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Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Family of God

James: I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty is here at my side. Let me just say this to you. We're about to begin a little bit of let's say an addition to the journey we're on, in that you're going to be seeing Betty and me quite a bit like this.

I want you to know that Betty is seated beside me because she is the greatest expression of Jesus in my life apart from the Holy Spirit. She's going to be sharing as God leads her to but she knows that I feel like I'm supposed to just -- really, now listen to me, I'm supposed to do my best to help get God's arms around you and let you know just how special and how precious you are to him and how much he loves you.

Betty, I'm excited about the river of life and love that I believe is going to be flowing freely, even when we have these times together with the Word of God, and it may call a little bit more for your apt attention and focus so you be sure and listen up today so you'll understand what I'm talking about. But I'm excited about it.

Betty: I am too. Like James said I'm here to be an encouragement to him and what God has put on his heart. And there will be some times when I might pop in and say something that God has put on my heart but mainly just to encourage him, and to encourage you. You've been such a blessing to us in all the mission endeavors we've had, you've been faithful. We want to reward you in a way that we want you to hear what God has put on our heart that it might be an encouragement, a challenge, and something to just let you be strong in the Lord enough to say, "I can do all things through Christ. I can go out there and be an example for him." So thank you for joining us. I know you're going to be blessed with what God's put on James' heart.

James: I want to just remind you that you have put God's arms of love around people all over the world. Now that's all of you who have not only watched and prayed for us but you've become a part of what we're doing. I'm praying that many, many people will join you, your friends and other Christians, so that we can actually get God's arms around the world that he loves and pull them up close to his heart through Christ.

I want to share with you what it is that brought us into this family room setting. It was nearly 25 years ago that God spoke to me. In case you didn't know about where I lived for the first 25 years or 30 years, maybe even close to 35 years of my ministry, it was in stadiums and coliseums, maybe large churches, dedicated many of the largest churches in America of different denominations, evangelical, strong churches. And I was busy preaching to tens of thousands of people, sometimes 25 or 30,000 and several times there were crowds of over a million. So I was busy going from place to place.

Then Betty, God said something to us that people didn't understand. Billy Graham and I were very close friends. I was very close friends with Dr. Jerry Falwell, with many of the very famous pastors, and even those you have seen on television later, we were close. They didn't understand why it was that all of the sudden I'm seated by Betty; most of the time we're seated in like family room chairs. How is it that you did that?

Now listen to me and I'm going to tell you because this brought us together. This is what birthed this like I said about a quarter of a century ago. The Lord put on my heart that we were to call the family, his family in the family room and help them get to know the Father. Now on this journey we've come to understand even more clearly that we have a perfect Father and if we will behave like that perfect Father will direct us and the Savior that gave his life that we might be born from above, and then sent another of the same kind, the Holy Spirit to live in us, think about this, Jesus said, "I'm sending another one just like me to live in you. Now I'm going to leave but I won't leave you alone. I'm with you, I'm in you, and I can overflow you with the spirit of love and joy and peace and all the fruit of the spirit."

So we understand that and what God showed me was when we call the family into the family room to get to know the Father, then the family begins to express the very nature of the Father. And Jesus in us will actually give us the mind of Christ.

Now let's just get honest. Too often we don't have the mind of Christ. Too often we have not presented our bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which Paul said that's our reasonable service, in Romans 12, verse one. And he said, "Do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may know" -- now don't miss this -- "that you may know the good, acceptable, and even the perfect will of God."

We can have the mind of Christ. What we're going to be seeking to do and every guest that we have, we're going to be on that journey right now to help you move into the fullness of God's life and his love, and begin to fulfill, allow kingdom purpose, his kingdom purpose to be fulfilled through you, but understanding that it has to be a family.

He actually referred to us as his body with all the individual parts essential, all of them fitting rightly together submitted to the head. And he is the head. It's not some church boss, it's not some dictator, he has gifted people, apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers, he has given us these gifted ones, and he's given us people to inspire us in the journey but he is saying that we are to be a healthy body submitted to his Lordship, his headship, and then we can literally express his life and love, get his arms around a broken world that he gave his son to redeem. What God wants to do is bring the body parts into proper alignment with all the unique diversity, all of us coming together submitted to the head.

But there is another picture, we're also a family and this is the church through which he reveals himself to the world. He said, "The gates of hell will no prevail against the church." I want you to really understand something. Jesus did not leave us here on this earth to get us out of here. The eternal purpose of God is not to get us out of here and into

heaven. The eternal purpose of God is to bring him in to this literal setting where the trespasser, the deceiver, the destroyer, the murderer, the Father of lies too often is prevailing. He says, "This power will not prevail over my church, the body of believers united together in supernatural unity submitted to the head."

We can overcome the adverse negative effects of the enemy in this lifetime. There will be no gates of hell in the next kingdom. The gates of hell are here now. And Jesus said, "They are not to prevail against my church." That means that we don't have to give our family to the deceiver. We don't have to allow the destroyer to come in and tear up our marriages, tear up our family. We can allow the Father to give us a healthy family.

Now if you don't know my journey, I'm the product of a forced sexual relationship, a rape imposed on a hospice type 40 year old nurse in a home; raped by the alcoholic son of the elderly man. My mother in those circumstances, having never had a child tried to have me aborted. A doctor, think about this, looked at that woman in her desperate situation and said, "No."

I've had people respond to my testimony and say, "How awful of that doctor to make that woman go home and have that baby!" That's not what that doctor did. He did not have that authority. She was asking for help that he could have provided and there are circumstances that most people would say, "Well, you should have gotten rid of the child."

Here's what happened when that doctor said what he did, "I can't do that." Evidently he saw potential and possibilities. Now you listen closely to what I'm saying. The only way we're going to overcome the horrible effect of abortion, ripping babies now out of the womb, even now we're being told all the way up to the moment of birth -- dear God -- and even after! You cannot hardly imagine we'd get to that point.

But here's what leads us to that place. Once life, innocent life, precious life is no longer worthy of our protection and is not seen as precious beyond words, in need of care, we're

going to continue to devalue every life. And you can see that happening already and it is very, very sad. We don't want anyone interfering with our lifestyle and our practices and our habits.

Now watch this. My mother, as a result of what that doctor did, sat down and prayed. She said when she prayed she heard God say, "Have this baby and this baby will bring joy to the world." If you've heard my story I've said well she assumed I'd be a girl and named me Joy. After I was born, thank God, she named me James and then put an ad in the paper and someone came and got me, tried to adopt me. Then, some you have heard this but many of you haven't, she came when I was five and drug me out from under the bed and we hitchhiked from Houston to Austin where I lived ten years in total poverty -- no father, no family.

But something incredible happened to me. I got to go back and visit the couple that had me when I was little, and it was a pastor and his wife. During that visit the young people gave their testimonies and they led me to Jesus. I gave my life to Christ that night. When I went back home I was a different person.

Shortly after that, my alcoholic father came back into our lives, hard to imagine how that happened, but he turned our broken life into hell on earth. He tried to kill my mother, said he was going to kill me and I nearly killed him in self-defense. Thank God I didn't. I left that broken home, then he went to prison. Went back to be with the pastor and his wife. I met this girl next to me. We fell in love and we got married. And it's been 56 years in our journey.

Now listen to me. We have three children, one of them is in heaven. Let me just say this to you. When we lost our Robin, after 40 years of his glory on her and in her life, you the family put your arms of love around us in prayer and you carried us.

By the way, let me tell you in the next weeks one of the things we're going to be doing is helping you understand the power of God's healing, divine enabling to help us deal with

challenges and diseases and brokenness, and even when we don't see the miracle that our hearts long for. We're going to help you understand how we walk through that together in amazement.

Also, how to heal broken hearts. You helped heal our broken hearts. I find myself wondering, when we lost Robin, if we hadn't been coming in the family room with people like you, how would we have endured it? See what I want you to know is that we come into your home every day to be a blessing to you and to inspire you in such a way that the love and life of God flows through you like a river. That's what we've been doing.

I think it is very important today, as I move toward the close of this session right now telling you that we're going to be spending a tremendous amount of time just in the word, I want to show you what God said to me. I'm sitting with our leadership core of our staff, and they're seated around like a boardroom conference table, and there is a chair over in the corner.

And God made me look at that chair while the others are sitting here talking about important things, and God said, "You go over there and sit down in that chair and you sit at my feet and you listen to me and you become a servant. You're going to see more lives changed and transformed than you ever saw as a stadium crusade spokesman and preacher."

I'm just stunned. Boy, did I know I had just heard God. And I said to all my leadership team, "God just told me I'm going to be a servant. He said very specifically, greatest in the kingdom is servant." His disciples came to him, and in a pretty lengthy discussion in Mark 10, two of the primary disciples James and John wanted to know if they could be seated on his right and left hand in the final kingdom. Just how self-serving and seeking can you get? And Jesus said something to them that is very, very important for us to get. Now here they are having this discussion.

Now listen to what Jesus said in Mark Chapter 10: "You know those who are recognized

as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and their great men exercise great authority over them."

Now that's verse 42 in Mark Chapter 10. But listen to what he said to his disciples, his highest level disciples. "But it's not so among you but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant."

Reaffirming greatest in the kingdom is servant. The Lord said, "James I want you to be a servant." You know what we've been doing? For the last 25 years we've been serving people all over the world that have never been noticed. We've been serving missions. When I say "we" not just me and Betty, we do it together. When I say "we" it is we the people of God. It is we the family of God who want to express the love and life of the Father. We have been saving millions of lives from death through our feeding programs, through drilling water wells.

Here's what you need to see. The proclamation of the gospel is going out in all these areas too but it is going out first in deed before it goes out in word. We're letting people see the power of the transforming grace of God through the gospel and the spiritual rebirth. We're letting them see love in action so then they hear the message that brings that love and releases that love. That's the gospel. That's the transforming power of the gospel and we're doing it as servants.

We're serving even the spokesman, not only the missionaries and relief workers but those who are proclaiming the gospel. And that's one of the questions Paul asked when he said, "They can't believe unless they hear." And they've got to hear the gospel. But how are they going to hear unless someone is preaching? And how are they going to go preach unless they're sent?

The bottom line in reaching people for Christ is the servant who sends them. That's what you've become. We have literally moved from touching thousands and thousands of

people and winning tens of thousands to Christ to winning millions to Christ, to seeing millions of lives saved. How did we do it? We did it as a family of believers. We literally reached out together and did the impossible.

Tomorrow when I begin sharing with you, I want to show you something that God showed me about servanthood and it is going to speak very directly to you. You don't want to miss it. Then we're going to look at what's going to happen in our lives together as the family of faith, as the church of the living God, against which the gates of hell do not prevail. We do not give the enemy access to any of the fertile fields that God has given us stewardship and oversight of, including the fertile field of our own lives.

Paul said we're God's cultivated field. We're going to bring forth much fruit and then we're going to oversee everything God has put under our oversight. We're not going to allow the enemy to come in and prevail against those things God has told us we are to make a positive impact in.

You're going to have as much fun as you've ever had in your life. What I want you to start planning to do, is have a notepad, have your Bible, and listen, know this. You're going to be able to at any time to go back to LifeToday.org and say, "James, I heard that this morning. It got my attention. I heard that sometime today, or even at night, but I want to listen to it and I just want to write down the verses and I want to study them."

We want to take you into the word because as God said in the book of Deuteronomy, this is not an idle word for you, it is your life. So we're going to get in the word more fully and deeply together on numerous occasions on *LIFE Today*. We'll still be having great guests with awesome inspiring testimonies but we're going to do that. So you be looking forward to that. Don't miss tomorrow when you see the significance of the servant.

Betty, one of the things that our viewers tell us they love to do, they love to give a cup of water. And we're able to give a well of water. They want to rescue people from being trafficked and in bondage. Here's what you need to understand. What you're about to see

was born in the hearts of you the viewers. You're the ones who showed us that we can set captives free who are being sexually trafficked even as young children. I want you to watch what you birthed on *LIFE Today* and it has changed thousands of lives. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> Over 70% of human trafficking victims are women. Over 50% are sexually exploited.

Sheila: I have walked these streets in Southeast Asia before but there is a real fresh sense of the darkness getting heavier and greater. Trafficking is a multibillion dollar business now and there are so many people on the streets looking out to make sure that no one interferes with their business or comes near.

Open Captions:

>> Over one million children are trafficked every year. Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing crime worldwide.

Sheila: They came here, so many of these towns in Southeast Asia, thinking they were going get a legitimate job. They were told, "Yeah, come! Come to the city. You can be a waitress or work in a hotel." So they come full of hopes and dreams ready to make some money for their family. And then they're immediately trafficked. And you never -- you never hear from them again.

Open Captions:

>> Unlike the drug industry trafficking victims are abused over and over again.

Sheila: Jesus said, "When you visit those in prison," there are different ways to be in prison. You can be in a prison in a club every night for two years. "When you visit those,

when you care for those, you've done it for me."

So this is our moment to be Christ in the flesh to those who are broken.

End of clip

In the studio

James: As you watch Sheila with her arms around that trafficked woman in prison, in bondage literally, you put God's arms around her. Sheila expressed what your heart does.

Sheila was expressing what those mission and relief workers do all the time, Betty. When you watch a scene like that, which I know it is hard for you to even fathom and understand that that can ever be happening in our world, this great world God created and the enemy has made such a mess of, what goes on?

Betty: First of all, Sheila, thank you so much for doing that. I know it is very difficult. It breaks your heart. But it's worth it if we can show those that care what they can do to make the difference.

I'm a mother of two daughters. I'm a grandmother of five granddaughters and have three beautiful great granddaughters. I can't even imagine them being trapped like this. And just crying out in their hearts for help, "Somebody please hear me! I'm crying. I'm hurting. I'm trapped. Please somebody set me free."

We can be a part of that. These precious little ones shouldn't have to go through what they go through; their bodies being torn apart and abused like they are. Please join with us and let's get them out of those situations. Let's show them hope and life that only comes from Jesus and in the lives of people that care about them. So please join with us.

James: I'm very, very confident that you're going to do that.

I found myself just even praying while Betty was talking, gratitude for the way she expressed God's love that you help us share so freely, and I was just praying and I just said out loud, "God, would you not only set those who are trafficked free, but would you set free the men or the individuals that use those women, trying to gratify appetites that will never be satisfied apart from getting right with you? Please God set them free."

You see, it is because men are in bondage and trapped by their appetites that that even is possible and because people are so greedy for gain. Those women are not even trying to make themselves look attractive to be successful because they will themselves benefit more. They're just doing what they have to do to stay alive -- to eat, to not be beaten or killed. They are totally in prison. They're captives. And if Jesus came to set captives free and he can set them free because boy, do they want to be free, but they're going to have to have God's love through us.

Like I said, you the viewers, we showed that reality on television. You said, "Pray for these people. Pray." You said, "We've got to help them!" That's what you said. You have carried us with the love of God and your prayers to so many places and to so many people in the world -- all over the world, you've carried us.

And so I want to ask you right now, please. Let me tell you just how strong the love of God is in you the viewers. We have a \$320,000 matching gift to double what you give. It takes an average of \$128. I want you to let that sink in because I'm asking you right now to really give that amount today; to get your bankcard, go online, write a check, make it to *LIFE* and send it. \$128 is what it takes to rescue someone and get them into restoration. That's what it takes per year and that's going to be matched. If you give \$128 it will not just rescue one but two.

\$1280 we refer to many times as rescuing ten, there are many of you watching today, some of you have never helped but you're hearing what I'm saying about the family of God revealing the love of the Father and getting his arms around the broken just like

Sheila was. You're going to say, "You know what, James? I'm going to give the \$1280 to rescue ten" but now because of that love gift, that matching gift, it's going to be doubled and you'll rescue 20.

Please right now go online or dial that number, get your bankcard, use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us on that number and tell us you're mailing it today. We need to know, we've got to let the missionaries know, we've got to let the relief workers know it is coming. We have some very special gifts for you. Would you right now please put God's arms of love around someone like Sheila did? Let's rescue them.

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: You're going to love this book *The Promises of Christ*. When you reach out and you touch someone with God's love, it's just an overwhelming blessing, isn't it?

Don't miss tomorrow. I want to start out by showing you what the greatest in the kingdom is and how you can fit right into the middle of that purpose. Thanks for watching. Thanks for sharing *LIFE*!