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Week 40: Mission: Rescue Life
James and Betty Robison
Randy Robison

James: I didn't know we would be doing this. I don't think it was something I thought about. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We're about to talk to our son, Randy. Now Randy hosts some. I think I'd probably be more comfortable if Randy was interviewing me. But this is where I'm interviewing him.

Now he's written several books. This one is *The Age of Promise*. Thomas Nelson has published it. Some very highly respected amazing people have endorsed the book, encouraged everybody to read it. And he even asked me if I would, and of course, I did. Knowing what was in it, I endorsed it.

Would you welcome our son, Randy Robison to *LIFE Today*?

Randy: Thank you!

James: Okay.

Randy: It is an honor and a privilege to be here with you. It really is.

James: All right. You've spent a lot of time on this. Why?

Randy: Aha! I've spent over 12 years on it. I had to kind of put it down at times and come back to it. And frankly, it was because I kept running into things I didn't understand. So I had to go back to scripture over and over, read, study, pray. I'm a word nerd so I'm reading the Hebrew and the Greek and trying to get this, talking to people; asking you questions, talking to Dudley Hall, talking to some of our poor guests.

James: Every guest we had on.

Randy: I'd be sensitive because I didn't want to -- but I would ask them a question and if they'd start flowing freely I'd dig for more.

But there is just so much. I was raised in the church; obviously, I've listened to more sermons

than the average person, I think. Went to Oral Roberts University, a great school; I've been in the church and still there are things sometimes I would read and go, that doesn't make sense to me. I don't understand that.

So I started working through a lot of those things and writing them down and having fragments and bits. And it all finally came together a few years ago. I realized, wait a minute, what I'm learning about the ages, the old age, "the age to come" as the Jews call it, meaning unto the Messiah, a lot of my confusion starts to go away when I see the context of these truths.

So put a point on some of these. "The Kingdom" is one of the chapters we've discussed quite a bit, and the promise of the kingdom. So in the Old Testament you've got the kingdom, it is a piece of land, it is a city, it is a throne, it is a king, it's borders; it is a physical thing. So when Jesus arrives they're expecting this kingdom to be restored. Why not? They've been promised it. It had been prophesied that King David would rule forever over a kingdom for eternity and wouldn't end.

James: There's going to be a kingdom like even beyond what they imagine.

Randy: Absolutely. But then Jesus says something to Pilate that disrupted a lot of that. He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." So we see this tectonic shift in the idea of a kingdom in Jesus Christ.

Okay so what does that mean to us today? Well, that's the good news because we don't have to establish a land and a city and a throne, we have to let God rule over our hearts and minds which is another definition of a kingdom; it is the authority or the right to rule. So now we see, okay.

James: Is that what he meant when he said, "My kingdom is within you?"

Randy: Absolutely. So now we see, okay, we're actually part of a kingdom. To give you a weird example of how the kingdom kind of thing works, we recognize the nation of Islam as a group in America. Well, they're not actually a nation. No, but they're under an authority. So they kind of are a nation within a nation.

Now that's obviously not the goal for Christians. Our nation, our kingdom is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven -- same thing. It takes place when "Thy kingdom comes and thy will is done on earth as it is in heaven." Well, here's the promise.

James: Does that imply that it could be done on earth? Does it imply that when Jesus says pray for it that we're supposed to have prayers answered and believe that prayers are answered, believe God answers prayer, that we might actually see kingdom power manifest on this earth?

Randy: That's exactly what it means.

James: That's the age of promise.

Randy: That's the promise related to the kingdom.

James: Can I tell you I think I live in that kingdom?

Randy: I've seen you living in it. You've experienced it. That's the great thing.

James: But I also think I share it; do I?

Randy: You share it. Absolutely. That's what we do on *LIFE Today*. Like with the Rescue Life outreach, we are sharing the kingdom of God with people in desperate need and it changes them.

James: And by the way, all these people that help us do that, are they fulfilling a kingdom purpose?

Randy: Absolutely. That's the beauty of the kingdom. So everyone that is a part of the kingdom where Christ rules in our hearts and in our minds, we have a calling to share his kingdom and to play our part in the kingdom. There is no insignificant role in the kingdom of God. If you're raising children at home, you are spreading the kingdom of God on earth with those children. If you're...

James: Is what she did at home more important or equally as important as what I was doing going all over the world preaching to big crowds?

Randy: Well, the importance is not to be compared one to another, they're all important. The important thing is that we recognize our role in the kingdom and hear God's voice and obey it because that's how we... thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; right? So when we exercise our role in the kingdom and obedience to Christ that's when we share his kingdom, his love, his mercy, His grace, his redemption with others no matter where we are, school, work, home, everywhere.

James: And if what you do is not as visible as what someone else does doesn't lessen the importance of it. I frankly think what Betty did was more important than what I was doing. Now Randy says we shouldn't compare and he's actually right. He's 100% right, so I stand corrected. But the point is this is not of little significance.

And Randy, I wish our viewers would understand because they see the missionaries and they say, "Look what the missionaries are doing. Isn't that wonderful? And look, you all went over and helped." Well, you're the ones that let them be there. You're the reason they stay there. And I mean the bottom line in sending the gospel is the one who sends them. How are they going to go preach if they're not sent? How are they going to believe if they don't hear? How do they preach if they're not sent? It all fits together.

Betty: I think that's where we get stuck, though, as Christians. Just like you could say my part in being a homemaker, a wife and a mother and homemaker is not as important as him going out and spreading the gospel.

Randy: Why? Because it is not as visible to men?

Betty: That's the way we look at it.

Randy: But you know how visible it is to God.

Betty: Absolutely. When you realize what God's called the individual to do and to be, what higher calling could you ask for? I am so thrilled that God called me to be a wife and a mother and a grandmother and now a great grandmother. What more could you want? But in that process, in that calling I had the opportunity to reflect God to other people. That's the key.

Randy: That's it. That's what you're called to do. And when you understand that you're empowered to do it, you can do it fearlessly and yet when you understand that that is your calling and nobody else's calling, you can do it with the fulfillment that God wants you to get out of it.

James: You're uniquely designed to fulfill his kingdom purpose. Now he doesn't imply a takeover, which is what a lot of his followers and people who were in the nation of Israel were looking for this big dominion takeover and rule, he was saying that the transformation that takes place in people's hearts and minds and the renewing of the mind, that's what changes everything so that the will of God is being done on earth. It's being done in us and through us.

Randy: It's a takeover let me assure you. When you submit...

James: But it is not like a military takeover.

Randy: It is not a forced takeover. It is the answer to an invitation.

James: This is the way he straightens his dad out. What he does, it's a gift. When the guy, when he's in high school, he's memorizing the dictionary and the thesaurus and he can read

books like that just in short period of time with great comprehension. I'm thinking, okay, okay.

Randy, I think that people will find the Bible coming alive. Betty, that's what you said about the Old Testament.

Betty: That's what I loved about it. You walking us through the Old Testament, the old covenant and carrying it in and meshing it with the New Covenant. We had to have that to walk into the New Covenant where Jesus came into the picture.

Randy: Right. As long as we understand that the old is now obsolete because Christ fulfilled it; so that's the shadow, that's the picture, Christ is the light. So he told his disciples a lot of parables to try to explain things to them and still they didn't get it. That's sort of the human condition; we're a little slow on the uptake.

James: He said, "If you don't get this, how do you understand anything?" Really, people don't seem to understand the kingdom and I think you're doing a good job of trying to help all of us understand.

Randy: That's what happened to me with the Old Testament. I'm reading the stuff going I don't get it. I'm reading one chapter here, one chapter there. Okay, now you start reading the whole books and then looking at it in the light of Christ and the New Testament truth and reality, well, now you get the message that was trying to be communicated to us through the old into the new. So that helped me.

There's one thing, if we have enough time. Okay, so there's this promise that I found that I didn't expect and that's in the promise of judgment. That was a terrifying topic to me, judgment because you read the Old Testament and buddy, it is bad, bad news for those who aren't perfect -- and I'm not perfect.

But when you realize how Christ came, he fulfilled a lot of the Old Testament judgment that was promised on those who rejected God and didn't recognize the Messiah and then he set up this new tone for judgment. It's actually a different word in the Greek than the old, of the crisis. It's now this I like to call it an award ceremony where all of our failures, all of our sins, all of our shortcomings are purified by the fire which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The dross is just burned away and nothing is left but the gold and the silver, the precious metal.

James: It is refined by the fire.

Randy: So once I understood how that -- because actually that whole passage has been used by a few unnamed preachers, not you, to just scare me as a kid. But when you realize, no, no no.

What God is saying is look, I'm going to burn away the junk. I want you to lay up treasure in heaven and we do that by hearing God's voice and acting on it, it is obedience. Now we're laying up this treasure, this gold, this silver. And when we miss the mark, he's saying, "Look, I've got it covered. Repent." If you're aiming a little to the left he is saying, "Just pull to the right and fire again."

A lot of times we think oh, I messed up. God is going to judge me. And we just stop firing.

He's saying, "Unh-uh. You just need a little correction and keep firing away."

Now we're starting to lay up that treasure and we're changing things.

So once I realize kind of what was going on with that whole judgment thing and how I don't have to worry about the wrath of God because the wrath was poured out on Christ, he took it all, now I start seeing myself a little differently. I get a little bolder in Christ because if I mess up, he's got it covered. I'm trying to be obedient, he gets it and he'll tell me when I'm wrong and I'll listen and try to correct when I'm wrong.

But now I see people differently. Because it used to be when I saw someone who was wrong or even evil, I thought there is a ripe target for the wrath of God. God can't wait to burn them up!

[Laughter]

Right? And let's face it, some people, we all deserve it. Okay? But no, God poured out his judgment on Christ and now he wants to lift us all up and purify the junk and on top of that and it is God's will that none should perish. God didn't come into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. Maybe God wants me to not look at people as a target for his wrath and judgment but rather a target for his love and mercy and grace and redemption.

James: That's how he wants us to see them.

Randy: So maybe I should look at them that way too. When you start looking, I think at the world in God's eyes, what I think is God's eyes, it changes how you approach them.

James: I think it is important when you reference the wrath of God and this takes the entire Old Testament teaching in with it, that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against ungodliness. I think this is so important that you see this. If you decide -- which is exactly what Israel did -- if you decide to move out of the shelter, the shadow of the shepherd, the oversight, and you become vulnerable to the birds of prey and the predators and the wolves, and you get out

then you are vulnerable. And in Romans Chapter one he says that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against ungodliness in what? In that if you decide not to live in the shelter and shadow and security that God offers in this freedom and grace, you will be then controlled by enemies that are trespassing on the cultivated field and you can be held captive by those appetites that Jesus came to set us free from. So that's part of it. It's not like I'm burning you up, it's you've invited the beasts of the field to come in and trample your garden, so to speak. You're no longer protecting the cultivated field. You abandon a cultivated field. It grows weeds faster than anything.

That picture is a picture of even nations or individuals or families that turn away from God, they find themselves bound by their own appetites and defeated. It's a very sad sight.

Randy: Frankly, there is no hope outside of Christ. There's nothing good to say outside of Christ. But once we are in Christ, once we are born again then all the benefits of what he did on the cross transfer to us right now today. Those are his promises.

James: We can live as overcomers. We don't have to be trampled ground, we can literally become like he talked about the various soils and how they received the word which is the seed and that it is not snatched away, they become fruitful in their life. And that means so much more than material gain but God doesn't limit that. He doesn't limit prospering people or he wouldn't have led them into a land that was flowing with milk and honey and unlimited fruitfulness. He just warned them against the idolatry and the bondage that would come to worshipping something other than him.

So what he is offering us in Christ is the wisest possible oversight, the greatest shelter, the greatest shadow, the greatest light, the greatest potential known to humanity and it is found in Christ. I feel like you took the Old Testament all the way into the New. You introduced us into *The Age of Promise* and I have an idea we've got another book coming to show a little bit more about what this looks like.

Randy: Perhaps. It may take another 12 years.

[Laughter]

I just want people to experience what I've experienced as I've really dug into the word and prayed and talked to godly people because it really has changed the way I view everything.

James: Well, we just thank God, Randy for the joy of being your parents and watching your beautiful children who are remarkable. I just praise God for them. One of your sons is here, looking at us that I love so much. I've told a lot of stories. One of the greatest stories that I tell on

Alek and I'm sure they will probably cut to him while he is listening to me, he is the little one that when he was a little boy, and all the kids would say, "Papaw, pawpaw! Let's go do this!" He would jump up in my lap after I'd already run around doing all kind of stuff and he would sit down and look up at me and say, "Pawpaw, what do you want to do?" And God spoke to me driving down the highway one day, and he said, "James, you used to always run to me, 'God do this,' 'God do this!'" But he said, "You've learned to come to me like Alek used to come to you. You get up in my lap, you look in my face and you say, "Father, what's on your heart?" So Alek, you've been a tremendous blessing to me and always will.

Randy, you are an indescribable blessing and we just thank God for you and we thank you for sharing *The Age of Promise*. Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to our son, Randy? You're a real blessing. God bless you for the journey and the effort that went into this.

You're going to go with us right now to rescue trapped, imprisoned, precious, precious children and people. This was a place Randy just found himself while he was doing kingdom life. I want you to watch and listen.

On the mission field:

Announcer: There are dangers in this world we see every day in the news that impact the lives of thousands of people. But there is a hidden danger rarely seen by most of us. It destroys the lives of innocent children and young girls by enslaving them in the hidden world of human trafficking.

Randy: A human trafficker came through here many months ago and promised this young lady's sister a better life, lured her away. They haven't heard from her. She is, as far as they know gone. They have her picture and they have a prayer that she will come back, a hope that they will see her again.

This is the reality here and in places all over the world. That's why Rescue Life is critical. We must first reach into places like this with education so that they'll know what to look out for when these predators come through. We must rescue the girls that we can and get them out of the sex trade and we must restore them. We must give them a hope and a future.

We can do that. We can do it on a larger scale. But we have to have your help. I pray that you will help us as we try to help so many girls. We have to stop this abuse. It is not right. You can do something. Join with us as we Rescue Life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! This is our emphasis on setting precious women and children free, reaching them, rescuing them and restoring them. Betty, I'm praying the greatest outpouring of love in a single program for a single purpose will happen today. That you will hear what God was saying through our son Randy who is sitting here with us; that we do have an opportunity to rescue precious little girls like that. It is hard to believe that sin can have such a grip on people and this is what happens when your appetites begin to control you and you're under the control of another force other than the Father and the Shepherd, you're in total bondage. Then they use these to either make money for themselves or for their own gratification.

But we can set them free to reach them, to rescue them, and to restore them. The average is \$128 a year. Would you do that? Let me tell you how moved some of our friends are, Betty. They have said we will match what's given and they put up \$320,000 in advance to say "to match" -- that's just a start. So if you gave \$128 to rescue one you've rescued two; you can take \$1280 and rescue 10, now you're rescuing 20.

I pray for this outpouring because I think Randy shared it so clearly that this is what we can do. Randy, when you look back and you saw that and you know now that our viewers are the answer to the cry of the heart of these who are held captive and also to what you were talking about.

Randy: The funny thing about that is we were in that village for Water for LIFE. We drilled a well there; that was the need there. But while we were walking around the village I literally looked up at this one hut and they're on stilts because of the rainy season and stuff. I said, "Why does that one have metal around it and a metal roof because none of the rest of them do?" They said, "Well, a gentleman came through here and bought them that and gave them a cell phone and he worked them, lured them."

We just stumbled into this opportunity to introduce Rescue Life and I think that's what kingdom living is about. When God puts those opportunities in front of you to do something to make a difference, to further his kingdom, you've got to answer the call.

Betty: It might not be what you thought the plan was. Something completely different.

James: And here's the deal. The fulfillment of kingdom purpose is finalized in you for those. In other words you could say, "Randy, I've got that one." But it will be doubled.

Would you just right now go online or dial that number? Would you get up and go get your

bankcard; be sure you get the number down or the website but get that bankcard and I want you to make the gift God puts on your heart. Would you say, "Lord, lead me right now in your kingdom purpose for this moment." And you will make a kingdom impact that lasts for all eternity. Please do it.

We have Randy's book that we just talked about to say thank you as a gift for any gift you make. \$128 may be a reach for some of you but \$64 will be be doubled and you've got another rescue because it is going to be matched.

So at whatever level -- and I do pray, if you can rescue ten, do it. Whatever you can do, just do it. We have other gifts we want to send to say thank you but you are really giving the greatest gift. In love you're sharing freedom and you're giving life. And for most of them, it's not only freedom in a new life it is eternal life in Christ because of the message the missionaries share. Thank you for making that kingdom impact. It will last for all eternity. Thank you so much.

[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 of 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]

In the studio

James: Well, I've got a smile on my face because I think some kingdom builders stepped up. I think some of you said, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." It's the only way it's done is when the King, the Shepherd, and the Father's heart and will is accomplished; yielded vessels, channels of honor through which he flows streams of living water, unconditional love. Thank you for doing it.

Glad to send you Randy's book. You might tell your friends to go online. Say, "Why don't you get Randy's book?" I think God's given us a gift that we will see this great gift more clearly.

Again, will you join us saying thanks to Randy? Thank you!

Randy: Thanks, Dad, Mom! I appreciate it.

James: Thank you. Bless you. Thanks for sharing life, love.