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Week 13: Mission: Rescue Life
James and Betty Robison
Jentezen Franklin

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James and we have a wonderful guest!

James: Yeah! We've got Jentezen Franklin back. If you don't know him, he is this good-looking black headed guy that preaches with a lot of fire. He's in Gainesville, Georgia and has campuses -- I think you even have a campus in California. Am I right about that?

Jentezen: Orange County, Irvine.

James: Let me just welcome Jentezen Franklin. You give him a big welcome back to *LIFE Today*. Jentezen, good to have you back. Where is your church in California?

Jentezen: It's in Irvine. Right down from the John Wayne Airport, about one exit.

James: That's really cool. You and I have become very close I'm grateful to say. I consider you family. We're going to walk this journey out together. You believed that God really wanted to heal our nation and you believe God can use imperfect people to accomplish his perfect will. You felt like our responsibility was to proclaim the principles of God to everybody and not hold back from anybody; right?

Jentezen: Right.

James: Somehow you've encouraged me, let's just preach the truth wherever, even if it is a man from New York that most of us would never have cared about. Why were you even willing to encourage me to really pray for Mr. Trump and you were one of the ones that really basically, I don't think I'm exaggerating, pleaded with me, go meet with him, go speak the truth to him. Why in the world did you do that?

Jentezen: Well, I went to that first meeting in Trump Tower and I went there totally saying I don't even know why I'm here, to be honest. I didn't know Mr. Trump; didn't particularly think that he had much of a shot of being president. After staying in that room for about two hours and hearing him, and then seeing something that I'd not seen, that you don't see, that a lot of people have never seen, I left there saying, "Something, I can't put my finger on it, but Lord, unless I'm

totally off, something is going on here. This is way back before he'd even won the republican thing.

James: Way before he even announced he would run.

Jentezen: Within a few weeks I reached out to you. I just felt like you carry -- and I say this all the time -- you carry something on you not just for the body of Christ but for this nation. There is a prophetic anointing and an authority that God has given you to speak. I've watched you in settings that I can't even talk about here that God will -- and when that thing comes on you, we would call it the anointing, the prophetic anointing, he is as bold as a lion. He is compassionate; it is tender and yet it is bold and it commands an audience with whoever is in the room.

I just knew if you could get in that situation that I felt like God, I knew he had done it once before with President Reagan, I know that President Reagan used your conference to basically be launched to the evangelical community and we just felt like if we could get certain people around him then maybe God is speaking to the body, maybe God is trying to do something to help our nation. I know what I'm saying now is controversial. I know it is very -- I don't claim to know everything, nor do I endorse everything. But I'm going to tell you, I'm thankful that people like you were willing to speak and are still continuing to speak into the president's life.

James: But just like you wanted it to happen, he indicated and proved it by his actions for two years now that he wanted it. You know I don't mince words, I don't waver.

What does it do to your heart when you find out that somebody's angry at me and calls me names because I would even pray with him and that I would love his family and care about them? And they just call me every name in the book. How does that affect you as a pastor knowing that you encouraged me to try to speak truth to him?

Jentezen: I think we've forgotten why we're here. Presence is everything if we're not at the table. I would do the same thing for Hillary if she would have asked me. I would have gone into those same meetings just like we do now and speak up when we have the opportunity for life and speak up for DACA and speak up for this and that and say the issues that we feel like we need to talk about.

James: But approach it right, do it biblically.

Jentezen: We don't go in a party we go in the name of the Lord. I want you at the table. I wanted T.D. Jakes with President Obama; when he was serving, I was thrilled that Bishop Jakes was there because I know Bishop Jakes is a man of God. We need men and women of God in that arena. I'm so thankful that you've been one of those people.

James: I want to thank you for encouraging me. I want to thank you for writing about the heartache that hurts a pastor and a father and a parent so much when one of your children goes away. Now you went through this and I've got to ask you, when you found out your daughter, you're a wonderful church pastor, and she is off in college and she's decided to drift off, you might say as a prodigal daughter; right? Not an exaggeration. Did you feel then that you had failed? Did you not even want to ask anybody to pray because you felt like they might not even understand? Tell me what you went through because you really flesh it out in this book.

Jentezen: You feel like a failure as a parent and you feel shame and you feel hurt and all of those things. But in the middle of it, I had God begin to do a work in my life about -- he began to deal with me about my words and my reaction to being hurt. That our words are like nitroglycerin; if you look that word up, it will give you two meanings of that word. It says it can be explosive and destroy buildings or bridges or it can heal hearts. If you take a nitro pill if you've got a heart problem, it can heal your heart. Your words are just like that. You can blow up bridges and destroy relationships or you can use your words to heal and speak life.

So we had to learn some lessons and we did. One of the biggest things that God spoke to me in the middle of all that is the story of Peter when he goes to Jesus and he says, "Lord, how many times do I have to forgive?" I love Peter. He is one of my favorite characters. He's temperamental, he is up and down, he cuts a guy's ear off. He cusses. He's just wild.

James: Denied Jesus.

Jentezen: Yeah! And he says, "Lord, how many times do I have to forgive somebody? -- Seven times?"

And he was one of the only disciples that we know for sure was married because his mother healed his mother-in-law. I have a sneaky -- I can't prove this but I have a sneaky suspicion that he's probably talking about his wife and he'd probably forgiven her six times and he was saying, "Seven times?" And then Jesus says this amazing statement. He is trying to reduce forgiveness down to a mathematical formula. Give me the mathematical formula for forgiveness.

Jesus says, "Not seven times, seventy times seven; 490 times in one day." What Jesus was saying is I'm giving you a new mathematical formula and forgiveness is not keeping score, it is losing count. You have to quit keeping score and you have to start losing count. That's once every three minutes of the day. So if you're going to keep score you're going to have a long day. He's saying, "Stop keeping score and just begin to live this life of forgiveness."

When pain and hurt comes to your family you're going to find out that it takes sometimes the

worst things done to you to bring the best out of you. I mention in the book about I went to New Zealand and preached. I'm going again pretty soon, been several times. But I notice when I was there all these birds and they're flightless. You know half the birds on the island of New Zealand cannot fly. They're big heavy fat little birds. And they have little stubs --

James: They haven't read your fasting book.

Jentezen: But they've got little stubs for wings about like that and they just walk around. I went to run one day, I'm a jogger, and I went to run and I about tripped over these birds that I thought they would fly up and they don't move.

[Laughter]

They're just looking at you. I asked somebody about it and got to looking into that and listen to this. They said the reason those birds didn't fully develop their wings is because there are no predators on that whole island. There are no bobcats, there are no wolves, there are no snakes, there are no predators on that -- and if there is no predator you'll never develop your wings. You can be a -- you have to decide, do you want to mount up with wings as eagles in this Christian walk or do you want to stay in the chicken coop with the chickens?

When trouble comes, when adversity comes, that's when you begin to exercise those wings of faith that say, "I'm down but I'm not staying down." And it is the adversity. An airplane takes off, they want to know which direction the wind is blowing in because the opposition is what gives lift to that airplane.

The same is true in our lives. We think there is some easy way that God's going to do something great in our life and the truth is if God is going to give you your wings, if you're going to mount up and go to another level you better be careful what you ask for because it's probably going to require some opposition.

Nobody would have ever heard of David if he had fought a midget. The only reason --

[Laughter]

The only reason that people know about him is because God sent a giant in his life.

James: You lost me, preacher!

[Laughter]

Jentezen: I'm sorry. But it's the opposition, the bigger the opposition. I hear this all the time. It's almost a fearful statement, "higher level, higher devils." That sounds so spiritual; doesn't it? I understand what they're saying, the higher you go up, the more devils you fight. But really, the higher levels, what about when you see a five-star general and you see a private on a battle field, who is surrounded with more protection? The five-star general has more body guards than the guy down here. The higher level you go to, the higher angelic protection around you. Don't be afraid! Don't be afraid of the high places. And God will use opposition but if you'll let it, it's only going to lift you. It's not going to tear you up it's going to carry you up.

James: Eagles rise on turbulence. Eagles seek turbulence.

Jentezen: So God began to do a work in us to forgive one another, to reach out to one another, to talk again, to call again. I go through so many stories in the Bible of some funny things. One of the things that happened in our family, Cherise, you know my wife Cherise, she is a beautiful woman. She had a father who was in addiction and came from Vietnam and was never really right through that experience and had a lot of problems. He is deceased now. But he was in and out of her life, in and out of her life; it was very painful.

We were building a home and he was a builder and we just thought we can help him, we'll help him. So we got him to build this home, one of our first homes that we ever lived in. And he just disappeared in the middle of it and left us high and dry like he had done so many times and it devastated us financially to make a long story short.

But Cherise went on. She has an amazing gift. She is a house builder and she's built houses while I built churches.

[Laughter]

She went on and built the house on her own and it launched her into an amazing gift that actually blessed us personally in amazing ways.

But she decided and we decided that since she was taking on this scary project, it is the house that we still live in 20 years later now that we would take a Bible and open it up and put it in a plastic bag to Psalms 119 where it talks about the blessed man and his house and we put it in the foundation of that home and we poured the cement over it and then she built the house. We reminded ourselves when this storm came to our family, when that house was filled with tears and brokenness and hell was coming after our family like we never dreamed it would come to our house, we reminded ourselves -- Jesus said there are two foundations. You can build that house on sand or you can build it on the rock. And we would walk down every once in a while in

that little room where we knew that little Bible was down there somewhere and we would remind the Lord, we have a covenant with you. This house is built on the word and the promises of God and it's for our children, it's for our children's children and Lord, we're going through it but we have faith that you're going to see us through. And God brought us through and God has done a miracle in our family. And he'll do it for you, folks. He'll do it for you.

James: That's why you wrote it. Would you thank Jentezen for being open and willing to share? This is a tremendous book, a great story, *Love like You've Never Been Hurt*. Only God can enable us to do that.

But I mentioned to you that you wrote a bestseller, probably the first New York Times bestseller, it was on fasting. And just in the closing comment because it's so much more than trying to go lose weight, fasting would not be your best diet plan. Just summarize why you believe fasting is so important to the believer. I want to hear it myself.

Jentezen: When I feel myself getting mechanical about ministry, normal, I don't ever want to do this and think that it is just something that I'm doing. When I feel myself losing that edge and that passion and that fervency for God, I have learned the secret that if I will pull away and maybe from sun up to sun down, my day is Saturday, and I'll fast most Saturdays from sun up to sun down. It is amazing how you get tuned back in. It is amazing how when you clear your spirit and you say, "Lord, I'm going to give you this time and this day and I want to be with you, I want to feel your heart, I want to see with your eyes, I want to reach with your hands. Give me a compassion for the world; give me a compassion for the hurting and the broken."

And in your case, you feed the hungry every day. You feed the hungry every day but one way we can identify with the hungry is when we fast because we're doing it by choice but they don't have a choice. And if life doesn't come in there with food and rescue those girls off the street and feed them and take care of them and heal their lives and be a father to the fatherless which is pure and undefiled religion. But there is something about fasting, James that...

James: That appetite that you feel, you should turn it towards the appetites for the things of God.

Jentezen: Maybe I'd even challenge people watching this show to do this, practice fasting and then send the money that you would buy the food, send it to a great ministry like this right here and let him feed and rescue children that are dying needing to be fed.

I encourage people who have followed us, we had we know several 100,000 that signed up this year in January for our fast. They said, worldwide, there were over 250,000 people who were fasting at one time for 21 days on the Daniel fast. I hope if any of you are watching that you will

go and help this great ministry do what you're doing. I so love -- you model for us. I've watched you and now we made a commitment to the Lord with our ministry that we're going to do more and more and more of what you do because we believe that's the very heart of Jesus.

James: Would you say thanks to the Lord and thanks to Jentezen? Love you big time! This book is in the bookstores. You can get it.

Here's what I want you to know. We're going to give you some gifts. Every time you give a great gift of life and love we always just say we want to invest in your spiritual life. We want to be a blessing and inspiration to you. Right now we are rescuing children and girls from sexual trafficking in the worst bondage you could ever imagine. It's love that sets them free. I want you to watch and then I want you to see what can happen when you just reach out and touch someone with love. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> My name is Srey Pich. My family is very poor. I've had to work since I was very young. My father would get drunk and beat me or my siblings. He forced us to find work. If we didn't earn enough, we couldn't come home.

When I couldn't earn enough, I came to the city with my friend who told me she knew of a good job opportunity. But I was betrayed and sold. I was ten years old. Every night I was forced to sleep with men. If I refused, I was beaten. I just wanted to die, but I stayed alive because my younger siblings needed me.

I have never felt happy. In the bar, I just pretended... But inside, I was broken. When I look in the mirror... I feel very dirty because of all the men I was forced to sleep with.

Sheila: She did not choose this life. We have to be a voice for those who have no voice. Jesus didn't just die for those of us who live in America. He died for girls who don't even know there is a God who loves them and it is our joy and our responsibility to say you know what? We're going to reach out our arms across the world and let girls like this beautiful girl here know you are loved, you are seen, and you have brothers and sisters around the world who are going to part of changing your destiny.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You may say, "James, is it really possible to change that girl's future?" -- 100 percent possible. Yes! And we have entered into this sexual trafficking crisis with the love of God and we have been able to rescue thousands. We've been able to get many of them before they get them by giving them the lies and getting them in bondage.

Did you hear her say, "I wanted to die"? She's in such a horrible situation but she said, "My siblings, my brothers and sisters need me. I'm needed." Betty, people see that and they are needed to totally correct that situation for her. In other words, to do what Jesus did -- set captives free.

Betty: If you can understand this is a ten-year old precious little girl. She hasn't had an opportunity to play with her friends, to giggle with them and run around and have fun with them. She has taken on the burden of her whole family, all her siblings because they have to have something to eat.

So then she gets an opportunity, is what she thought it was to go and to make money and to get food for her family. And she was deceived and she was trapped and she was abused and she was told that this is the way it had to be. And she was beaten if she didn't obey them. And she was threatened of her life. Everything innocent was stripped from her little precious life and her body.

Please help us help these children. Let's offer them hope. We know that hope comes from Jesus Christ but we are to demonstrate that hope. Through his love we can set them free so please join with us.

James: How do you think Sheila Walsh is sent over there apart from love? She is sent by love, sent by people who watch *LIFE Today*. And she is sent to missionaries who left their comfort and planted themselves in the midst of all that suffering full of love and we will rescue them and take care of them. It takes, think about this, \$128 is the average to reach, rescue, and begin to restore one person for a year.

So we have targeted this year to reach out and rescue 2500. But our viewers contacted us before we started asking you this time. They're going to match it with \$300,000 of what you give. Meaning what you give today will be doubled. That's amazing to me. \$128 rescues one, now it is two. Some say, "I can't even give \$128." Well, \$64 is now doubled and you've got another. I'm always saying, Betty knows I always try to get people to reach beyond what seems to be the simple and say, "God help me do what might seem impossible." If you can help us rescue ten and make a gift of \$1280 we've got ten -- no, now we've got 20 because love is doubling that. So

would you do it?

Go online, please, or dial the phone number that's there as a prayer line and let it be a life line. Take your bankcard, or write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. But use your bankcard like a check and say, "Here's the gift God's leading me to make today."

I pray you're already moving right now to get that card or that check because it really is important to do it now. There's so many things to distract. Don't be distracted from what that girl is crying out for -- freedom. Jesus offers that because of love expressed by us.

Would you do it now? Thank you. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you, I promise you. But you're giving an incredible gift. You're giving them a chance at freedom and a future.

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 bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved. And you can help restore young lives and give them a future.

And now a generous opportunity of a \$320,000 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'll send you *The Age of Promise*, Randy Robison reveals ten promises woven through all of scripture that will transform the way you view God, yourself, and others. With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Prayer is Powerful" wood plaque. This unique scripture art piece is printed on premium Birchwood, a beautiful reminder of the power of prayer.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children and you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I say thank you so much. We, of course, thank Jentezen. The book *Love like You've Never Been Hurt*, we'll be glad to send it to you if you say, "James, would you? We're helping rescue those from sexual trafficking." The book that became the first New York Times bestseller on *fasting* is available online.

And then there are a couple of other books that are -- some of them are abbreviated a little bit, and compact but you have an interest there. I asked him to bring it up because I feel like the Lord is really speaking to me about it and I really thank you for doing it.

Would you thank Jentezen for being with us, sharing so much of God's love? Thank you very much. Thank all of you so much. Thank you for watching. And thanks for helping us put arms of love around the suffering all over the world. Thank you for it!