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Week 16: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Dr. Les Parrott and Jennie Allen

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: We have Jennie Allen with us today. Look at this book. I think it is one of her friends that did the remarkable cover. She has the *If Gatherings* which are just really indescribably remarkable, supernatural; I think she, of all people, would be the first one to tell you right off it's something God did. Sheila Walsh, she was a part of our ministry also shares with her. But it is called *Made For This*: 40 days to living your purpose. It is kind of like a journey. I don't know if it includes a 40-day fast.

[Laughter]

We'll ask her about that. That would definitely make the journey more interesting, challenging perhaps, but we're going to ask her to tell us about it because she really is a tremendous blessing and what a gift she is. And Dr. Les Parrott who has been teaching a long time, couples and really bringing people together who wanted to even meet with the Christian interaction. E-harmony -- he had a part in that. Praise the Lord for it. But *Love Like That*. This seems to me, in talking to Les yesterday that it was something going on in his own life while he's teaching everybody else that he wanted to learn to love like Jesus.

So these two who have never actually interacted like this, we're glad to have them. Would you welcome Jennie and Dr. Les to *LIFE Today*? Glad to see you.

Jennie: Great to be here.

James: Well, do you want to know, let's just ask you this question, do you want to know a doctor, Mr. Psychologist, Counselor?

Les: That sounds like a put down the way you said it there. I worked hard for that degree.

James: Where did this come from? Do you want to ask her about that?

Les: Yeah. I'd love that because I love talking about purpose. How can you get tired of talking about purpose? And this is a tool, *Made For This*, to discover your purpose. I'd love to know. Tell us about the message and how you came to write it.

Jennie: Well, for me, I have been blessed to have some people process with me like whatever your gifts? What does it look like to look at the story of your life and where God's taken you and to see intention, that God is a God of intention? He has plans, and he is good and kind to not set his plan for us far, far out there where we can't find it, where it is impossible to know.

He actually, I believe, weaves it into, what I talk about in the book, the threads of our lives; that those threads are visible to us. We can see them. In fact, they probably don't feel special to you. They feel like something that's you know is just...

I remember one of my friends, she laid all her threads out and she was like, "This isn't anything special." I think that's so common for especially women, maybe it is with men too. That they can't see they've been uniquely gifted and set in their places.

Acts 17 says that God sets us in our allotted time period and he draws our boundary lines. And it is so that perhaps people can feel their way to him. So I do think we were built for this and we were made for this and yet it scares us sometimes. It feels intimidating.

Les: At the end of that 40 days, does the reader come away...

Jennie: Magical! Just like -- yeah! Just magic.

[Laughter]

Les: What happens at the end of the 40 days?

Jennie: What I've seen happen in people is that they discover things about themselves, and maybe they were things that they already knew but they didn't realize were important or noteworthy or that God had put those things in their lives. And sometimes it is recognizing, you know what? I know exactly what God's called me to do. I'm just not doing it because I've been afraid.

So sometimes it's seeing things and realizing that there's these barriers to living out what God's called us to do because we all have that. We get stuck. We get in this place where we don't know why we're not making movement or we're not stepping out but there are reasons. Which counselor, there's some deep stuff in there.

Les: Do you ever think this book could ever help them find their purpose in some way?

Jennie: No! They're so...

James: Start praying!

[Laughter]

We just celebrated 56 years looking for our purpose.

[Laughter]

56 years married and finally you show up! I mean, we're going to learn to *Love Like That* and get our purpose.

Betty: Could have saved some hard times.

James: Okay. Betty and I are thinking about going out and getting a cup of coffee. Go ahead, Les and talk to her.

Les: You want me to take over your show?

James: Yeah! Just go for it.

[Laughter]

Now what do you think about this title?

Jennie: I love it. I love it.

Les: Well, she can see I'm sitting right here.

Jennie: Well, how could you not? Because it makes you curious, right? And I think -- can I ask you a question?

James: Sure! Go ahead. We're getting another cup of coffee.

[Laughter]

Jennie: My question for you is you have been a counselor, you have worked with so many different people on likely, at the core, the subject of love. Typically a lot of our issues come from a lack of that or a lot of our wins and strengths come from plenty of

that. So what did you learn or why did you feel like in your own life this was something worth exploring?

Les: Yeah. We talked a little bit about that yesterday. In fact, that's why I'm here because the message didn't quite sink in for really you, James.

[Laughter]

James: I understand. I'll have another cup of coffee.

Les: The crew just said you've got to come back and help him. It really was a personal quest that I set off. It wasn't about oh, I want to write a book on this! I just really, in my life as a follower of Christ, how do I love like Jesus? It just seemed so impossible on so many fronts and I failed so frequently. And I want to but yet, why I did do that as a dad? Why did I do that as a husband or as a friend?

And so this book was, like I said yesterday, it's a practitioner's guide, it's not a theoretical or theological kind of look at this whole enterprise of loving at the highest levels. This is a how to. So that's really what I was interested in myself after reading that little passage in Ephesians where the Apostle Paul just describes how Jesus loves in these extravagant ways. Then that little sentence, "Love like that." I had to get to the bottom of it.

James: Sometimes when I'm listening to a sermon, a lot of times I just feel like I'm being corrected all the way through. But sometimes I listen, and I know it's a strong point, and I'm able to identify and say, "Boy, I'm glad I have lived there. I've experienced that."

And what you're talking about here, and I've got to be honest, I'm just going to tell you that I found myself, and I call it the other one like Jesus living in me, that it's actually him doing something that is far bigger than anything I could possibly do without him. So that this loving like him is actually him loving like he loves through me.

And I find myself amazed, living amazed, I wrote a book called *Living Amazed* because when you live carried or led or directed by the Holy Spirit so much of your life will be amazing and you'll live amazed.

What I found is, for instance, if somebody hurts me and you know when you take a stand like I take, and like even encouraging Christians to love one another when they have so much difference and diversity, and so much friction and so much fighting, and I'm talking about loving, they can take some really cheap shots and direct shots, and I have only the ability to forgive. I can't even resent them. I can't even get angry with them. I don't want to strike back. I love them. And I say, "Dear God!"

Then I look at people with a need or I see the little one overlooked and I'm overwhelmed by a desire to pick them up. I never see a person that's struggling that I don't want to lift that load. To me, that's him. To me, that's at least I'm glimpsing some of what I feel like you're talking about. Am I?

Les: Because you found a groove in your life, right? You have lived long enough with the Holy Spirit, with seeking God, a relationship with God, to find that groove in your life and it's like exercising that proverbial muscle; it just becomes stronger, it becomes easier to do the more you do it. That's the challenge. For those of us that are still trying to exercise that muscle and we still fail it is tempting to sometimes want to give up. Maybe I can't do this.

James: But you can.

Les: But you can as long as you're leaned into that power, the power of the Holy Spirit obviously, to do that, the friend, right -- capital F. I love that. When it comes to marriage I often tell newlyweds, choose your ruts carefully because you're going to be in them for a long time. But you can carve grooves into your life and into your relationship where it becomes easier and easier. The same thing happens in all of our relationships, ultimately

our relationship with God, and that's how we learn to *Love Like That*, to love like Jesus loves, the more we do it.

By the way, you mentioned something yesterday. I wanted to just camp out on it for a second and that was you said to pause, press the pause button. I just want you to know the study, the research behind that. In the time it takes for about one breath, about three seconds, that's all you need to make that intentional move to go, oh, let me back up. Let me see if I'm missing out on something. Let me see if I'm seeing something that nobody else is seeing in this person's life. And that's when you begin to practice this kind of love we're talking about.

James: Betty would have to say it is the love of the Lord for her to be sitting here on television because she said, "I'm a homemaker, and I'm a mom and a wife and I'm not going to be on TV." And yet, she's been a beautiful radiant light. Do you believe it is God's love building up in you? I know when we went to the mission field you were terrified and cried a lot. It was frightening to you. But God's love came through. Do you feel like you're experiencing some of the love of God that you're even able to sit here and talk to people on television?

Betty: Absolutely! I look at the title on this book, *Made For This*. I think I had to come to a point to where I had to realize what God created me for and I'm unique to him. And when I could find my purpose in his work and in his life that he created for me then I could *Love Like That*, and give myself selfless to be able to share that love that God put in my heart, and to realize who I am in Christ. I think you have to start there, knowing your value in God and his plan for your life.

Les: The professor is coming out in me. You get an A plus for weaving in the two books! That's incredible!

[Laughter]

James: That's great.

Jennie: But I actually agree with that. In fact, one of the things I've seen is I think so often we want to get to rid of our sin. I think of Hebrews 12. We're supposed to fix our eyes on Jesus, run our race, and throw off the sin and the weights that are so heavily entangling us.

And I think -- I actually think that you're right, these things go together because I think as we live out our purpose we have less time to think about ourselves and we actually love better and we sin less, not because we're willing ourselves to quit sinning or willing ourselves to love but I believe when our eyes are fixed on Jesus because we need him, because we're risking, because we're living out the scary but beautiful purposes he has for us, we need him, and then we depend on him. And then I think that love, it is -- it's just like your grooves, it comes through.

Les: Well, that's one of the things I like about your book, it is 40 days. This is manageable, right? And if you do something for 40 days and you begin to become more self-aware and kind of unpack what your purpose is then it begins to get real. It's not this kind of vague thing out there. I've got to still hunt down my purpose.

Jennie: Isn't there a number of days that you have to do something for it to become...

Les: Let's say it is 40. I think it is 40 today. Yeah!

[Laughter]

Jennie: Three minutes to love -- three seconds to love!

James: I hate to be cutting in on your conversation.

[Laughter]

Les: I thought you were having coffee?

James: We're going to talk to you in the next program, another program. Okay? You'll not be on it. Okay?

Les: I'm out of here. Yeah.

James: Back to the west coast. But we're going to talk about it but give us an example of one of the 40 days, let's say, lessons or goals so our viewers understand it. They're getting this. Because a lot of them are going to say, "Well, I'm going to go ahead and get it. I'm going to go online and I'm going to get it at one of the online bookstores. I'm going to get it." That's just a fact. But give us an example of one of the days.

Jennie: So we start in the scriptures, always, and then we go into typically, you know, I'm mean. I like to just pull out all of the stuff.

[Laughter]

Les: What? You hear the word *mean* and you pull me into the conversation?

Jennie: But I feel like, I'm like let's do business. If you're going to give, pay the money and let's go 40 days, I want it to matter and I hope it shifts things for you. So I actually dig out what does it look like? Who are the people that God's put in your life? What are the gifts that God's given you?

And the way, a lot of times, you see those gifts is you look at high points in your life. You look at times that you felt the delight of God and the pleasure of God. So it's a lot of questions, it's a lot of just considering, how did God make me uniquely? And by the time you're done you really do get see all of these threads and the way God built you laid out.

James: And do they learn by going through the book how to like the uniqueness, the unique diversity and not see it as some big mistake? Whoops! You goofed there! Do they get to see this as actually, it is a part of the divine design that is actually beautifully and wonderfully woven and made?

Jennie: I'll tell you when they see that, and this is my favorite part. They see it when they see how it helps somebody else. When they see that their neighbor, that their -- let's take a kindergarten teacher that feels like gosh, all I'm doing is teach people to tie shoes, and I don't know what I'm uniquely made for.

But they realize, you know what? You're an excellent listener and you're a great, great question asker. And then they go into their classroom and they start realizing, you know what? I'm good at this and they start asking questions. And kids open up in a way and it turns more than tying shoes. And maybe they're tying shoes while they're asking that question but I think that's the magic of it is that when they see that it helps other people I think we start to get over ourselves. Who cares if we feel inadequate? We love people and we want to serve them and we want to help them with whatever God's given us.

James: Wow! Boy, when people that move their life there it's because they're living like that. That's exactly right. You guys have been a team! I've never meant anybody.

Les: Me with another author.

[Laughter]

James: The thing is that if we could ever really see people just through the eyes of Jesus and if he put another one like him in us then we can be filled to overflowing with that presence, with that power, with that person. That's a good illustration, a sermon there.

[Laughter]

Les: That will preach.

James: If we do that and just realize we let that love flow like a river we become a channel through which he flows his love. It's actually possible for that to happen. It can happen to the shyest person. I know you don't believe that. But was I the shyest guy that ever walked on the planet?

Betty: You were.

James: When you get called to preach and tell the church, "God called me to preach."

And the deacons come by and you say, "You think God can use me?"

"No."

"You think I can preach?"

"No."

An absolute! It was impossible; wasn't it?

But see what happens is when you give God any old clay and you yield it, you know he can even break up some crusty clay like he can break up unproductive ground. He can take any clay, and the beautiful thing is if you just put it in the potter's hand he can begin to shape us into a vessel of honor through which he flows his life and his love freely.

By the way, that's what a lot of you do when you watch *LIFE Today*. No kidding. I know you share what you hear and many of you write to say, "James, my life was changed. You have no idea how it helped me in a certain point in my life." But do you realize how many people you help? Do you realize that all around the world that there are mothers holding little children? They don't even know if they'll live another day. And then all of

the sudden they hear somebody's offering food or clean water?

And what that is, Les, that's people loving like Jesus. These people that help us notice the least of these and touch them with *Love Like That* and *Made For This*, his purpose, and they suddenly say, "We can do that and we can do it together." And we rescue the perishing and care for the dying, like Fannie Crosby said, we're suddenly putting the arms of God's love around people. We do it together.

That's precisely what Jennie is seeking to do with every conference, every gathering. That's exactly who you're seeking to do with everything you do. And it's what we together are doing as not a somebody but as the body of Christ.

I'm going to ask you -- well, I'll tell you what let's do before we give every one of you watching a chance to say, "I'm going to put God's arms around somebody. I'm going to rescue someone from prison. I'm going to lift someone out of the pit. I'm going to set someone free." And that is not an exaggeration.

Before we do that, would all of you in this audience just say thanks to Les and thanks to Jennie for being a blessing? And we want to thank you for letting us be a part of your show.

[Laughter]

Thank you!

And to all of you, listen to me, I want you to look in through the eyes of Jesus and just answer, would I like to make all the difference in someone's life? And then I'm going to be able to tell you where love made the difference in an impossible situation. Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: Do you remember being ten years old? Old enough to begin understanding the world around you. But still young enough to be truly innocent and beautifully carefree. Well, what if that ten-year old you collided head on with something so vile and horrific that it turns the stomach of even your adult self? That's the reality that Chans Rae lives in.

Open Captions:

>> I was born to a poor family. My three older siblings and my dad are all drug addicts. They beat me up and my younger siblings and force us to go out every night to beg for money or collect trash to sell.

Announcer: The evening hours bring more people to the streets increasing their chances at making money. But it also puts Chans Rae and her younger siblings in grave danger.

Open Captions:

>> One night they got us. They let my two younger siblings go, but they kept me in a room. They gave me water. Then they put a napkin over my mouth. I felt sleepy... They did bad things to me.

Announcer: At ten years old, Chans Rae had become the property of human traffickers forced to service clients and threatened with the darkest perversions the minds of her captors could conceive. After months of confinement she managed to escape but the nightmare wasn't over.

Open Captions:

>> My mother is sick a lot. My father beats her all the time. We have nothing to eat. So even though I am now free, I still have to go out every night. I am always afraid.

Announcer: This unrelenting storm of poverty, abuse, and vulnerability has resulted in Chans Rae being captured and exploited by human traffickers four more times in the last year. And Chans Rae is just one of many girls whose tender voices cry out from the

shadows of unthinkable depravity. Desperate to be heard, praying to be set free.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, what goes on in your mind and heart when you watch and see the reality of such an awful situation?

Betty: I can hardly watch it myself because I think about that precious little ten-year-old girl. She is just a baby! And these adults, supposed to be adults taking advantage of her. They drug her, and then they take advantage of her and make her do things that she's never even heard of or seen or experienced before. It is so horrible!

But if we don't do something to help them, who will? That's my question to you. We've got to help these precious little children. Help them out of this bondage and this cruelty that's being put on them. Please join with us and let's do that.

James: Let me just say, Betty, because viewers like you said, "Yes, we'll help," we've been able to see that little girl totally set free and cared for right now and in a total place of restoration because people who watch this program said, "We will help."

Right now, we're asking you in the last week of this Mission: Rescue Life for this phase right here, this is our last week to ask for your help. We have a matching gift from people who were so moved by the need and the opportunity and the effectiveness of this love that doesn't fail that they put up a \$320,000 matching gift which will virtually match your gift.

Now listen to the cost because it is very meager. It's \$128 to rescue one and to get them into the situation with the mission relief workers where they can take care of them. We reach them. We rescue them. We restore them which means ultimately put them into

training so they can learn how to make a living.

Through the years now, we've actually got girls and boys that are now leaders in their community. That's how effective it's been. It's miraculous. It works. Love does not fail. We're asking you, if you would, make \$128 gift which rescues one; it will be doubled, you'll rescue two. Would you do that?

And I always press, and always will and never apologize for it. If there is any way that you could rescue 10 by giving \$1280, do it. But now it will be 20 rather than 10 because it will be doubled.

Because others joined together, a group of our friends who just love this outreach said, "We'll do this!" And this is what the matching gift is that we've been able to bring together. So your gift will be doubled.

Would you right now go and get your bankcard or go and get your checkbook? Write a check to life or take that bankcard and use it like a check. Go online or dial that number that's there. Always right now for prayer, people are calling for prayer but would you call and turn a prayer line into a life line for someone and make the gift God put on your heart and enables you to make? Could you give \$1280? Could you give more? Would you give the \$128 knowing what you give will be doubled. We have some gifts we're going to send you that will be a blessing and an inspiration to you.

We always want to say thank you. We always want to bless you because you're blessing others by expressing the love of God so freely. Thank you for doing it. Please get up and get the card. Go online or make that call and the gift of love. Thank you for doing it.

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: Well, Betty and I say thank you. I know that Les and Jennie say thank you because we live with purpose, his purpose, and we want to *Love Like That*. That's what our viewers are doing. *The Promises of Christ*, the "Names of Jesus" throw will be a

blessing to you. "The Arms of the Shepherd," boy, that's where we need to live.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Jennie and to Les? Thank y'all. We're going to be talking to you this week. Thank all of you for watching. Thanks for helping us touch others with the love of God.