out.

[Laughter]

Anybody walking around with a \$25 suit is not the guy you say, "Go pick something out."

[Laughter]

But he wanted me to look sharp. I'll never forget what you said. You said, "If you're going to work for me, I want you to look sharp and I expect you to be sharp."

But it was extraordinary. The investment you made in me was not only spiritual but it was material, but the material had a spiritual impact. Sometimes we don't understand that we may do something that seems material, it may seem temporal but the impact on a person's life is everlasting and it is spiritual. I think the stories in the book are often stories of ordinary things that had extraordinary impact on people's lives. And time and again there would be some event and it just had a spiritual application.

Can I tell a story about? We were on an airplane coming away from a crusade; I think it was in Alabama somewhere, late Sunday night. It had been one of those eight-day crusades that... You guys have to understand, James would preach eight-day crusades, go home six, back on the road eight more days. It was the most brutal schedule. It was like a political campaign on steroids.

[Laughter]

And all day long he is speaking, several times a day at schools and civic clubs and all this stuff and big crusades at night. So we're coming back home and we're in the airplane and you had found something that you wanted Rhonda, your oldest daughter to read. You handed it to me and said, "Here. Give this to Rhonda so she can read it."

I think Rhonda was 14. So half jokingly, I just handed it over to her and I said, "Here. Rhonda, read this. Your daddy said, 'Read this.'"

And you reached out and you said, "Mike! Mike! I didn't say it like that." And you know, you said, "When you give the father's words you also need to give the father's spirit."

It was a powerful lesson to me. Of course, I felt this tall the way you got on to me. But it really was, I was just kidding with Rhonda but the point was, when the heavenly Father speaks to us it is not just about what he says, it is the spirit in which he says it. Because your spirit was not to demand for her to read it, it was to lovingly and kindly say, "I think Rhonda would really be interested in this." And I was goofing around but the point being, I misrepresented the spirit of the father in delivering that message. That has stayed with me for 40 years. To this day, I still

remember that if I'm speaking the words of the Father, I need to ask myself, do I have the spirit of the Father? Now that's a simple thing that happened but God uses those simple things.

I think what people are going to find in this book is, yeah, there are powerful stories, stories that made the headlines in the newspapers about some of the crusades but there are also instances in which God took just a simple encounter, something that wasn't even on the schedule and something happened. Or as I like to say, in the words of that great theologian, Forest Gump, "God showed up."

[Laughter]

James: And he did over and over. You and I got to see a young man in his mid 30s talk to a man 70, Governor Ronald Reagan. And is there any question in your mind that when I went and had the privilege of being alone with him, which is here in the book, and then subsequent conversations, do you think there was any question that Governor Reagan knew he was being loved by a young man that cared deeply about him?

Mike: There is no doubt about it. I think it was a life-changing event for Ronald Reagan. I'm not sure that history has ever been able to record the significance of what happened in that meeting here because it was the first time that there had been a gathering of the Christian community, not to endorse a candidate because no candidate was endorsed. But it was an opportunity for a person who would become president to look out into the faces of people who committed to pray for him, who loved him, and who wanted him to represent the best of America. I think it changed his life.

James: That's what his best friend said in here. His very best friend, that was his events coordinator, who took Buddy Holly's place when Buddy Holly was killed as the lead singer, Buddy Holly and The Crickets, well, he was the next lead singer. But he tells what happened; firsthand account of what happened. Nancy told me what happened to Ron that night as she said, "What happened to Ron?"

But here's the thing now. Let's bring it up to today. How much time do you think you spent trying to convince me that I would not be wasting time if I would dare to love one Donald J. Trump and spend some time with him? Just how much time do you think you spent working on that project?

Mike: More than I intended to.

[Laughter]

Because I'm telling this audience something Betty knows, you can be a stubborn cuss when you want to be.

[Laughter]

But in a good way because you're a critical thinker and you're an analytical thinker and you don't take something just because somebody says it. I think it is one of God's strengths in you is that you're not a person that is easily sold, not a person that is easily conned into something. So I told you that Trump was not my first choice for president -- because I was my first choice for president.

[Laughter]

Betty: Mine too!

James: Mine too!

[Laughter]

Mike: But I also told you that of all the other people on that stage, there were 17 of us that started and when I realized it wasn't going to be me, I told you he's my second choice. You were shocked by that.

I said, "Let me tell you, what you see is this brash, take-no-prisoners guy on stage but you don't see --

James: Obnoxious. Arrogant.

Mike: But what you don't see...

James: Excuse me, Mr. President, I love you deeply. You know I do.

Mike: You'll never be invited back to the White House. But what you weren't seeing and a lot of other people weren't seeing was this man who had the most amazing relationship with his adult children, an enviable relationship, the kind that every father, whether it is you or me, any father would want that kind of relationship with his children where they hold him in high esteem and respect. They love him but they also can speak freely and openly to him, but the love and just concern that he had for them.

It was also the sense in which people don't see this because maybe they're not in a room alone, he's a listener -- he's a listener. I think when you got to know him, it was amazing the impact that you had on him because as people know, you tend to be rather blunt.

[Laughter]

But that's what he needed. He respects that. And he has so respected that when you spoke to him in all the times that you have dealt with him and prayed with him, it was never in some way to try to say things that he wanted to hear or just to give him a pat on the back. You were respectful, you were kind, but you were also prophetic. And it's something I believe God has given you that gift in to be able to speak truth to power in a way that a lot of people can't do because they come across either harsh or they come across as arrogant.

But it's pretty amazing. Here's this person who chews reporters up and spits them out every day

for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and when you are speak boldly to him he hears and he listens because he knows -- here's what he knows. He knows you love him. He knows that it's not about you and it is not about him, it is about what God can do in this country. And in the same kind of relationship that I saw that you had with Ronald Reagan, again, most people in America never heard these stories, they didn't realize it, but those of us who were around then saw it and now we're seeing it with Donald Trump.

James: Let me just say, Mike, that I love everybody watching and those of you here in this room, there is no way to describe the love that I have. And you say, "Well, you don't really know me." Well, there is not enough junk you could lay in front of me that would cause me not to love you, because but for him we are all junk-laden. We're all buried in the load of our own mess, and he is the one that lightens the load and lifts and gets us out of any pit. I love the people who are watching.

The reason that I'm excited about the book is here is a shy kid without a father that most people would never pick for anything and God said, "I pick you and I enable you." He wants to do the same thing for everybody. They won't have the same gift. You and I don't function in the same role and we function in roles we never imagined we would be in. We live amazed; don't we?

Mike: Absolutely, every day!

James: Betty lives amazed. Did you ever think Betty would be sitting here on national television?

Mike: I remember how shy Betty was. I think one person in my life who's very amazed is my wife. She is amazed that I ever turned out to be anything. She is still amazed at that.

[Laughter]

But one of the things that this book does, it chronicles some of the great moments, again, some that I was witness to and some that I wasn't, but all of them about how God intervened. And

many times, and this is something people won't know about you, you would go into a room or go into a community and it wasn't like you always would seek out the high and the mighty, the richest, the most powerful; but you might see some kid that looked hurt and because of your life and where you'd been, you saw yourself in that kid. You would go over there and give time to that kid, and that would be the kid that would come to Christ.

I can't even recall how many times that I would see you, whether it was in a store, or at a school where the kid was kind of bashful and everyone else has a group but there is one kid that's all by himself and that would be the kid you would go find and put your arm around him and have a conversation with him. And then that week he would come to the crusade and come to the Lord. If you hadn't done that, that kid would have never made that commitment because he didn't know anyone loved him.

Betty: Mike, I have to say, he still does that. He still does that. No one -- he doesn't pass by someone that he doesn't search his heart and say, God, do you want me to say something to that person? Do you want me to be an encouragement to them? But we all can be that way. We can all live amazed! Because why? We have the love of God living in us and if we lived that out in our lives, we will walk every day amazed at what God does.

James: I really want the book to inspire people to realize that if I can live amazed they can. Do you believe that what I've journaled here can actually be a source of real encouragement and inspiration to people to where they would actually latch on to the reality that they can, in fact, with God's grace and his divine enabling and gifting, they too can live their life amazed?

Mike: Without a doubt. And some people may think, well, that's great. This is a book about James Robison and very powerful people and how they're very powerful. This is a book of how God took a very shy ordinary person and used him and then all the interactions and the stories. The book starts with this amazing miracle at Marble Falls, Texas; the stories of the Cleveland, Tennessee crusade that I witnessed. And people would literally stop in the middle of aisles of a supermarket and witness to each other. And you couldn't even buy groceries, if you were in a hurry, because everybody is crying all over the place.

James: And that crusade, you remember, the football team at the pep rally that day, literally, the football team, they're playing that night, the football team tells the whole student body at the high school, "Don't go to the football game. Go to the crusade. We will take care of the football game -- you go to the crusade." And I had to make the cheerleaders go -- and make the band go to the football game. How crazy is that?

Mike: And it was their district championship; it wasn't like a regular game. But it was that kind of revival. It is rare in life, a lot of people may never see it and those of us who have ever seen it may see it once or twice in our lives where there is a real -- just move of God and God in the spirit sweeps into an entire city and the whole city is transformed and touched. That's what happened that week. We had to extend the crusade. I remember I was running out of suits. I only had three.

[Laughter]

James: Do you appreciate Mike being willing to come and say, "I want to help you, James. I want to help you help others." Well, that's what we're doing and I really do thank you, Governor Huckabee, Mike. I believe you're one of the greatest voices for God on the planet today.

Will you join in praying for him for as long as we live together? Will you lift him up? Thank you so much.

Mike, I think you rejoice over what we're doing in missions all over the world. Isn't it amazing? We saw hundreds of thousands of people saved, I think while we were together it was probably somewhere between one and two million people had come to Christ. We started seeing from two to five million people come to Christ when we went out and started undergirding outreaches all over the world. It is the most amazing thing. Greatest in the kingdom is servant.

Listen. This is the greatest joy I have. It is not speaking, it is serving -- serving you, serving

Mike, serving others. That's what he just pointed out. This is one reason for the book, to serve you and help you see you can get in the presence of the Lord. But now think about this. You can live as servant, greatest in the kingdom.

Would you please serve some missionaries, some relief workers who have planted their lives in the midst of hell to rescue people? To reach them, to rescue them, and restore them, to get them out of bondage -- sexual trafficking, one of the most horrible, horrible conditions on the planet. Precious little children, and we can rescue them with love. But we can't do it unless we do it together. It's only together that we become the body of Christ putting his arms around the suffering and rescuing them. Watch closely. Listen to Sheila Walsh. Listen to the spirit of God. Listen to Jesus through her.

On the mission field

Sheila: Honestly, Ralph I don't think I've ever felt such darkness in a place. It makes me almost feel physically sick to my stomach.

To see it with your own eyes, it's really hard to describe. You might be tempted to think, they chose this. That's so not true for so many of them. You take that makeup off, they're little girls.

They were told, "Yeah! Come to the city and you'll be a waitress or you'll work in a hotel." So they come full of hopes and dreams, maybe to make some money for their family and then they're immediately trafficked. They just break them. They lock them in a room and they don't feed them, they don't let them sleep. They tell them, "If you don't stand out there and smile you'll be punished." And every now and again they'll remove one of the girls from the group and they'll never see her again.

One of the girls said, "I was told if I tried to escape from this brothel, what they told me was, 'Okay. You go ahead. You escape. We know where your eight-year old sister lives.'" Can you imagine that?

These girls are as much in prison as people who are behind bars. We can bring the light of Christ to the darkest place I've ever been in my life.

We need to get these young girls off these cold evil streets and into a place where they can find healing and hope.

James and Betty, I think of all your grandkids. Some of these young girls out there are the age

of your grandkids. This should not be allowed to happen. We've got to do something. We've got to do it now. We've got to do it in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, I know you're praying, right now that in Jesus' name every person watching will reach out in love and touch someone with action. Now just listen to me a minute please right here. You hold the future of many of these precious girls in your hands. It is literally about as far away as it is for you to walk over and go to the trouble of getting a bankcard -- and I'm glad you can use it easily.

My wife shops mostly online. She is amazed at how quickly things can be delivered. Listen. The future for some of these girls is as far as you walking and getting that card that you use oftentimes for such very important matters, sometimes just for your own enjoyment, nothing wrong with that -- would you right now go get that card and say this is going to be a passport to freedom.

The gift that I make in love and the prayers I put with it, and support those mission workers that have planted their life in that pain and misery and they're full of love but so often they can do so little? Because too often support is meager for the most beautiful witnesses on the planet. We have found them. We know where they are and let's undergird -- it's like a light, a lantern that we bring the oil to, to keep that light burning, expand the outreach.

Would you right now go get the card, come back, go online, and take that card and make the largest gift you can knowing you're giving the greatest gift -- you're giving freedom and life to those girls, to those held captive. We're going to set them free. You're going to support the mission outreach.

It takes an average of \$128 to rescue one. We've got a matching gift right now that will double what you give. Some say, "I couldn't give \$128." \$64 now will be doubled, you'll have the \$128. We ask for people, I'm praying many of you will do it because this is the last week for this emphasis. \$1280 rescues ten, if you'll give that \$1280 we now rescue 20. Think about it. Would you please go very prayerfully, get that card and know that that journey and that gift gives them freedom.

We're going to put them in the most beautiful place you ever imagined. We're going to basically be putting them in the arms of love. Please right now, follow the leadership of God. Thank you. If you want to call the number, use that bankcard like a check. If you want to write a check,

make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're mailing. Please call us right now. We need to know. We want to tell the missionaries, "You've got the support." This is our last week. Please, please make that call.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, their spirit and body 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 help restore their lives and give them a future.

Now a generous opportunity of a \$200,000 matching gift means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we will send you James Robison's new book, *Living Amazed*: How divine encounters can change your life. As you read these inspiring stories you'll learn how to live amazed in the presence of God 24 hours a day.

With your gift of \$100 or more you'll receive James's new book, along with the companion Amazed Journal so you can record accounts in your own life where you're amazed at God's goodness.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children and you may request our beautiful new "Determined Eagle" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I do say thank you from the bottom of our heart. Thank you for making that walk. By the way, if you get a busy, be determined, I'm going to get through. I'm going to make this gift today. Many are calling because they need us to pray with them about

something, they're trapped, they need to be set free. They need an expression of love. But you be determined, "I'm going to be an answer to someone's prayer today."

Thank you for that. We're going to send you what we've talked about *Living Amazed* because we want you to live amazed. Betty and I have lived in love 54 years and we're going to continue to live in love; and that in itself is amazing that you can 54 years still really like each other, and we are crazy about each other.

We want to send you certain gifts to help you grow in your spiritual journey. I think the beautiful eagle, the "Determined Eagle," determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and the challenges of the day. His love, his power, even turbulence lifts us and we can soar like an eagle.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thank you so much to Governor Mike Huckabee?

Mike: Thank you. Thank you very much!

James: You know I love you. Appreciate you.