

3/13/18

Week 10: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Chad Veach

James: You're good! Thank you. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome Chad Veach back. He's been here. He came some time ago to talk about the challenge of a very challenged precious daughter that faced as serious a challenge as you can face. And the way Chad and his wife handled this and the lessons that they've been able to share are just incredible.

Now he has come with another book that's titled, *Faith Forward Future*. Listen to the subheading: Moving past your disappointments, your delays, and destructive thinking. Great church, Zoe in California, that sits right in the shadow of all the entertainment, and the people that have so much talent and yet seem to live such an empty life. All you need to do is watch them on the award shows. I don't care whether it is the Grammys, the Emmys, the Academy Awards, it is like so many of them still live with great gifting but a very empty reality and my heart breaks over them. When you see great talent wasted and not recognizing where it came from and the incredible good that it can do to impact in a positive way others. And so many of the entertainers say they care yet live so defeated and with so much of their life and even what they do damaging people.

Well, Chad's doing his best to make a difference and a lot of them are listening to him. Would welcome Chad to *LIFE Today*?

Chad, good to see you.

Chad: Thank you so much for having me on.

James: I want you to cover some ground with us, Chad. Take us on a journey. What's God showing you?

Chad: I really love the subtitle the most because I think that's all of us: Moving past disappointments, delays, and destructive thinking. I think that happens to all of us. Listen, I'm from Seattle, I'm a Seahawk fan. Talking about disappointment. We were on the one yard line and we refused to hand off the ball to Marshawn Lynch. I know disappointment!

James: Sure, sure. Well, you ought to be a Cowboy. You'll learn more about it.

Chad: Yeah! You're the expert; I'm just new to it.

James: We understand.

Chad: So I started thinking so much about disappointment. I felt disappointed. I've been disappointed in myself before. I start the book off writing about the story when I was dating somebody I thought I was supposed to marry and I was really in love. I remember God telling me, "This is not the one." And I disobeyed God for a season. Just that whole season of my life dealt with disappointment. Eventually had to break up.

When you feel delayed, you've got disappointment, what happens is your mind goes bad. Your thinking goes into the gutter. So I read a book in that season called *What to Say When You Talk to Yourself*. Learning how to talk to myself again; get past that disappointment. So the book really is for anybody that has ever failed, anybody that has ever gone through something and moving past our past.

I grew up with a dad that used to say, "Listen. There is no need to cry over spilt milk. What's happened has happened and we've got to move on." I believe that can only happen with Jesus though. You've got to have faith to move forward into your future.

James: And how did you have that encounter that moved you forward because it sounds to me like you're progressively growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord through challenges with your daughter. You might mention what happened because that's a pretty big heavy load that came to you. Just mention that because that had to put you on pause but then tell me what it is that shifts you forward.

Chad: When my daughter received her diagnosis she was four months. We were ready to go plant a church in Los Angeles at that time. I remember when we got the diagnosis sitting there and thinking, this is going to set me back. This is really going to cause my life to be on pause, so to speak for a little while. So I've had those delays.

James: What were you told?

Chad: They said she'll never walk or talk or crawl. All these "nevers." Now she is six years old. I dropped her off this morning, to get on the school bus. She goes to school every day and they're stimulating her and she is communicating. She still can't talk but she's kicking her legs. And if I talk to her, "Hi, Georgia." She'll coo real loud. She's far surpassed what any doctor said.

So as a father, I've dealt with disappointment. I've dealt with delays and I've had my thinking not be in the right place. But all of this really came to me from really studying. I did this series at church called, "God Has a Plan." Started thinking about God has a plan for everyone. I came over the life of Paul and Peter. Think about Paul. We just saw it here in Texas. A guy went into a church on a Sunday and murdered people. Paul was on his way to go do the same. Yet, while he was planning his worst, God was still planning his best.

James: He just agreed to the death of a very wonderful person who was so much like Jesus that he died looking just like Jesus. And really, I'm telling you, that had to shake him to the core because he saw Jesus in Stephen.

Chad: I think if God can save somebody like that, God can save anybody. I thought about Peter. Peter denies he knows Jesus and he basically goes back to his old job. He says, "I'm not good at the church thing. I tried being a Christian. I tried being a believer. I'm a failure. I'm a mess up. I'm going to go back to what I'm good at. I'm good at my old life and my old job and my old buddies."

What does Jesus do? The first thing he does when he gets up out of the grave? He goes looking for Peter. I think that is grace. That is Jesus. God, when we make mistakes we think, that's it! God's got to quit on me.

But there is no plan B for our life. God only has a plan A. The Bible says the gifts and the calling of God is irrevocable. I think you can get your license taken away, you can get your visa taken away but you cannot get the call of God taken away from your life. I find that so encouraging.

So I looked at Paul and I looked at Peter and even my own life and I thought, man, God has a plan. I started thinking about why don't people move on past their past into their God-given potential? A lot of times it is because we're holding on to our history at the expense of our destiny. I like what Paul says. He said, "Forgetting what is behind me, I've got to move forward to what is front of me, to the thing that God already has laid hold of for us." So the book really is just saying, "Hey, guess what. No matter how good or bad the past is, the best is yet to come."

Betty: Don't you think a lot of times the reason we pause in life like that in the tragedy of what we may have gone through or life has just dealt us a bad hand, we think we've got to clean up before we can go back to God. God says, "No! Let me clean you up."

Chad: Exactly! We run away from the one person we need the most. It's just such a foolish behavior. God, I just love that. As far as the east is from the west, God has removed our transgressions from us. There is this invitation from heaven saying come. We think we're a

failure because society says we're a failure. I think a lot of times people are not afraid of failure, they're afraid of the identity of failure. What's attached to failure? We've got to get a God perspective. We've got to see ourselves the way that God sees us. His mercy is new every morning. God does not count our sin against us. We needed Jesus so bad and Jesus knew it. That's why he died on the cross.

So I'm just thankful that I can still walk in my future no matter how many mistakes I make. Paul says, "The things I hate to do I do and the things I want to do I don't do" -- that's all of us.

You know what I love about God? I think he's been in our future and he's wooing us. He said, "You've got to come follow me. The only way you can get into this future is by following me." It's not about geography or occupation. God's plan is wrapped up in his son.

James: Boy, that's so beautiful. We can know him intimately. Think about Jesus saying -- he's the greatest man. This is Superman with us. This is beyond Superman. This is the creator. There is no limit to what he can do. Nothing impossible. And he said, "It is necessary for you, it is better for you, it is essential for you -- for you -- for all of you who watch -- it is necessary for you that I leave. I'm leaving." Superman.

But I'm going to send another just like me to live where? At the church? In the religious setting? No. In you. In you, Chad. In me, a fatherless kid. In you, someone who said I failed and it is for everybody. This power and he will guide us to all truth. He will reveal us to the truth and show us what truth looks like, the definition of it, and the demonstration of it in Jesus. So you can see what it looks like. He is with us all the time.

Chad: Absolutely! You know I think too, it's never too late. It's never too late to start over. I always think about Sampson. Here's Sampson. What a life. Before he's ever born...

James: This is one of the earlier supermen.

Chad: Yeah. Before he was ever born, it only happens with John the Baptist, Jesus, Isaac and Sampson, an angel comes and says, "Your child is going to be somebody." So he grew up knowing that. But I was thinking, just because you know there is a call of God on your life doesn't mean it will happen. We all have potential. So Sampson, like many of us, he throws it away. He would rather enjoy the...

James: He did demonstrate the strength though that it was there. It was undeniable. It was there.

Chad: Absolutely it was there. Had a temptation, had a thing, and it basically ends him up

where the great Sampson is bound, he is bald, and he is blind.

Isn't that the enemy? The enemy, the first thing they do is they bind him and they blind him. That's the devil right there. The enemy wants to get you bound to something and then take out your vision.

The great Sampson is in prison. He is bald, he is blind, and he is bound. They make a mockery of him because the devil doesn't just want you to have a little owie or a twisted ankle. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy.

So they bring out Sampson and they make him perform at their parties. "What are you going to do now, Sampson?" -- Just mocking his name. And Sampson thinks to himself. One of these days -- he has a realization. I know that as long as I've got breath in my lungs, I've still got a shot with God. I don't serve the God of just second chances, I serve the God of third and fourth and fifth and sixth chances. So he asks God, "O God, remember me just this once I pray." It says Sampson goes down in Hebrews Chapter 11 in the hall of faith.

So it's never too late to get your call back, to say yes to Jesus, to move past disappointments and delays. Can you imagine where Sampson's mind was at when he was in that prison? He would just beat himself up and talk to himself so poorly. But he knew at the end, I still have got a shot with God. I'm hoping this book just inspires people, come on, the best is yet to come.

James: Well, he destroyed the enemies.

Betty: I can't help but believe that when we finally get to the end of ourselves God gets so excited. He said, "Now I can do the work that I created you for, through you because you have yielded, you have nothing left but me.

James: Wow! That's good, Betty. To come to the end of ourselves and we find the adequacy and the sufficiency of him. He just wanted to feel the columns, the pillars and he pushed them down and crushed the enemies.

I think if we will allow the strength of God in Christ as literally imparted and indwells us with to take over, we can crush the purposes and the intentions of the enemy and we really do that. All of his deception, all of the distractions that he offers to lift Jesus up so high, so clearly by the way -- I think the way we even treat each other as a family of believers. So often we don't behave like a family or we behave like typical dysfunctional families, I say in the church oftentimes behave worse than congress ever does. God knows how awful their display is.

But the church needs to come together like a family and when we do that we are really defeating

the enemy and there is no way that he can withstand the body of Christ standing together when Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail, they will not win over my kingdom purpose revealed through my people who are yielded to him.

So I feel like this is what you're actually trying to take people to in destructive thinking and they don't let the delays and disappointments set them back because like you said, we're going to have plenty of them. You have some people here recommending your book, Lysa TerKeurst, she's been here a lot. Brian Houston, he is on his way; Hillsong, he is coming here. A lot of his family and his staff have been here. Maria Shriver, that's kind of a little bit of a surprise.

Chad: She is a dear friend of mine.

James: That's really wonderful. To think that you're getting to minister to all these people. Would you say thanks to Chad for writing the book and sharing the story? But also for the fact that he is ministering to so many of these people that impact in some way so many. What do you hope happens when somebody goes through this book and they come to the end of it, what's your prayer for them in light of what you've shared?

Chad: My prayer is that the Proverbs 31 woman, it says she looks at her future and she smiles. I pray people will read this book and they just go, whatever it is that is out there, I want the God plan. I want the God dream. Whatever God has for me, I want to lay down... Listen. As good as your plan is, the Bible says many plans does a man have in his own heart but the Lord directs his steps. So I'm believing that every person will yield to the God plan that he has for our lives.

James: You've spoken well there. Let me just say this. We just got word today that we're going to have another great grandchild born very soon and then a little after that we'll have our fourth great grandchild born. We're told that they are little girls but we were also told, another one of our grandchildren was going to be a little girl and he is quite a big boy. He is about 6'3" or 4". I remember when his sister came running down the hall, we've got a boy! We've got a boy! That's the greatest blessing that a parent or a person can have is to look at their children glorifying God in their life and being a blessing.

Let me just say this because I've been able to tell you that we're blessed with a beautiful family that love the Lord. And when I say that, I cannot help it. I think of everyone who can't say it. Then I think, what if I couldn't say it? What if Betty and I had to sit here and say to you, we've got a child or grandchild that's on drugs or defeated? You know what I would want? I wouldn't want pity. You might have a broken heart with us but I'd want your prayers. I'd want you to lift us up. So I want to do that right now for everybody that feels the things that you talked about.

Father, I pray for every person watching us. I don't know if they found that joy and can look at the fruit of seeds that have been sown and now there is just beauty for ashes. But many of them just feel pain and loss. So God, I'm asking you to move right now in their behalf to heal their broken heart, to bind it up and Lord, to set at liberty the captives, the ones that they're concerned about in their family or their friends or neighbors. God, we're asking for you to work a miracle. You work a miracle in their lives; in Jesus' name we pray.

You see there on the screen right now a phone number? If you want someone to pray with you any time, love pays for that number. So if you need somebody to pray with, somebody to talk to, please don't hesitate to call.

Chad, we have a tremendous opportunity all over the world to touch people with God's love. And our viewers, you're the most amazing people in my opinion in the world. You're kingdom builders because you make a kingdom impact. You enable people to be effective setting captives free.

Right now we're talking about rescuing children and girls from sexual trafficking and we can do it together. I want you to watch. I want you to listen and then I want you to say, "Count on me. We're going to see the captives set free." Watch this.

On the mission field:

Sheila: Some things you can't unsee or stories you can't unhear, and honestly, you would not want to. I've seen things on this trip that are worse than anything I could ever imagine.

I just spent some time with a little girl who is now 11 and she's been forced to have sex with men, with strangers, sometimes four a night since she was nine years old.

Open Captions:

>> I was born into a poor family. I have a stepmother who makes me go out begging for money... I beg until late at night. There are men who rape me and take me to a bad place.

Sheila: I'm so, so sorry! Do you have to go with men every night?

Open Captions:

>> Yes. I'm scared when I have to go out at night. I just want a good home with food to eat and a place to sleep.

Sheila: The scripture says the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. I've seen what it looks like to be crushed in spirit when you're 11 years old. So this is our moment to be Christ in the flesh to those who are broken.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, Sheila and I watched that yesterday and I said to Sheila, "It's almost impossible to imagine seeing something like that and then to think that men can be so depraved and so defeated that they could exploit a little innocent child like that for some kind of attempt at gratification.

Dear God, it is such a sickness. Lord, I just pray for the ones that are held by that grip and that would hurt a little innocent child. And then God in heaven, we just pray for freedom; in Jesus' name.

Betty, we can't apart from God set those men free. They just can be set free but we can get that little girl out. We've been able to build rescue centers -- we, you, all of us together. And right now we can rescue 2500 that we're targeting and we've had a group of friends say, "We'll match whatever is given." We can actually reach 5,000. I'm just praying that everyone will help because it takes \$128 to rescue a child. Now that will be doubled if you can do that -- somebody will match it and we rescue two. I'm just praying that people looking at that little girl would say, "Let me help someone like that because our viewers can."

Betty: Absolutely! And you just listened to pure evil that's happening to these precious children. We have the opportunity now, we should not even hesitate. It should just be jumping out of our hearts saying, "We want to help. We want to help." James and I want to help. I feel like you do too. Let's get the children out of the grasp of this evil. Let's give them a safe haven to go to. A safe place where someone is going to show them love -- pure love, the pure love of Jesus Christ.

So please join with us and let's help these precious little ones.

James: You said we want to help, we're going to help. Let me just say this. We really committed ourselves to God that Lord, we're going to do everything we can at every point and would you please enable us? And you know as we've gotten older, we've retired a lot of our debts and things, we never had many. We always lived so far below our income that we just didn't get ourselves in trouble. It enabled us to give. We say, "Lord, we want to do that."

Let me just say this, \$1280, we can get it. We can see 10 but now it is 20. In other words, that amount doubles; to reach them, to rescue them, and to restore them averages \$128 a year. It will be doubled, now it is two children. Some of you say I couldn't even do that but \$64 and that will now be doubled and you've got another rescue. So at some level you can help.

We've got some gifts to send to you that will bless you. Here's what you're doing. When you make that gift, when you go online or you dial that number and you take your bankcard and say, "I'm going to rescue a child," it is going to be doubled. Whatever you give, it's doubled. You're going to set someone totally free and enable the mission and relief workers to be the one who offers the hope and the healing that will not fail. You're providing it.

Please, right now, would you give this great gift? Go online, dial the number, use that bankcard like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Thank you so much for doing it. We've got some gifts to send you that are going to bless you just to say thank you and you're giving the greatest gift, a gift of love and a gift of life.

[Begin video clip]

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 children. With their bodies broken and hopes crushed, these children are trapped in a never ending nightmare.

With your help, *Mission: Rescue Life* can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue and restore children and young people to the beauty God designed for them to enjoy. With a generous opportunity and a \$320,000 matching gift, 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 of any amount today, we will send you the *Names of God* prayer journal. From Adonai to Yahweh, this journal is filled with beautiful photographs to help you reflect on 31 different names of God found throughout scripture. With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the *Names of God* Bible. This special edition NIV large print Bible is engraved with the many names of God; a beautiful reminder that the God we serve is infinitely good.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,280 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 gift online!

[End of clip]

On the mission field:

Sheila: What I've seen here is the abject poverty that people are living in. So many young girls are forced into prostitution; they are trafficked because they are desperate. There is no money in the family. So often the father is a drunk. There is debt, and the only job they can get is at the mercy of a sex trafficker.

Will you go to your phone? Will you go online? Will you call that number and make the best gift possible so that we can reach, we can rescue, we can restore? Would you do it now?

End of clip

In the studio

James: If you'd like to have Chad's book, *Faith Forward Future*, don't be held captive because of delays or disappointments. You can move forward. And if you'd like to have it, say, "James, would you send that to us if we try to help set some of these free that you talked about?" Absolutely!

Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Chad Veach? God bless you and your family. Bless the church! Bless your witness!

Chad: Appreciate it.

James: Thank all of you for watching. Again, thanks for setting captives free.