

**3/11/19**

**Week 11, Mission: Rescue Life**

**James and Betty Robison**

**Jay Strack #1**

**James:** It is really a joy to welcome you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have family. By the way, you're family, and all of our guests in the studio. If you don't realize this, and don't even think about we're going to go somewhere else because this is a family meeting in the presence of the Father.

But we have family here in the sense that Jay Strack is with us and he's kind of been family for a long time. He is now over, and I want to read this title, president and founder of Student Leadership University. You talk about someone who not only had incredible crusades, like we were blessed to have for so many years, but communicates not only with churches and their leadership but can really communicate with students with young people; I mean all the way up now to where we look back at people who are millennials and we think they're young people and they are, but he can just speak the language. And we're just thrilled to have him here. Would you welcome Jay Strack to *LIFE Today*?

**Jay:** Thank you. So good to be here.

**James:** I want you, because I know you're going to want to talk some about the relationship God allowed us to have, but I want you to tell people what that title of "Student University" implies because I want every viewer that cares about young people and having a let's say some kind of an encounter with what I would call wisdom in an atmosphere that is inspirational to the point that I think it is life-changing, not just life-enriching. So tell them the website if they want to look into it and know how we can get students in it. Tell us about the Student University.

**Jay:** Thank you. Our website is: SLULEAD. Student Leadership University is a university much like there is Apple University, Disney University. We're trying to get students prepared, give them a 20-year head start. One of my favorite sayings, I started saying it when I was privileged to do high school assemblies for you, and I've used it through the years, "There's got to be a time the little boy sits down and the man stands up. There's got to be a time the little girl sits down and the woman stands up." I believe when that happens you begin to own your faith; it's not just mom and dad's faith or grandparent's faith.

But you've got to be convinced in your own mind. You've got to have these experiences for yourself. It's got to be part of your D.N.A. If you know who you are and you have that profound experience.

So I always like to share my background because it lets them know it's not how you start, but it is how you finish. James, neither one of us got off to a very good start. When I heard your testimony, it was really one of the very first times I was able to connect to somebody that was somebody in the ministry. You were this voice, you were doing these giant crusades, and you were having tremendous influence.

And then when I heard your background, it made it a lot easier for me to talk about mine because most of the time we're ashamed of that. I never will forget the first time it ever said in the newspaper, "Ex-juvenile delinquent," in my own town, "is going to be preaching." And my mother was mortified that everybody would know. Then she found out that everybody knew anyway.

[Laughter]

But I was the kid that you'd pass on one of these interstates out here. You've got them all over Dallas/Fort Worth going everywhere, everything comes through here. But with hair to my waist, track marks up and down my arms and people drive by and say, "Man, I'd love to hear him preach in our church some day." I was that kid that obviously had some

issues.

But I went through six broken homes growing up in Florida. Bounced around. Felt like a piece of luggage most of my life; didn't have a father, didn't have a family, and didn't have a future. I had a mom who loved me very much but when my dad bailed out, because of alcohol, that happened when I was six and then when I was eight or nine, my mom was forced to give away my older brother; and she never really forgave herself for that. That was something we had to really deal with before she went to be with the Lord, and to find peace in the Lord. I had the privilege of leading my mom to the Lord. You know a little bit of those blessed moments -- and my father, by the way.

So as a kid I was physically abused, sexually abused and then pretty soon I started being, because I'd get in trouble, foster homes before they were really even, 40 years ago, before there really was a foster home system; but the same concept where the court would say, "You need to go be in another environment."

But I wasn't welcomed there very long because I was so disruptive. Because when you have all that anger and you don't know what to do with it, you don't mean to be but I became my own worst enemy. You start out as a victim and then you become a villain. You start robbing yourself by how you act and some of the choices you make. Here I was, all these foster homes and different families, different stepdads with all the abuse; and then all of the sudden I started making bad choices and started robbing myself, Jesse James of my own life.

So I got involved with smoking pot when I was 12, getting high. I got addicted to methamphetamines; ended up being a junkie four years, busted four times, and dropped out of school twice. So I had a great future. My future wasn't really bright; I didn't need sunglasses.

So as a kid, growing up there was no hope for me until one night I heard a message that was too good to be true. I found out that it was true. That if God be for you, who can be

against you? And there is a creator. And this bit about Jesus as savior, that's only part of the story. He's deliverer because he not only saved my soul, but he delivered me from things that I tried to quit a hundred times and never could.

So I was 17, I flushed the drugs, flushed the booze, the Lord changed me. Then all the sudden the only thing I brought to the dance was a big mouth. I had a big mouth. So I started talking to everybody because it is not only too good to be true but I also found it is true, but then I found out it is too good to keep to yourself. You've got to share it.

**James:** That's really key that people understand that when Peter John said it and they were being threatened with prison and perhaps even execution, they said, "We can't help but speak the things we've seen and heard."

I wonder about the people in the church if they've seen and heard what we've seen and heard, how are they being so quiet about it and almost indifferent about it? You've got to wonder if some of them met this Jesus we met because we haven't been able to stop.

**Jay:** We talk about everything. I just went to Joe Gibbs's home the other day, homes for tomorrow, students for tomorrow. It's incredible, right outside D.C. And they're doing so much to help a lot of people that need help right now.

But I had to wear my Dallas Cowboy cufflinks when I went to Joe Gibbs's place. You know what I'm saying?

[Laughter]

Wise men still follow the star.

[Laughter]

We talk about, I wear cowboy stuff in New York and Washington and Philadelphia

because if I die tonight I know I'll go to heaven. But I say all that. We talk about our favorite team. People talk about favorite politicians. We have designers stuff all over our clothing and wear it. But when it comes to the one who absolutely transformed your life, how in the world can we help but -- I mean I love the Cowboys but compared to Jesus, come on man!

So without a doubt, I had the privilege of seeing a lot of our kids, a lot of my classmates, teammates, surfer kids, kids in the drug scene give their heart and life to Christ. So I was saved in the Jesus movement, not much of a church background. Then I got and asked to speak in a little country rural church. I had hair to my waist at the time. They said, "You need to get a haircut." So I cut it to my shoulder. I sold out to Jesus 100%. So that's how I started.

Then eventually it was obvious that there was a call to preach but I didn't know anything about that. I didn't know anything about any of traditional church. So when I met you a couple of years later when I was beginning to get a lot of opportunities, I was privileged to preach in Glenview Baptist church here in Fort Worth, and you were a member at the time, and all of the sudden -- I didn't know you were there. You walk up afterwards and go, you were so gracious and complementary I just about fainted. Then you said, "I'm going to be back to hear you tonight." I was excited about that. Little did I know that I'd get a talking to afterwards because I preached on hell; it was an incredible message but there was no tears and no emotion.

I said, "Well, I'm not telling sad stories for people to come forward."

You said, "Well, I don't blame you. It is not like we're trying to get them to miss hell or anything!"

So I got my first come-to-Jesus moment. Then little did I know that you and Betty would be so gracious. Our daughter Missy took her first steps in your home. And through the years, James, when she had to have a lot of surgeries, I looked up, I was a quarter of a

million dollars in debt, no way to pay off that. And a guy named James Robison, who had been spending a lot of time with a young preacher said, "Man, first of all I want you to come with me on my crusades and speak in the schools."

Little did I know I'd go on. My kind of niche for life was that I spoke in some 10,000 public schools. And you're the one that opened up thousands of those. Then when you found out that we had this debt, we didn't have insurance, I didn't have parents telling me you need to have -- I just thought that was a luxury, as a young kid in the early 20s. You wrote a letter, one letter and I got over 2,000 invitations. They didn't want you to come anymore after they heard me. But I always felt bad about that. It really hurts you as you can tell.

[Laughter]

But anyway, so there's four or five times, to put it mildly, that God's used you and Betty in our lives. We would be ingrates if we didn't say, "Thank you Lord Jesus." And thank you to both of you. So that's one reason I'm so excited about being here.

**James:** Thank you, Lord!

[Applause]

I get tired of apologizing for having such a tender heart but I just have so many precious memories. And this is precious memories.

**Jay:** Can I get a copy of him saying I'm a precious memory?

[Laughter]

I would love -- you want to pound it out? All right!

**James:** Let me just say this because I really need you to hear it. Robert Morris who is at Gateway and is our pastor now, he went and did schools too, and Governor Huckabee. All you guys kind of came around the same time. When you look at people like this, and you look at their families, and you see the impact for Jesus that they make, it just says praise God.

But here's what I want you to hear. I really need all of you watching to hear because my wife has gone around the world with me to nearly 50 countries and we've marched into hell for a heavenly cause. We went in where they were fighting. It was like we only went where the civil wars were. We only went where the revolutions were and where people were dying and we went to just reach out and touch them with Jesus.

But here's what I want you to hear. All the way back to where we were trying to touch young men like him and like Robert Morris or Governor Huckabee when they were young, and then to see what they're all doing, all those things that we were able to do and all the people we were able to feed, and all the water we've been able to give, and now we're trying to rescue precious girls and children out of sexual trafficking and we've been really effective. Not only because of the love of God in missionaries but because of the love of God in you.

Now I really need you to hear this. We've all been left here for a reason. He'll get us out. We've got heaven for eternity and the kingdom of heaven forever but he left a kingdom of the king's presence in us here. And to get that presence here, which is what Jay's doing, it's what he's doing for these students. You can tell, he's anointed. This isn't just a gift of gab, he's got God all over him. When he talks to these kids, and I've watched him talk to leaders and he is effective.

What's happening in the appreciation he's expressing is not just to us, it's even beyond just to God, it's to the people who love God and who help those of us who have his love and his heart and his concern for others, you enable us to be effective. Would you agree, Jay, that the people who started helping us even back when you met us, and then came

and filled the stadiums and would listen, and then the people who have been helping us over the years, would you agree that they are a major, if not perhaps, apart from the Holy Spirit they may be the most important aspect in getting the gospel out and reaching people?

**Jay:** I don't think the folks and we've got some in the audience that have been so unbelievably faithful, loving, and encouraging, and I mean whether it was the great big crusades or when we were doing something that was different and folks were beginning to question it, and they still hung in. Those kind of folks don't realize, I don't think probably until they get to heaven what they meant to us to allow us to follow what the Lord was telling us to do.

We went from being kind of fundamentalists to fundamentals of the faith or bone of our bone, and faith -- bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, we still believe that about the fundamentals of the Bible. You were one who said, "Jay, we've got to love the body." And you started hanging out with folks that I'm going, hello? Little did I know that I'd end up trying to do the same. And one of the great joys, by the way, to find out that none of us have a corner on everything the Lord is up to.

So what we do at student leadership and we ask churches to send us their 12, we get them when they were 14, going into the ninth grade, try to give them a biblical -- not try, but they'll hear from 13 Ph.Ds. by the time they finish their four-year cycle. It starts at a week at a time, a week one summer, a week the next summer, ten days the next, ten days the next. We take them around the world but it is a biblical worldview.

And then we teach students how to think. James, not what to think. You and I grew up, everybody told us, "This is what you think about people that are a different color." "This is what you think about this issue and that issue." But we've got a whole generation dealing with issues where there is not a Bible address for it in the book. Pot being legalized. There is not a thou shalt not smoke legal pot. You know what I mean?

And then you look at some of this -- and when you look at sex trafficking, we can see how women were exploited but we never dreamed there would be what's happening to women today. So when I see what you're doing. But to go from the big crusades, and I watched you say, "You know what? Let me be in a room full of 20 people, let me be in a room with ten leaders, let me be in the room with those that have a heart to want to do something."

So we now, for the last 24 years, and we're almost at a quarter of a million students who have gone through our various programs, and we do youth pastor summits where we train youth pastors all over the country for two days, free of charge, to invest in them; they're the gate keepers. And then we do our student leadership university programs, Orlando, San Antonio, San Diego, and then take them to D.C., London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris, all those things. But I just want to say we try to help them learn not what to think but how to think -- deeply and Christianly.

C.S. Lewis said we've got to be convinced, and scripture says you've got to be convinced in your own mind. You've got to own your faith. You've got to own it. So we want them to hear from these 13 various Ph.Ds. through the years so that they will always be respectful of a Ph.D. but never intimidated when they go off to that college and somebody is trying to pull them up by the root, what we've been trying to teach our kids.

How to think, how to dream, and then how to lead and you lead by being a servant. I had a pretty good example watching somebody kind of walk away from what I thought was the big leagues, if you will, in ministry, you know to use that analogy, to go, you know what? What I'm doing with a handful is just as important as what I did. I found that's true because you give these students a 20-year head start, we had the privilege of doing an event at the White House and there were nine students that were S.L.U. alumni that were working in various roles in the White House.

**James:** We need it everywhere. Do you appreciate what you're hearing? Do y'all like what Jay is saying?

[Applause]

I see it Jay as just a miracle, not only an answer to the prayers of a lot of people and the needs but the prayers of Jesus that we'd actually train people in this way. You know one of the things I want to do is see people come together. Our viewers want that. I want to thank you for that website again, say it.

**Jay:** SLULead.

**James:** There it is on the screen where you can see it. Check it out. See about getting some of the young people you love in it. You pray for Jay. If you're impressed of God to support what they're doing, get involved with it, make it a serious consideration. Jay, we're actually going to ask our viewers -- by the way, you're going to come back and do another program with us.

**Jay:** Yes, sir, I'm excited.

**James:** We want to talk to everybody that's over 50. Betty and I happen to be over 70. I don't know how old Jay is but he is over 50. But we're going to talk about what God wants to do with those of us who would think, we're in the latter years of our life. We're in the last years of our life. I'm not planning on checking out soon. I'm ready the minute Jesus comes but I'm here on assignment, you are too. I'm excited about we're here for. Jay and I are going to talk about the impact we can and must make and can be excited about.

I want you to look right now and I want you to watch how the love of people like you, and you're the ones that did it, the missionaries are in place, but you make it possible, how we rescued someone from being trafficked. Watch this incredible story.

**On the mission field**

**Open Captions:**

>> I remember waking up in a room alone, and later, I saw other girls. I didn't know I had been sold until that day.

**Announcer:** Ria had a very happy childhood with a close-knit family and community until the day everything changed. She was 18 when a close, trusted family friend asked her to travel with him to visit his wife. As they embarked on the trip this "friend" offered her a cool drink on a hot afternoon. The next three days were a blur and confusion gave way to fear when Ria realized she was locked in a brothel.

**Open Captions:**

>> There was no way to escape. Even the windows didn't show the outside world.

**Announcer:** Ria initially refused to cooperate. Several days of severe beatings and starvation buried her will to fight and forced her to submit. Her new life placed her in a daily lineup where her body was sold to as many as 12 men for a day.

**Open Captions:**

>> I felt like I was trapped in a cage. I used to think I would die there and I would never see my family again.

**Announcer:** After years of isolation and enslavement, deliverance drew near. A targeted rescue effort successfully liberated Ria and a number of other girls.

**Open Captions:**

>> I felt so free like I was pulled out of hell and into heaven. I saw my family after such a long time and cried tears of joy.

**Announcer:** Thankfully, Ria has a new chance at life but the work is not done. The tentacles of traffickers continue to spread throughout Asia and beyond, snagging untold

thousands of daughters, sisters, friends. As the hands and feet of Jesus our reach must extend farther and our endurance must run deeper. Too many girls still need a lifeline.

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Boy, that just causes me to want to shout praise to God, and it is because of someone like you gave her a chance. And you think, Betty of all the girls that we've rescued there. And when we say "we" you've got to understand that encompasses all of you viewers who are moved by God to literally put the arms of love around those girls and see them set free, which Jesus came to set captives free.

We have literally set free, "we" there again, all of us together with the missionaries who have planted their lives there in the rescue and the restoration, thousands and thousands of girls, and many boys, who are also trapped and used right there in that area and then trained them, where they have a livelihood and a future.

So that's what love does. It's love that never fails. Doesn't that bless you to see the miracle we just watched?

**Betty:** Absolutely. I just want to say first thank you so much if you've helped, if you've contributed to helping us rescue these precious girls that have been trapped for so long a time. This girl was trapped for an awful long time but she never gave up hope, I don't believe. Somebody had to be praying for her, as we were, those that loved girls that they knew were trapped were trying to get to them -- to get the help to them.

So thank you so much if you've been a part of that. But we need your help again. There are so many more out there that are crying out, "Somebody help me!" So please join with us and let's do it again and again and again.

**James:** We tell you that many of our viewers let us know that giving water is such a thrill because you give water and it's the rest of their lives, it is an exciting thing. But you know how burdened and concerned people are for this? Once again, some people stepped up and said, "We so want to reach out and rescue. We're going to put up a gift right upfront to match, \$320,000 to rescue.

Now think about this. It takes \$128 average to rescue one person. Now that's really very low cost but it is because of the costs of everything that's in the areas where we work, it is very low so we're able to do that. But it is \$128. \$1280, think about that, rescues ten. But now then, that \$128 will rescue two, the \$1280 will rescue 20. In other words, because people are so moved by this they're saying, "I'm going to match what you do."

Would you rescue more like that beautiful girl you just saw? What a miracle because she is being restored and trained. If you would right now go get your bankcard or get a check, know you're going to make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving, but go get your bankcard and use it like a check. And go online or dial that number and make it a lifeline today. You make the best gift you can knowing it's going to be doubled. Would do you that?

We have some gifts to send you that are going to bless you, *The Promises of Christ*, devotional book. I promise you, it's going to inspire you. And the gifts we offer you are to build you up and inspire you. But think what you're doing. You're actually lifting someone out of a pit of defeat, and sadly, too often death and destruction.

Would you right now get that card, go online or dial that number and make the gift God put on your heart? Thank you so much for doing it. Remember, it's going to be doubled because of love.

### **Begin video clip**

**Announcer:** Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of innocence is lost and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to

turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today, you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

And with your donation of any amount, we'll send you *The Promises of Christ* gift book filled with beautiful photographs, scriptures, stories, and commentary from James Robison.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Names of Jesus" throw. This beautifully woven blanket features the names of Jesus in many languages. It will make a lovely addition to your home and serve as a beautiful reminder and spiritual comfort to the Lordship of our savior.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children. And you may request our beautiful new bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**Jay:** It's lifesaving, life-changing when you realize we don't know what to do with a problem like that. So what y'all just did, I'm not responsible for what I can't do. I can't write a check that those people, praise God, graciously gave for the matching funds but you know what? I can do that for one. I could save one so now that would be two. But I

also, as I'm sitting here, the Lord is going, "Dude, you could do the \$1200 deal." So I'm hoping we're going off the air here real soon before the Lord speaks again.

[Laughter]

But I'm not responsible for what I can't do but only what I can do.

**James:** Well, you've heard I think you've seen and you've heard and you've heard a great testimony. Let's thank the Lord again for Jay Strack being with us and he's going to be back on another program. Thank you, Jay. Thank God for what you're doing.

Thank all of you for your help. Thank you for being here with us.