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Week 17: Mission: Rescue Life
James and Betty Robison
Chonda Pierce

James: I'll tell you what. I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We live amazed. The book *Living Amazed*, I think, will inspire you to live amazed. We have an amazing guest.

As a matter of fact, the amazing guest has been looking through the window over here. She was over here a while ago just waving through the window. What happened to her? Did she disappear from the window over here? What happened to that woman that was in that window?

Chonda: Let me in!

James: Do you want to come in here? Would you welcome Chonda Pierce please to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Chonda: I think that's so funny. Look, you want to talk about amazed! I am online dating.

[Laughter]

It's not funny! I'm three years a widow so my girlfriends, you know the well-meaning ones which really means the naggy one, the well-meaning one signed me up for online dating. They had a post-it note on my laptop with a little heart that said, "Here is your user name and here is your password."

They signed me up for Christian Mingle, which there is a little mingling on there that's not too Christian.

[Laughter]

And then match.com, plenty of fish in somebody's ocean or sea or something; and Our Time, which really means you have very little time left at all.

[Laughter]

By the look of some of the pictures on there, you better hurry up.

[Laughter]

Here's what's so funny. The guys on Our Time look a whole lot like the pictures on Ancestry.com.

[Laughter]

I had the love of my life for 31 years, I don't think I'm going to find another one on the internet for heaven's sakes. And I do miss my man -- I do miss my man. I don't know that I'll have any luck dating online but it is going to be the best material I ever had in my career.

[Laughter]

Because what in the world has happened to the men these days? They don't even know how to take a picture of themselves. A five-year old can take a selfie, for heaven's sakes! No, these men stand in the bathroom and take a picture of themselves. How does that creative process work?

You're on the toilet and you're sitting there going, "You know, I look really good today. I think when get up from here I'm going to take a picture of myself."

[Laughter]

Are you kidding me?

First of all, put your shirt on, your beer gut shows. Then you can see the ones who are holding their breath trying to suck it in and their face is all red. Then the clippings of their hair is all in the sink. And if you look up behind them the toilet is filthy! I'm telling you, if you want me to wink or fade that, you better shut that lid! Better yet, move out of your mother's house.

I never knew there were so many single nephews of the little old ladies in my building. Every time I get on the elevator, "You know my nephew is single."

"How old is he, Miss Martha?"

"Oh, he is 62."

"Well, if your nephew is 62 and he is single and ain't never been married, there's usually a reason for that."

Don't come at me with that. It is just weird!

I'll tell you what. Being alone, it's not so bad, girls. I'm learning -- I'm three years into it and I'm learning I'm pretty good company. I've been taking myself out to eat every Friday. And I'm a better tipper than any guy I've ever been out with. It's just the funniest thing.

And this is the truth, you do romantic things or sweet things like when my husband passed, you have this romantic. We were in the middle of building a house and so we buried him on the farm. We dug up all the footers. Here's for you boys. We dug up all the footers and all that stuff and we decided I would bury him where we were going to build a house. It was very romantic; it was very sweet at the time and then all of the sudden I realized. Well, I just shot myself out of a good place to put a house. So I had to rethink that. But he's already in the ground. You don't want to tell him, "Can you move over just a little?"

[Laughter]

So I decided it is my farm. I don't know what the ruling is. I could put a house right there on top of him if I wanted to. Is there a law? I don't think so. But then I got to thinking, well, I could have sex again someday. I mean I'd get married, I'm just saying. What if I got married and I had a wonderful relationship and we got romantic and you heard some thud on the floor, you would wonder.

[Laughter]

I'd be like, "Pay no attention to that thump. My first husband is a little jealous."

So we decided -- I decided not to do that because it just sounded too weird. So they came and plowed it really nice and really sweet.

When they did that and put grass seed and flowers and all they moved that temporary marker that the funeral home puts out there. So then I had to go out there and realized, wow! I have lost my husband.

[Laughter]

My man is in this general area. And I had to call the funeral home and tell them, "I lost my

husband again!"

They sent -- this is the truth. This would only happen to me. They sent a guy out there with a metal detector to find my man. I could not find him anywhere. I finally found three cannonballs and a hubcap to a Ford Pinto. So where my man is buried was also a civil war and somebody shot a cannon out of the back of a Ford Pinto.

[Laughter]

But then we finally got the real marker and it's really pretty. It's his name and his birthday and the day he passed. And then it is my name and my birthday and a blank, like I've got no hope at all now.

Girls, don't get so quick on the chiselling. You know what I mean? It is just weird to see your name on a tombstone and you feel nice and alive. So I go out there every now and then and sit and wait, and see if the Lord puts up a letter.

[Laughter]

It's like a little game of charades I play with God now. Just give me a month -- just start on the month. You don't have to give me the day, just give me the month so I'll just know. I'll just know.

But you know, I'm doing good. I really do. I kind of turned the corner. I'm feeling good. I don't have to wear SPANX anymore. I just decided to breathe when I take myself out to eat. It is so much more important. And it has been good. I am living the amazed life of how God can get you through such difficult times and I'm blessed to be here. I'm so glad to see you guys.

[Cheers & Applause]

Chonda: I'm doing good! I just wanted to tell one story and say "sex" in front of James and Betty.

[Laughter]

I started to say George and Barbara but they ain't here.

[Laughter]

Well, you know everybody -- - every dignitary in the country. Everywhere I go, if I meet a

senator or anybody they're like, "Oh! I saw you on James Robison."

Yeah, yeah. Everybody asks me for his autograph all the time.

[Laughter]

James: You said you wanted to tell a story about what? Were you just making that up?

Chonda: No, I wasn't making that up. I was going to tell a story about the dignitaries?

James: I don't know what you were going to say. You just said it a while ago. I'm just following your lead.

Chonda: Well, he, because of his influence, I had the opportunity to perform at one of the inaugural balls.

James: Yeah! And she was awesome.

Betty: You were awesome! It was awesome!

Chonda: I was so blessed to be there. I saw Betty. She looked beautiful. We took our pictures backstage. I told her, "I may never get out of these SPANX!" Because I was so glad to see another woman. I thought she might have to come in the bathroom and cut that dress off me.

[Laughter]

Because I was poured into it. And then I had some fancy, fancy shoes like Cinderella. I'm telling you, I don't know how Cinderella did it. I left both my shoes on the steps. And if Prince Charming ever comes at me with those shoes I'm going to slap him -- that's what I'm going to do!

But I had to say this and I know I'm supposed to be talking about me and my movie but I have to say this, I love the new book. I've been reading it. I will say that all in this book -- well, first of all, there is these fabulous endorsements. Everybody wrote such kind things. And I myself wrote a wonderful endorsement that made it like on the fifth page way down at the very bottom of the page.

[Laughter]

He finally let people know she does read my books.

[Laughter]

But oh, it is so good! It is so good! You know you have been -- I'm going to choke up saying it but I have known you for 20 years. I've lost my mom, I've lost my sisters, I had a terrible childhood home with a father that didn't show unconditional love and then I lost my husband.

And you know, even when I was in the pits of despair and depression, I can name on one hand how many people in Christendom called and you called me all the time and would pray with me over the phone. I even held the phone over to my husband, who when we knew he wasn't going to make it and you prayed over him and tears would just roll down his eyes. This is a man who will teach you what the true heart of God is. And in a culture where dads just don't step up to be dads, that's what the amazing thing is; that's the story that should be in here is who taught me again what fatherhood of God looks like. And you did that.

Women are hurting today. It's kind of one of the reasons I did this new movie, *Enough*; women don't feel they're enough. And you know one of the first reasons why they don't is because they didn't have a daddy that kept telling them how beautiful and what a princess they are, and how you can do this and how good you are. And when that is broken in you, you live a lifetime trying to find people to pour that into you.

Without the heart -- without the fatherhood of God you never get that. You just never get that. No one can give that to you until a man comes along and shows you what that looks like.

James: Do you think people will see the Father's love in *Living Amazed*?

Chonda: I'm almost, I got to about a chapter or two to get done and I weep and I cry every other one. One, it shows that -- how could I say this? It is not a boisterous book. It is not like, look who James Robison influenced. Look who I knew, look who's listened to me.

James: Look what God did.

Chonda: That's right! And you see that. It also shows what happens to a life when someone just loves them. We forget the power of that. I stepped out of that inauguration and all of that beautiful pageantry and the patriotism and all the wonderful things that knowing you allowed me to get to do, and I left that morning with the sea of women marching past my hotel room, and I got in there in the march. I was really looking for a cab.

[Laughter]

But I had to kind of go with the flow or I'd be a salmon upstream. So I was with the flow until I

got to the cab. My heart began to grieve, not just the vitriol and the anger and the nasty things you heard shouted and all this. My heart grieved at how many women were trying to identify themselves with something. They just are trying to fill that void with something.

I wonder if you went through there with a microphone or you went through with a poll, and took a poll of what these women were there for and their backgrounds, I wonder how many of them had that beautiful father/daughter relationship that God intended them to have. And when that gets broken, how do you put that back? And how do you trust true love again?

James: I want people to read the book. Do you think they will be blessed and helped and encouraged in their walk if they read it?

Chonda: You've got a stack of them I've read and they're on my counter but this one, one it is easy to read because everybody likes to -- not to sound sacrilegious or anything, this is like what the New Testament is. The New Testament is story after story after story that just displays the love of God.

James: Divine encounters.

Chonda: That's all the New Testament is. I love the New Testament. When I read this, it was almost like reading, there's the book of Hebrews, there is the book of James Robison, there is...

[Laughter]

It really does feel that way. But I love that! Now I know somebody that is like the Bible. So I'm in! I'm pretty much in heaven now just on this alone!

James: I want you to tell us about the movie. We've got a trailer. It is called *Enough*. It's going to be out -- can you give us a date?

Chonda: April the 25th. It is that one night. It is a fathom event; so it is one night only like *Laughing in the Dark* was. And I have to thank the Dallas area. When the movie, *Laughing in the Dark* came out it was number five in the country and it got such great reviews and all that. And of course, when I'm watching it with my son in the movie theater I looked at him and go, "My life is sad! This is the saddest movie I've ever been to!"

[Laughter]

I will give you a spoiler alert on this one, no one dies in this new movie. Thank you, Jesus! So it is a great journey for women to try to figure out if they are enough to meet the challenges of

when you have to redefine your entire life again.

James: Can we see a trailer?

Chonda: Yes! Let's do it.

James: Would you like to see the trailer?

Begin video clip

Chonda: There is this constant ringing in your ear, "Are you enough?" When a group of women line up to buy a ticket to come and see me, and to hear what I had to say and they're all excited just to hang out with each other, and in those few moments, for a brief moment of time, I'm enough.

Menopause could cause problems. It just does. You sweat for no reason. Water starts pouring out of every pore of your body. At this age, you've got to slip around and see where the water came from.

[Laughter]

Don't be judging! Don't be judging! You know if you cough or sneeze in the night it is over. You've got to get up and change your pajamas!

[Laughter]

I want to feel like I'm enough. The devil is in the business of convincing us that we aren't. Because Jesus died to prove to us we were enough, that we were worth dying for.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I didn't know that was the end. But I just turned to you and said, "That was good, Chonda." That was just pure truth coming out of a heart of love. I really do love you. You're like another one of my kids and I'm just real proud to have you as one of my kids.

Chonda: It is nice of you to say but when he fusses at you, it is also like a father love. Let's just say that.

[Laughter]

He's grounded me four times today!

[Laughter]

James: Oh my! I don't know what to do with you. Tell everybody now, let's repeat the date but tell them what you'd like them to do. Get people to go to the movie...

Chonda: The great thing is April 25th for all these kind of faith-based movies, the more tickets you buy, even in advance, it kind of speaks truth into the movie theater and then they'll reserve another room and another room. And my thing is, whether you come to see me or not, just buy a ticket and let's just take up some space where something nasty can't get in there!

[Laughter]

James: Chonda, anything else you want to say about *Enough* to encourage people?

Chonda: No, you're the one that helps me when I am struggling with a concept or when stinking thinking crops up in my head. You're the one that reminds me, just to have someone in your life that will throw their arms around you unconditionally laugh at you. James has this way of saying, "I just love you! I just love you! Now, don't tell that on the show but I just love you! I just love you!" Or he has a way...

But discipline is good. If you didn't have the Father's heart to convict and discipline you, how would you know that he loved you enough to speak into your life? So all those concepts, knowing that God is enough and knowing that because of his righteousness, we are righteous and we are enough. I pray that this changes some hearts of some women that wouldn't hear this message any other way.

James: I agree. Remember the date. There it is on the screen. There it is and it will be in local theaters. Then you can get it on a DVD; you can show it at church or show it in your home.

Chonda: Go to ChondaMovie.com.

James: There it is! You're pretty good at what you do.

Chonda: I'm getting good at this whole marketing thing!

James: Again, do you appreciate Chonda being here? Would you just tell her thanks?

[Cheers & Applause]

Chonda, we want people to see what their love does in one of the most painful places on the planet. Have you ever gone to the mission field with us yet?

Chonda: No, not with you but I have been on the mission field in a lot of areas.

James: Do you want to go with Sheila when she goes sometime?

Chonda: I would love -- I think I would be heap of tears but what you're doing...

James: Okay, we're going to make a note of that that you might be willing to go. We'll have to talk to Sheila. Do you can convince Sheila?

Chonda: Oh boy! I'll have to get my shots!

James: All right. Now we're going to be serious. Can you be serious? I want you to look in. This is the last week for this emphasis right now on rescuing life from the sexual predation that is so prominent. One of the most painful existences! But love never fails and we're seeing miracles. I want you to look but listen with your heart very prayerfully, and during this last week, listen to me, we need every single person that cares right now to become an answer to someone's heart cry, to someone's prayer and to the pain they're in. Watch closely.

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 just say thank you so much for your amazing love that you share so freely. I don't -- I wish that there were a way for me to somehow be able to look in your eyes, you know I'm looking at you and just tell you, you don't have any idea how special your love is and the respect or the willingness to listen to us, it really means a lot that you honor what God put in our heart. But you're a miracle in people's lives and thank you for that. I want to send you *Living Amazed* because you've enabled people to live and many of them to go on *Living Amazed*.

Chonda Pierce is one of those people who is amazing and what a joy she is. Join us in saying thanks again to Chonda Pierce -- - Chonda. And on the website is all the information about the movie coming out.

Thank you for watching. Thank you so much for sharing life.