

4/18/19

Week 16: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Jennie Allen

James: Thank all of you! I think you're glad to see us and we appreciate that. Thank you.

Made For This; what a beautiful cover. I think that's Thomas Nelson. They published some of my earliest books. They published my biography. My biography was written by a man that was named Jerry Jenkins and he only went on to writing and selling about 50 million other books.

[Laughter]

He became quite the writer. That was one of the first books he ever did. I praise the Lord for it. By the way, Peter Jenkins who *Wrote Walk Across America* was saved coming to make fun of the crusade in Mobile, Alabama and got saved. Wrote one of the greatest best-sellers ever written. National Geographic published the only story, that conversion that happened in Mobile, the only Christian witness ever in National Geographic telling people how to come to Jesus. That's quite a remarkable thing.

You know how that happens? What Jennie Allen talks about? When you understand you're made for something and you find your way into that something, which is kingdom living, I don't know you can put it any clearer than Jesus put it, "If you want to find life," now think about what

he's saying, "If you really want to find life," don't we? And he said, "I've come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Where do you get it? He said, "Lose your life in my purpose and you find it." Hold on to it, you'll never find it. You'll just exist. And she says we're *Made For This*, 40 days to living your purpose. Taking us on a journey to help us live according to purpose. Would you welcome Jennie Allen to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Glad to see you.

Jennie: Great to be here.

James: And the *If Gatherings*, how long have you been doing the *If Gatherings*?

Jennie: We've just had our sixth gathering so we've been doing this for about six years. It's just really special. A lot of women all over the world, they come together for two days and we talk about Jesus and we open his word. And we try to figure out together what does it look like for us to live for God, to live out the purposes God has for us? And it's fun.

James: Now are you going to do other, are you going to do more of them or you going to keep it like...

Jennie: So what's cool about technology, which I know you know is you can reach a lot of

people with that. So we really have found the fact that we host one big gathering in Dallas in February, and then what happens is all these women all over the world, in several different countries, and most every city in the U.S. they say I'm going to host this. And so it is cool. We multiplied our events just on that weekend and throughout the year that way.

James: And so you, by writing this, is it like putting them through kind of like an *If Gathering* or putting them through a seminar that actually takes them on a journey? Because I notice that it is. It is in many ways like a study guide, not only an inspiration, not only a book, not only things written to teach biblical truth but you actually look like you're taking them through a process that literally leads them into finding purpose.

Jennie: I think so often it's hard; it's hard to even know how we're doing. When somebody asks me, like yesterday I was in my small group and they were like, "How are you doing?" I was like, "I need to think about that for a minute." We just don't have a lot of time to process our lives.

And so I love the idea of just setting apart a little short season in your life not to navel gaze or to think too much about yourself but to really think about the unique things God has given you and how could you use those in creative ways to serve other people and to serve God? It's not something else we have to do. In fact, so often we think our purpose is way out there somewhere. We've got to work to find it, labor to find it.

I think so often it's just threaded through our everyday life, through the gifts God's put in our life, the people he's put in our life, the places he's set us. So it is, it is self-reflection but it is for the purpose of understanding ourselves better. And I think that we all need to do that before we're

effective at helping other people. We got to know what do we have?

I think of the talents. That God gave each of them talents and they were responsible to steward that. And so I think of that for myself too. I wanted to be sure, what are the things God's given me and am I blessing other people with them or am I building his kingdom with it?

James: Do you have a lot of women come and ask you questions that sow the seeds that are provocative in your mind to cause you to go off on a journey to try to find the answers for them? Can you give us some idea of what kind of things you hear that are very, very let's say resonant in women, very present and sometimes problematic? And they come and talk to you because you appear to care. Probably it's not like they know you have all the answers but there must be a care that's obvious. I see it in your countenance. You care. What do you hear from them that moves you?

Jennie: I care so much. That's the thing. I do. I feel this burden to see -- I think about how before we know it we're going to be in heaven with God and I just so want our generation to spend our lives well. And so I watch women and I see them doubt themselves. I see them wonder if they're doing anything that's important when they're doing such important things. I see them consider that they're lonely and they don't know how to build community, they don't know -- I think we live in a world that's more isolated than it's ever been. And so in so many different ways they feel stuck and they want to move through that and they're aching to move through that.

So for me, I was a cheerleader in high school and college and so I feel like that's just my perpetual role through life. It is like -- I genuinely believe in women. I just believe that God is in

them and moving through them and that they're capable of so much, and that he wants to set them free. I see the things that are binding them up and I'm like, I'm part cheerleader, I'm part like come on! Like boot camp girl. Let's go! Let's fix it! We can live differently. So I've seen that happen.

What I've seen is interesting. In the last five years I've actually seen women move from that despairing place of not knowing if they have any gifts to actually using them, and to doing things that scare them a little bit. And they're watching God move and they're hungry for more and they want to see what else God could do with their lives.

It's surrender in obedience. This is what it is and as we do that as we surrender and obey God shows up.

James: Do you feel like you're -- excuse me.

Betty: No. That's okay.

James: Do you feel like you're seeing people, these women actually lose their life in his purpose? You're looking for it? And so when they do that they find it. And you're saying that you're seeing women that you think are at a better place.

When you look out, I think most people would say it looks like it's just the worst times ever. All this, all we hear, there's more hate, more animosity; it looks like when people disagree they don't just want to prove a point they want to destroy the other person.

Here's the thing you need to understand. What the enemy is doing is he is showing you how ugly his hand is. He's overplayed his hand. And he's showing you the end result of all that deception and that dissension and that division and that spirit of destruction, it is actually a spirit of murder. Really and truly, the enemy's side doesn't just want to prove their point, or defeat you, the enemy wants to destroy not just you but the purpose of God in your life. He wants to destroy you living your purpose. The real assault by the enemy is not as much against you as it's the purpose of God in you. That's what he's fighting. So you're seeing all of this.

But now what I'm seeing, and see I work with all these leaders, these preachers, these ministers, and of all things from all these different denominations. All the people that have come through here to say years ago that you would have as a Bible Baptist, real strong fundamental Baptist, Jerry Falwell said, "You make all of us fundamentalists look like a bunch of liberals. You're so strong, James. You make Rush Limbaugh look like a liberal. You're so strong."

And now then they look and you see, here sits a Pentecostal, a charismatic. Here are all these different people, a Church of Christ sitting here, all these leaders, and you see them loving one another. It is not a matter of we just came in here to talk about what we have on television to offer. They are actually learning to love one another. I'm seeing this.

You are telling us, because in our conversation together you said to me and Betty, "I'm seeing women get better." We know marriage is under attack but a lot of things are swinging in a very positive direction, would you say like an answer to Jesus' prayer that we might actually begin to be what he prayed we'd be.

Jennie: I see the church growing, healthy, thriving, when I get on the road and when I

face -- when I look in people's eyes. I'm not seeing this weakness of faith. I'm seeing this strengthening of faith. And people that love God are sincerely loving him, and they're spending their lives on the gospel. I'm so full of hope.

If you do turn on the news or look at the internet it is very despairing but that's a few loud voices. When you go to a church and you see the movement of the spirit through people in a community in a city and you see churches thriving and growing in cities like Seattle.

Portland, Oregon is our third largest place where *If Gathering* happens. More people watch -- Portland, Oregon is considered one of the darkest places in the world!

God is on the move. You cannot limit him. I think we get discouraged because we do hear a few voices and we do have more information than we've ever had but when we look in people's eyes we're so encouraged.

It's that whole thing that you were talking about, lose your life. It's surrender. They just want what God wants and they want to spend their lives well. And that's where I'm so encouraged and I want to do everything I can to equip women like that that are saying I want to make disciples, I want to invest in other people. So I spend my life like making tools helping them fish. Helping them do what they do in their places.

Betty: Do you see when you show these women and you offer hope to them that most of the time their purpose is right where they are at that time in their lives: In the home, at work, at the grocery store. Anywhere they go God's purpose can work in them. And then we have different seasons in life where God might move us but we need to start right where we are and let God

reveal his purpose to us.

Jennie: I think we think it is some big thing when the best parts of life -- and I know I'll get to heaven. I know I've gotten to write books and lead things but I know I'm going to get to heaven and it's the girls that I've discipled over years, that's going to be the greatest work in my life. It was what Jesus' most important work was.

And I think when we do, when we see what's right in front of us and we actually believe that God can use us in our places with our people, that's when the magic happens. Because if I think of the five people that have changed my life, they're not famous people, they're people that have sat with me over coffee, listened to my struggles, counseled me, showed me Jesus, opened their Bible, taught me how to study it -- those are the people that have changed my life.

So that's my prayer is that this fire would set free and it wouldn't be through big people doing big things, it would be through neighborhoods and coffee shops and universities and through the church. That's what God plans.

James: Don't you love her spirit? Don't you love the zeal and enthusiasm and the joy? I love it. You went through a point, a time in your life when you had some doubts. What led that? What led to that?

Jennie: Yeah. This is actually recently and I think it was just a season.

James: You mean after you've been a successful teacher? Yeah. Really?

Jennie: I wouldn't have ever guessed it. I love Jesus so sincerely. This isn't some game to me where I write a book or I wanted to speak. I actually was scared of those things. I really loved God and I wanted him to be pleased with my life. And I think it was just a season of attack where the devil loves to go unnoticed. He sneaks in quietly and subtly and he kind of just starts whispering things and he whispered doubt. And he whispered it long enough that I never spoke it out loud; that it began to take root. And I just -- what happened was I would still preach, and I'd preach with integrity because faith is the evidence of things hoped for and the substance of things unseen.

So when I think about that I was standing on the evidence of hope but there was this subtle fear that began to grow of what if it just fades to black? What if it's just not true? And then that little doubt grew and grew and it began to make me complacent.

This is why I care. There's real results to the bondage that the enemy desires for us. You begin to change the things about your life and I began to hold back. So yeah, I think there is a real war.

James: How did you break through that? What brought you through that point?

Jennie: It was a series of things that God recommends. [Laughing] He's so kind to not bang us over the head but he knows that the best way for us to live is in the light. The first breakthrough was confessing; was just saying this is something that I'm struggling, with say people that love me and their encouragement. We prayed and we fasted. And that was a series of months that we prayed and fasted. And I'm telling you --

James: So you were able to share with some others that you had trusted that you were going

through a battle? I think that's so important to have that shoulder to lean on. I try to tell our viewers and even our audience when they're here that we all need a shoulder to lean on but I would encourage everyone to seek to reach a point where you become a shoulder for someone to lean on. Because the Lord says if we'll get in the yoke with him he'll make the load light. In the sense of the word, when those people you shared with began to get in that load with you, they were walking as one in his purpose to help you through that battle. Do you not think that was really really important that they were there?

Jennie: I think that that moment for me confirmed, James where it talks about living in the light. We were not meant to -- I just think the enemy loves a man alone. Put someone in the dark alone and they're vulnerable. And I think that's where the fight began for me when I was honest about it and brought other people into it.

James: Praise the Lord. Okay. So if you want people to go online and get *Made For This* because you want them living their purpose, what do you think would happen if they would go through this, is this something like they can actually do reasonably in 40 days?

Jennie: A few minutes a day. Who I actually had in mind when we did this format is college girls, young women. I just think of, perhaps daughters of people that are watching right now because there is this overwhelm nature to some to open a big book. So I wanted to give it in a format that was bite-size and that anybody could do it.

And then I also think of women later in life that think, gosh, what's next for me? My kids are out of the house. What does God have for me next? And so I think helping people dream is my heart for that.

James: It is a great gift for grandchildren who are about to go to college, or graduate from college, a great graduation gift coming up. You can just find all kind of occasions to give it. I think you go through these 40 days will be a tremendous blessing because Jennie has the anointing of God on her life. So I really recommend that you get it and the IF conference, are they normally going to be held in February? Is that kind of the annual time?

Jennie: Yes. The second weekend of February every year. But you can go and watch some of our teaching throughout the year.

James: And is this something that once people go through they can kind of start sharing this themselves and kind of have little gatherings around what you're sharing?

Jennie: I think that's part of the fun. Again, I just see myself as a tool builder. There is an army of people that are saying yeah, I want to use my life well and spend it well. And so all I do is just try to build things for them to do that and to bring their neighbors and friends together.

James: You're trying to cheer on a winning team.

Jennie: Yeah! I believe in them.

James: Jesus called it the body of Christ and the gates of hell don't need to win. Don't you think the gates of hell have won long enough in too many areas of our life like academics, education, entertainment, political? Don't you think it's enough?

Well, do you like what you're hearing? Would you like to say thanks to Jennie? Thank you very much. Thank you!

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Jennie, our viewers carry us. They literally do. We show them a need and I say opportunity rather than need and they say we'll take that. We'll notice the least of these. We'll lighten that load. We'll give a drink of water. We'll give a cup of water -- we'll give more than a cup of water, we'll give a well of water. We'll set captives free. That's what we're doing right now.

This is the last week of Rescue Life for this emphasis, this time. Just another day, this is about the end right here. Would you please watch closely, prayerfully? And then you become the miracle that's needed because you can be. You're the miracle that God uses right now. Watch closely.

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, from the depth of our hearts, Betty and I say thanks. And *The Promises of Christ*, you're going to enjoy this. What your spiritual inheritance looks like. And we have the beautiful throw and "The Arms of the Shepherd" bronze. But also Jennie Allen's book, *Made For This*. We were made for a reason. We find life when we lose our life living in his kingdom purpose. You say James, I'm going to help rescue those who are trafficked. Would you send me that book too? Yes, we will to say thank you.

Please do all you can to help rescue those that so desperately need it. Would you join Betty and me and say thanks to Jennie for being such a blessing? Jennie, we love you. We appreciate you so much. Thank you.

Thank all of you for being here. Thank you for watching. Thanks so much for your help.