

3/19/18

Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

O.S. and Susie Hawkins

James: This is kind of different. I'm James Robison. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. This is obviously not Betty but this is our son Randy. And Randy hosts quite a bit with Sheila Walsh and does a great job. Betty has a knee that has really caused her so much pain for the couple of months that she has been sitting here prayerfully asking God to help her endure. So we're believing we're getting real close to seeing that get resolved. But she needed a break. So I know you're praying for her and thank you for that.

I've got one of my best friends here and his wife, both of them as a couple. I consider as great a friends as I've ever had because they love the Lord with all their heart, they love people, they're blessed to lead people and help people but they love Betty and they love me and what God has called us to do. O.S. Hawkins, his wife Susie. He was pastor at First Baptist Church Dallas years ago. Everywhere he went, it was great. Now he is with GuideStone. I'm telling you what, he is looking out for a lot of people there. I mean he is looking out with wisdom and love.

Would you welcome O.S. Hawkins and his wife Susie to *LIFE Today*? O.S., good to see you buddy!

O.S.: Good to see you!

James: Susie, good to see you.

Susie: Thank you.

James: I want to hold this *Believers Code* up. I've got to tell you, all the codes, how many are there now?

O.S.: There are six or seven.

James: See, you can't even keep up. But this one is packed. Most of them dealt with like 52 weeks. You dealt with *The Joshua Code*, *The Jesus Code*, and now then you have *The Believer's Code*. As I said to you when we were just talking, you have an incredible gift to take deep truth

in the word of God and bring it up where it is palatable and it impacts you. Then you use code words to unpack it and let us not just carry it off but it carries us off.

I have to say something. Sarah Young has been just quite miraculous in communicating with these daily devotionals. Now here you are, and that's what this is. It's 365 devotions. Susie, let's let him just kind of download what he sees in all this because would you agree watching it as a wife it's kind of been marvelous to watch?

Susie: It's been a phenomenal thing, it really has.

O.S.: James, I found out through all these years of ministry, we've known each other right at 50 years. But I found that people want to know the Word of God, they want to get in the Word of God, a lot of them are just not sure how to do it. They want to start in Genesis and by the time they get to the Leviticus they get all bogged down. If they start in Matthew, there are 47 names in chapter one that you can't even pronounce.

So I thought about that. That's when I wrote *The Joshua Code*: 52 scripture verses every believer should know. Challenging people to take one a week and memorize it. Devotionals were there about what it meant. Because I believe there are 52 verses in the Bible every believer ought to know.

That has rang so much success with people, devotionally that we followed that up with *The Jesus Code* which is 52 scripture questions every believer ought to answer. Jesus asked over 100 questions himself recorded in the gospels. I believe that there are 52 questions that every believer ought to answer before he gets to heaven. So that's one week.

Now *The Believer's Code* is a 365-day devotional but a little bit different from others because of what you mentioned about the code word. James, I would rather as a preacher for all these years, I'd rather see somebody *do* one sermon than hear a thousand. James said we are to be doers of the word and not hearers only. So what makes *The Believer's Code* a little bit different is there is a devotional thought for everyday but then there is a code word, a word that you live with during the day, that you write down, you think about it and it helps you to put into practice what you've learned that day. For example, in the December part of the devotionals there is a devotional there on the nativity scene. The code word that day is "crop," C-R-O-P. Because all of us have a smart phone now and I can take my iPhone and it makes phenomenal pictures but there is a unique feature about that and you can crop those pictures down.

Susie and I, had a picture made with all of our family, all twelve of us, our two daughters and their husbands and our six grandchildren. We were in the middle with our six grandchildren around us and the two daughters and their husbands on either end. Those grandkids and I have a

common enemy and it is their parents. So I took in -- I went in to my iPhone and I just cropped out those parents. I cropped them out on either side so now we've got a beautiful picture of us with our grandkids.

The devotional, you think about that every time you pick up your iPhone because the devotional that day is about the nativity. We all have nativities at Christmastime. We have them at home in olive wood if you've ever been to Israel or we get Christmas cards and they're on them. If you look at the big picture it is a worship service. The whole place is exploding in worship. The angels are hovering like drones over the scene worshipping, the wise men, they didn't come then but we put them in the nativity even though they came months later. The shepherds are there. The whole place is exploding the worship. But if you crop it down in the middle there is a family, Mary and Joseph and the baby. God is pro family.

Think about it, he entrusted his own son into a human family with responsibilities and he grew up in that home. But if you really crop it down all the way you'll find in the middle there is a savior and his sweet name is Jesus. That's what Christmas is about, that's what life is about, making sure that Jesus is the center of our lives.

So every day there is a different code word. For example, in the devotion in *The Believer's Code* on Psalm 23. The code word that day is "shadow." So I challenge people, every time you see a shadow today or you see your shadow, let it remind you of Psalm 23 where the Psalmist said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."

You see, a believer never walks through the valley of death. Jesus did three days and three nights. He came out on the other side alive and John the revelator says he held up some keys and said, "I hold the keys of death and hell." So the believer only walks through the valley of the shadow of death. A shadow might frighten you but it can't hurt you. He's with you.

James: And "the shadow" is the code word.

O.S.: Exactly! So there's a code word every day to help you put into practice what you've learned along the way.

Randy: You've got these code words and I notice you've got the word *code* in the title of many of these books. What's the significance of that word *code*? What does that carry?

O.S.: We're trying to unlock the Word of God for people. It's really an easy code. If you just get into the Word of God, people just don't know how to get started reading the Word of God. And then some people who do read the Word of God don't put it into practice. So what we're trying to do is just help them find an easy way to get into the Word of God and to use it.

For example, the Christmas code was an advent devotional through Christmas. We challenged people, it was a little paperback, you could buy it really cheaply and churches used it, had the plan of salvation in the back and one church in San Bernardino bought 60,000 copies, put them on every door in their home with an invitation to their Christmas services. I heard from a church in Syracuse, New York bought 10,000, put them in every home in a five-mile radius of their church and had many, many people come to know Christ through it. So they're really a way of not only getting us into the Word of God but using it as a tool to help others and get others going.

James: You really do unpack a lot of truth in a page. I see the code word is just giving you a reminder of basically something that takes you back to the Word. And like I said earlier, people don't just carry what you teach, it carries them because it's got God's truth in it.

Susie, you watched him pastor. You've watched him love his family. You've watched him help a lot of people with their retirement. He's just helped so many people it's unbelievable. He's been a wise helper. Are you though right now at this point in his life kind of amazed at what's happened with him just sitting down and writing down these thoughts biblically as they come across so clear?

Susie: Well, it is a lifetime of ministry, of preaching and teaching, not just the big Sunday morning services but all those years of Wednesday night and Sunday night. The man knows the Bible, that is for sure. It's just an unfolding of that, I think. We often talk about at this stage of life to see one of God's greatest blessings on him at this stage of his life and ministry is really an unbelievable and wonderful blessing of God. It's really the fruition of a life of study. He's a student. He is a studier. When we were first married -- we weren't first married then but I remember years ago seeing little note cards around our house, Greek words, definitions, that he self-taught. He went to seminary but he's always been a student of the Word of God and it's obvious. Yes, I agree it is very obvious.

O.S.: James, I tell you, she is my pastor. She knows more of the Word of God than I do and she is a great teacher. In fact, the next code is going to be *The Passion Code*. It is a devotional for the Lenten season, leading up to Easter and we're doing it together because it's going to be used with a lot of lady's Bible studies also.

James: Both of you have been an encourager to me. You watched me, Baptist pastor, I was kind of pretty well-known Baptist evangelist, and I got a stretching -- this wine skin got a stretching years ago. God stretched me way beyond just the Baptist boundaries. And you know what?

O.S.: And it didn't break either!

James: It didn't break. Here's the deal though. But it didn't break because of people like you who are great Baptist leaders but God gave you a vision that's bigger than just the Baptist vision. You saw what God let me see, the whole body. I said I'm going after the whole church in the whole earth to try to help them get whole. Not only did you see that, you supported it, and you financially supported me. I don't even know if you remember, but you sent us the first stock we ever got. That was pretty significant.

O.S.: I think it was Starbucks.

[Laughter]

James: It was Starbucks. When nobody knew anything about Starbucks, you did. I want to thank you. Aren't you glad that here's a pastor and his wife that would encourage somebody like me when a lot of people didn't understand where I was going? And they stood with me. And my son knows so well how people didn't understand his dad. We plowed on.

Randy: It is amazing to see how many of them have come back around and you guys are great friends.

James: The best friends!

Randy: I think part of and I want to ask you guys, you mention not just being a hearer of the word but a doer. You talk about the Greek and I have a great appreciation for that and I ask about the Word because I'm a bit of a Word nerd right? So I appreciate the understanding. I appreciate the preaching. But I think the doing unlocks some things. What have you noticed in your lives when you -- I don't even know why you noticed people in the byways and the forgotten out there and you say, "I've got to do something." That's an action that is more than just hearing.

O.S.: Randy, we had daughters that took piano lessons. They didn't learn to play the piano by listening to the teacher all the time or looking at the book. They learned by hitting wrong notes. I mean I've listened to them forever beating it out, pounding it out, doing it. That's what we have to do.

James: I think we can go on record, all of us here, believing that we don't just live in a culture where we can thrive no matter what, but we can actually make a heaven impact, a glory and grace imprint on the culture...

O.S.: Which you're doing with Stream.

James: It's what we're doing but it's also what Christians do when they decide to stand together. All that's necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. You sit back. We have a tendency to just go to church rather than being the church.

I know together, all of us, I know our son, is about as fired up about the imprint that we can make in *The Age of Promise*, which he has written a great book talking about living here to make a kingdom imprint right now. His kingdom is here, it is at hand.

So what I see happening here when people go in this code book, I've just got to be honest with you, I believe the simplicity of the presentation of the transforming power of biblical truth in a very palatable manner, let's say it's just great. It's like getting daily bread.

I want to encourage you. As a matter of fact, we are sending to those of you who will just help us rescue those who are being trafficked and head them off and get them out and set them free, literally reach them and rescue them and restore them, we're sending Randy's book to you for any support there.

But we'll also, if you'd like to have this, and this is quite a book, this is 365 days of what I think is spiritual dynamite. We'll send it to you. You can go online, you can get it in the bookstores, encourage your friends to get it but I tell you what, knowing that it is going to help ministers and people that have been overlooked a lot, that really need the help and they've not overlooked them just like they didn't overlook helping me when some other people didn't understand. They lifted me up in prayer and they supported me. Well, these incredible codes that he's been sharing are helping so many people.

So what's the website if they want to know...?

O.S.: They can go to O.S.Hawkins.com.

James: Is that what you're doing? Would you say thanks to Susie and thanks to O.S.? Thanks for your leadership. I've expressed the gratitude that Betty and I have for your love. It's rich. It has never wavered. You have been an unshakeable friend. You wouldn't hesitate to point me in a direction I ought to consider or encourage me as I'm walking. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. The book is in the bookstores.

O.S., I know that you and Susie have cared about all the mission outreaches and you know how comfortable I am asking people to notice the least of these. This has got to be one of the most heartbreaking things in the world. When we first came to you on television, we honestly as a leadership team thought this may not be acceptable to our viewers. You say what? Sexual

trafficking -- the problem of it. The little girls that are being exploited, and boys, being held captive, gotten addicted to substances to control them and then selling them and exploiting them with many men.

The great tragedy is how can any person find any joy in exploiting a little child? How can people use them? That is the wickedness and the power of evil. But we have, you, been rescuing because we reach out in love, rescue them from the problem, and restore them. I want you to watch right now. I want you to listen to a child's story and what happened. Listen to me now. This is who the love of God through you is going to reach. I'm talking about change everything. It is the miracle that only love can make possible but it is not possible unless we release it freely. Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of violence and sexual abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of millions of young girls.

Open Captions:

>> My name is Srey Pao and I'm 14 years old.

Announcer: Srey Pao is a child who was born into poverty. She told us that many in her family are very sick and to help them she looks through garbage for anything to sell but it is never enough.

Open Captions: Then someone told me there was a better job but they took me to another place where I was sold into slavery. I am forced to drink and have sex with many men every night.

Announcer: She says they threaten to kill her if she does not do what they say. Srey Pao is torn between needing to help her family and wanting out of her horrible situation.

Sheila: This cannot be their future. I feel that once we know something you can't unknow it and it is why we are here on behalf of *LIFE Outreach International* because we have to reach these girls before we can rescue them, before we can restore them. That's our commitment to these girls -- that's why we're here because we have to change that.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I spent 20 years, after me being gone from our son Randy and the other kids most of the time for 25 years -- it makes me sad when I say that because I think I was gone too much. But Betty and I went 20 years to take these precious children in our arms and to see all these things. The first time we went to Thailand it was indescribable.

Now think about this. We built the largest rescue center for the trafficked in the world, the most beautiful, the Destiny Houses. It's just phenomenal. You built it. Some Hollywood producers went there and started renting facilities. They said they watched us on television and got a burden. They sell everything and they were the power sources for a lot of the productions and she sold a seven carat diamond ring just to get money. And then lo and behold we find them over there doing it and then we come in and guess what? You came in. Then all heaven breaks loose.

Well, all these places that we've been, what you saw Sheila sharing, it was the burden that overwhelmed us. It is like the missionaries, it's like them, they've never gone back to Hollywood. They never left but you keep them there and you took their dream and their vision beyond anything they could ever imagine. Now we not only have the beautiful house -- by the way we can't show you the children's faces anymore when they're singing praises and speaking English and learning because then the traffickers will target them and make them a particular target if they ever see that face. That's sad! But we've also now got a rescue center where we can take them and keep them and nobody can come get them out. That's the ones we've gotten out. It's dangerous!

Randy, we've had to go with the hidden camera. You've been there. We can't even let them know that's where we are. And it's like Sheila is saying this thing is heartbreaking. But Randy, it works! We actually -- and you've seen the kids that were there, you've seen the kids that were headed off that were headed there, it's indescribably glorious what love does. It works.

Randy: Absolutely. When we reach in there, we get them out of a bad circumstance but then we work to restore them, to build them back up, to give them a hope and a future, and it is all obviously in the name of Christ. So it's hard to put into words sometimes what an amazing outreach Rescue Life is. But we can only do it when our viewers step up and say, "We want to help."

James: That's what I'm praying you'll do right now. Listen. It is just this simple. \$128 will rescue a child. It gives us the ability then to take care of them for an entire year. In other words, you're actually seeing the reach, the rescue and then the care, to restore -- \$128.

Let me tell you how much our viewers care. We've got a matching gift right now, campaign that

is absolutely staggering -- hundreds of thousands of dollars. Where if you give \$128 to rescue a child, you just rescued two. I always encourage people if they're able, if you can do something that let's say for most people this is big, \$1280, 10 kids -- rescued 10 people, now it becomes 20. It is doubled because of love. It is because someone else did exactly what you're doing. You see a need and you say, "You know what? We can help meet it." It is so big on their heart they said, "We'll match."

Would you right now go online? Would you take your bankcard and use it like it's a check? If you write a check make it to *LIFE*. Or you can call the number right now, please do this, and say, "I'm going to rescue a child knowing it will be two." \$64, you say, "James, that will be a stretch even for me but I can do that." Well, we've got another one rescued because that makes \$128 when it's doubled. There is a level at which you can help. Please do it. Either go online or call right now.

We have gifts to send you. Randy's book, *The Age of Promise*; that's the age we live in. We're making a kingdom impact right now for the glory of God. You're doing it. You're giving life. Thank you for doing it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart in behalf of those you rescue.

[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]

On the mission field

Sheila: Honestly, I don't think anything quite prepared me for this trip. I sat down and talked to a young girl who was basically sold into trafficking by her mother and father. When they need more money, instead of them finding a way to get it, then they turn to their daughters. One of them is 15 now and the other one is 17. They have been basically sold every night in a karaoke bar where they have to persuade these men to drink a lot and then they have to be willing to go and sleep with these men.

I feel that once we know something you can't unknow it and it's why we are here. We have to reach these girls before we can rescue them, before we can restore them, and that's our commitment to these girls. We want to get you out of the place where you are and put you in a safe place so you can begin the healing process of being restored. We're doing it all in the name of Jesus.

In the studio

James: I wish you could see the expressions of gratitude in the faces of the missionaries and relief workers. You're the only reason they're there. They have literally stepped into hell for an undeniable heavenly cause. But you have given them the kingdom support, a manifestation of kingdom life, his kingdom, King Jesus, and he loves. Thank you for that.

But I also wish you could see what happens when somebody realizes their daughter gets set free or their child was headed off that someone was lying to and taking them into captivity with false promises and we head them off and then we let mom and dad know. Many of the children we rescue grow up to be leaders. There are many of them right now that are teaching in colleges and universities, and are leaders in their community. Many of them fine parents -- you set them free.

If you want *The Believer's Code* we're sending *The Age of Promise* and the other gifts that we talked about, the beautiful "Bridge of Faith," if you can help us rescue 10, now 20. But if you'd like to have what O.S. Hawkins's book just say, "Please send it to us," well, thank you for helping, we'll do it.

Join Randy and me in saying thanks to Susie and O.S. Hawkins. I love you both!

O.S.: Love you, James! Always have, always will.

James: Thank you again for watching. Again, thanks so much for helping. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*.