

3/25/19

Week 13: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Rick Renner #1

James: Listen to me. Thank you. It is a joy to come into your home. I don't know where you're watching so I don't care but you stay with us. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

We have a pastor of what has to be the largest evangelical protestant church in Moscow, perhaps in Russia. It is called, I'm going to read it exactly right. It is the Moscow -- how do you say it?

Rick: Moscow.

James: Moscow Good News Church. I'm telling you, Rick Renner. I remember something that Beth Moore said about him when she was reading these *Jewels* that you take from really the Greek language and said, "James, I believe that this man knows the Word of God and the Greek language better than anybody I've ever seen. What a blessing!" And Beth Moore is quite a teacher.

Here's the book that I got just a few months back. I don't know whether I got one of the first ones out but *Life in the Combat Zone*. This book, where he is talking about writing to Timothy and the New Testament church, but it's really, boy, it is to us right now. Would you welcome Rick Renner back to *LIFE Today*?

Rick: Brother James, so good to be here with you. Good to see you, Betty.

James: I thank you. This lit my fire. It's not hard to light my fire. It's already burning. I

think you just put a little more fuel on the fire, a little more oil in the lantern. But you were talking not only about Paul in his last days, ready for his departure; I'm 75 years old, so if I live to be 100, 3/4th of my life, so I'd be in the latter stages and I think too often people start talking about last days, it is like Jesus is coming next week, we really don't have any time to do anything. And yet Paul is leaving but he is writing to Timothy. How old do you think Timothy was? Do you have an idea how old?

Rick: He was probably about 40 -- maybe 42, 43.

James: Didn't he tell him to listen to some of the older people that had influenced his life?

Rick: Absolutely!

James: Like was one of the women that he told him to listen to was his grandparent or his mother?

Rick: He said to listen to your mother, to listen to your grandmother.

James: Really?

Rick: Absolutely.

James: Will the millennials that are sitting out here, might they need to listen to James and Betty every now and then and Rick Renner?

Rick: You know what? I think people that are older have something to say. I was saying to my wife, I'm 60. I said, "Do you know what? I think I'm finally old enough that I might know something. I finally have something to say."

And I want to say thank you to both of you for the influence that you've had on the body

of Christ. You've had an influence on my life since I was a teenager. I came to hear you when I was just a teenager. I can remember sitting in the audience, and my wife has the same memory, listening to you preach at the Baptist Association, thinking my goodness, this man is so strong! And here we are today. It is such a miracle that we're friends after all these years.

James: And we have a deep appreciation for what God has done in our lives. You pastor in Russia. We're all living in a combat zone. One of the things you point out very clearly is that we don't need to be distressed or fearful; that we can live with a confident spirit, that we are well suited up and we're ready for the battle.

I want to ask you this and I ask you a while ago, do I understand correctly what I believe in my heart that if Jesus says that he builds his church on the rock of a relationship with the Father that is so personal that we can actually hear his mind, his heart and his will, like Simon Peter did in that conversation when he was saying, "Who do men say that I am?"

And Peter is about to answer, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God."

"And God revealed that to you upon this ability to really have this relationship of clarity, I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against me."

Here's my question. There are no gates of hell in the next kingdom, right?

Rick: Right.

James: So any effect the gates of hell have must be in this kingdom. And if Jesus says the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church, I don't think that means we hide in a monastery and we look like we're safe because we're keeping everything out. It looks to me like we would be keeping the gates of hell and death and destruction and dissension and division, and all of that, we would be keeping them off of God's property, out of

God's garden, our life, out of our family, out of all that we oversee. If we're overseers we don't need to be giving the enemy anything God gave us oversight of. Am I theologically okay there?

Rick: God has called the church to be a prevailing force. We're to have influence in this world. We're not called just to seek cover and to cower in darkness. God has called us to push back the darkness and to take territory for the kingdom of God.

James: And be fruitful -- be fruitful and multiply.

Rick: Brother James, the word *church* is such an interesting word. In Greek it is the word *ecclesia*. And there is not a word in the New Testament that is an accident; every word was carefully chosen. That word *church*, we think of the church on the corner or the church down the street, but the *ecclesia*, that's where the word *church* comes from, was a political body in Athens.

James: I thought we were supposed to stay out of politics as Christians. It's dirty out there, sir!

Rick: It was a political body. It was citizens who were called together, they were summoned. And they made all the rules, they made all the policies, they determined all the affairs of the city and that's where the word *church* comes from, which means we're supposed to be God's prevailing voice.

James: Well, then what is this guy writing from Rome, perhaps as evil an empire, and as evil a force as in history ever existed, and he's saying to Timothy, "Suit up! You're in a battle. Don't give up. Suit up. Go into combat. You're not going in to be defeated even in this incredible element."

Is this what he's trying to get him not to run, not to be afraid even though it really looks dark and dim? Is he saying there is something this light can do and God can do you'll just

suit up as a good soldier and win? Is that what he's telling him?

Rick: Well, the church was really under assault because of persecution. Paul wrote to Timothy in Second Timothy 1:7 said, "God has not given you..." You know what it says, "The spirit of fear." That word *fear* is a Greek word which means: God has not made you a coward. But he has given you the spirit of love, of power, and a sound mind. Timothy had everything he needed in Christ, everything deposited in him to rise up and become God's prevailing voice in that city, in spite of the darkness that was trying to assault him. Paul was saying to Timothy and he says to you and to me, "Hey, don't give way to darkness. You're greater than this."

I love what John writes. In John Chapter 1 verse five it says, "The light shines in darkness." And the King James Version says, "The darkness overcomes the night." The Greek says, it's the word *katalambano*; it means the light shines in darkness and the darkness does not have the ability to tackle it or to take it down. It just doesn't have that ability. Light always prevails if we'll let it shine.

James: By the way, you mentioned the word cowardice, and you talked about overcoming fear. I think many of us, and I really had not noticed this, it just didn't jump out in the 21st chapter of Revelation where you're talking about those in the lake of fire, those that are cut off. At the top of the list are cowards.

And wouldn't you say prevailing even in the ministry, even in the priesthood and in the pastorate that there is a sense that looks like they are cowards when it comes to taking a stand in the face of the darkness and fierceness, and the continual assault of the enemy, the deceiver, it's looks like they kind of back down and don't stand up. And Christians have become fearful. They don't realize that we can be overcomers and more than conquerors while we're being witnesses and ambassadors.

What in the world has happened to the church to buy the deception of the devil when Paul makes it so clear and the Word of God makes it so clear that we're actually supposed

to be this powerful force of light that pierces the darkness? And that we overcome the horrible predation of the enemy and the enemy and the beasts of the field, we don't have to let them trample the fields and scatter the flocks of God.

Rick: Whether it is our government or whether it is our home or our marriage, if we will stand firm and resist the devil he will flee from us. The Bible says that. Now if you don't stand against him, he will push you all over the place. He'll push you here, he'll push you there. He'll push you as long as he thinks he can push you. But the moment you stand up and say, "You know what? I'm drawing a line. You are finished in my marriage, you are finished in my home, and you're not pushing my church around. We are pushing you out the government" the devil will move. He will flee because he doesn't know how to deal with a believer that is brave. He just doesn't know how.

Betty: And we have to stay suited up because he does wait for every opportune moment for a weakness where he can try to get in.

Rick: Isn't it amazing, Betty that God gave us the full armor of God? We are covered with spiritual equipment! There is no reason for any of us to be defeated if we'll use what God has given to us and that's what's in that book.

James: What led you right now to write this book?

Rick: To be honest, I wrote that book a long time ago. I wrote that book before I moved to Russia. I didn't know that book was prophetic. I was moving into the combat zone. Think about it, Brother James, everything I believe, everything I preach has been tested on the field. It is not a theory to me.

James: And you really marched into hell for a heavenly cause when you went to the Soviet Union. How long have you been there?

Rick: We've been there 29 years.

James: Okay, I've got to ask you some questions. Does Russia look over at us, the people, U.S.?

Rick: Look over at us in what way?

James: Just to see what's going on and make comment or have an opinion?

Rick: Absolutely!

James: What do they think about us?

Rick: Well, you want an honest answer?

James: I want an honest answer.

Rick: Honestly, they like President Trump.

James: Oh my goodness!

Rick: They like him because he is strong and Russia really respects authority. They really respect authority. And they like Trump because he behaves like a man with authority. They don't care too much for the congress.

James: They don't care for our congress?

Rick: No.

James: Oh my goodness! What's the matter with them?

Rick: The Russian people generally feel if the government would leave Trump alone he

could get something done.

By the way, Russia is much different than what you hear on the news. I've lived there 29 years -- 29 years and when I come to America on a trip and I watch the news, I think to myself, what country are they talking about? It doesn't match reality. It is nothing like the Russia that I've lived in for 29 years.

Brother James, I even hear people say to me, I had somebody say to me today, "Is it true that if you pray you'll be imprisoned for two years in Russia?"

Pray? You've got to be kidding. That day is long gone. The gospel is working. In fact, when you're talking about the church being a prevailing voice, pushing back darkness, taking territory, the gospel is working in Russia. And I'm telling you, the church has come out of hiding. And the church has great authority and great respect among the Russian people. It is just amazing.

James: You had a major meeting where you had K.G.B. you had leaders there and you talked openly. God was discussed and presented. And tell the effect; and then you talked about a song that they sang.

Rick: Well, President Putin wanted to honor the Protestants because of the protestant reformation. So he summoned together 120 of the top protestant leaders of all Russia to the Kremlin.

Now I've got to tell you. I was sitting there; sitting in my seat in the Kremlin, magnificent room, a throne room with chandeliers, just an amazing place, looking out the window as the snow was falling, at the towers of the Kremlin. It was already a very surreal experience. The vice president of Russia is speaking to us about how wonderful as a protestant movement and the preaching of the gospel and how grateful they are for gospel preachers, this is coming from the Russian government.

James: That is a miracle answer to prayer right there.

Rick: It's a miracle. I mean 30 years ago we would have been in prison. Now we're sitting in the highest levels of government. And then the choir begins to sing and what do they thing? "A Mighty Fortress is our God." I was like pinching myself. Is this really happening? They are singing "A Mighty Fortress is our God" in the Kremlin!

James: I just wish we would get to where we would sing that in the capitol in Washington. Not because we had 9/11 and a horrible attack so we decide to pray. I wish we would just decide that the only real security and fortress is in our God, and then we will understand that we do have protection and security offered to people, which is one of the main reasons there is a government in the first place -- is to protect people, not take care of them like a nanny state or a communist or a socialist state, but just protect us and let us be free to oversee what God gave us oversight of. Is my zeal misplaced?

Rick: We need more of it. We need more people with zeal. Brother James, I want to talk about the combat zone. When we moved to Russia, it was the worst possible moment to move your family to the Soviet Union. It was totally broken. It was collapsed. There was no food, there was no gasoline. You couldn't go and get rubles. You couldn't even exchange dollars because there weren't even any rubles. It was a horrible moment. We dealt with mafia, we dealt with criminals. I mean those were the hardest of times.

And my wife and I said we're going to put on the whole armor of God. God has called us here and we're digging in. The devil is not going to run us out of here. Really, a part of spiritual victory is just making the determination that you're going to be tougher than the obstacle because the odds will move out of the way.

Now the devil comes to push you. The devil tries to break you. He tests you to see if he can move you out of the way but when he finally figures out you're not moving, he'll go bother somebody else. And when he leaves you, the victory you've been waiting for begins to happen.

James: I feel like you put in this book in a very clear and concise fashion and boy, did you break it down with simplicity; you reveal to us exactly what God wants us to do right now in this moment in human history. And if we will get suited up in Jesus, really the armor you talk about so clearly, and I mean how can it be any more clear than coming from Paul who lived it so beautifully to a young man who had every reason to run and fear for his own life but he suited up.

And then to see what the effect of that was. It led to the great awakening, the down fall of Rome. That great awakening out of that came all of the spiritual awakenings, and even led to the birth of this nation.

I don't know if you've heard the U.K. prime minister, former prime minister from years ago speak at the former president Bush's funeral but he said the two greatest things in history, second only to the birth of Christ was the birth of the United States of America. Unbelievable to come from the United Kingdom, from a prime minister.

But here's the deal. What happened here is what led to that birth and the effect of the birth of Christ impacting the world. We want, and let me just say this to you, I want to give you this book. I'm going to ask you to do something. I'm going to ask you to give somebody freedom. I'll show you how in a moment. But you're going to come back in the next program.

I wish we had an hour but we don't. But you're just going to take off and give us the basics of what you believe every one of us need to hear at this moment in history. Because we don't throw in the towel, we don't give up to the deceiver, we get suited up. And if we'll get suited up we can see the kingdom of heaven, the reality of Jesus prevail against the gates of darkness, destruction, and hell. Am I right about that? So you're going to take off and expound this.

Do you appreciate this man who brings us a message from Russia of what God's doing?

And are they excited about what they're watching happen in our country right now? They see some positives? And those positives are the answer to prayer and the result of people being witnesses.

Rick, one of the things that God has just given our viewers -- and by the way, I'm telling you, please listen to me. I don't want anybody sitting out here saying, well, you know we're getting older. Listen, if you're over 50 you're at the most exciting high potential time of your life to effect everything around you. I want you to think that way. Don't get ready to get out of here. Let's get him in here in full force power and manifestation of the greatness and glory of our God. Let's get suited up in his glory, suited up in His grace, and let's show the world what Jesus looks like. Individually do it; the body of Christ really makes the impact.

So here's who I want to thank you for right now. You have allowed us to literally put God's arms and people overlooked. You're going to see Sheila Walsh in just a moment representing the living Jesus as clearly as you'll ever see. Something else you're going to see. You're going to see people in as deep a bondage and as let's say the most painful situation you could ever imagine and you're going to see what the love of God enables us to do together. And I believe you're going to be so excited about doing it that you'll say, "Count me in. I can't wait to be the miracle those people need." Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open Captions: The way of the wicked is like darkness. Proverbs 4:19.

Announcer: There are battles raging in dark places like this. An ongoing struggle of good versus evil. Young girls, many of them children are at this very moment exploited and controlled by depraved sex traffickers.

Sheila: This sex trafficking, this is evil from the pit of hell. And it's well financed.

They're just little broken girls who have been captured from their villages, fooled into we have a great job for you and suddenly, they find themselves drugged and in a tiny room and waking up beside some older man.

I was in Southeast Asia two years ago. It is so much worse. It is so much darker now. The need is urgent. So we need your help right now. On behalf of the children, to do a battle in Jesus' name against the darkness and to say, "No, we will not allow this to go ahead." Those who walk in darkness have seen a great light. On them has the light shown.

We can say to those who think they have no hope, "There is a hope. His name is Jesus and we're coming in his name."

End of clip

In the studio

James: Sheila, thank you for showing us Jesus so clearly. Thank you for putting the arms of love around those that are so overlooked. Please hear not just my heart but the heart of God for all those that you just saw, little girls trafficked. It's hard to even fathom that we can get so defeated that our appetite draws us to that which is so unnatural -- so horrible to even consider. And yet the beauty of God's love sets those precious ones free.

Our individuals who are in mission work and rescue work will reach out, rescue and then restore those. Many of them before the trafficker gets them in total bondage, head them off and then actually, miraculously set them free.

Betty, our viewers moved us to this. We showed our viewers years ago a problem and said just pray about this. Our viewers said, "We don't just want to pray about it, we want to set them free." And miraculously, thousands and thousands have been reached and rescued and restored. Thank you for doing that.

What we're asking you to do, and Betty, just today I found out from some of our staff that the matching gift, \$320,000 given to double what you give, in other words, it is \$128 for a year to reach, rescue and restore one of these who are trafficked and one of our wonderful friends, like these widows, they said, "We want to do that. Many of them are giving \$15,000, \$25,000, \$35,000 to say, "We're going to match what you do." Why would they do that? The love of God. And if you right now, you give \$128, you don't rescue one, you rescue two.

Betty, you know how I press for people to go way beyond what they normally consider? And thank God they do it. I say, "Can you give \$1280 and rescue ten?" And you know what? You say, "I can. I will." But listen to this. You give that \$1280 now, you just rescued 20 because of the love of God through people who said I'm going to match what you do. Only God can move people like that.

Betty, I know we're going sit here and pray right now that every person watching who can give will make a gift. Whatever it is, and I believe they're going to respond.

Betty: I do, too. I just trust that you're going to do that. Remember, whatever you give will be doubled and it will go so much further. You're going to rescue these precious little ones.

James: The thing that's so beautiful is I just talked about it being love, it was love that inspired people to point us not just to call for prayer but set them free. We're willing to do it. Then to think that because our viewers are so excited people say, "I'm going to double it." That means it's really on their heart.

Father, I pray everyone watching will make the gift you put on their heart, giving life and freedom, in Jesus' name.

Would you dial that number? Would you go online, get your bankcard, and use it like a check? That's the way you always use them, wisely, like a check. If you write a check,

make it to *LIFE*. It will be doubled. If there's any way you help us rescue with a gift of \$1280 please do it. But whatever the gift is, it's going to be doubled. Thank God for his love through you.

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

James: I want to thank you for your help. Betty and I have been married now 56 years; I've been on television 50 years. And do you know why I ask people to help others? It is not a chore -- it's not difficult to ask you to love others expressing that love with giving that they might have life and freedom? It's a joy! Thank you for making that joy full by being an answer to prayer and to the request.

If you'd like to have Rick Renner's book, I'm tell you, it's not good, it's great! It will inspire you to live the way God wants you to live at this time, in the combat zone as an overcomer, as more than a conqueror and that's how God wants us to live together, as a body of believers.

Would you join me in saying thanks? By the way, I'll send it to you. You just make any gift to help us to say thank you along with the other gifts. Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Rick Renner? Rick, I look forward to talking to you in the next program. I want you to just really help us get suited up.

Thank all of you for watching. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today* every day they can.