

10/7/19

Week 41: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Sarah Mae

James: Thank you! All of you, you help Betty and me smile because you're a wonderful audience. We just welcome you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have this opportunity to spend time with you. Let me just say this to you that you really are very special. You will find that as you listen to an incredible story by Sarah Mae and her journey, it is titled, *The Complicated Heart*. Would you welcome Sarah Mae?

Sarah: Thank you!

James: Sarah, you've already told some of your story. You're a great communicator. I know you go and speak now in different places. If somebody wanted to access your website to say how would we get Sarah, perhaps to come and help us in something, where would they go?

Sarah: Thank you for asking. You would go to SarahMae.com which is S-a-r-a-h-M-a-e.com.

James: Do you go and speak in different places when you see the door open that you know it is the appropriate place to go?

Sarah: I do! I really enjoy it. I also speak through -- I have a podcast so people can find that at *TheComplicatedHeartPodcast.com*. But yeah, I do, I love it.

James: I want you to just carry us through the journey that you want us to see because

so many people have been hurt. I think sometimes we don't realize how deeply people are hurt. God really wants to get his arms around the hurting. Wouldn't you say he is the only one who can give us the comfort we need when our heart hurts?

Tell us the story you would like our viewers and everybody at home to hear and see. And then about how they can go into the book and really be carried through, I think, to a real place of healing.

Sarah: That's great. Well, my story essentially starts around 14 years old when I move in with my mom, who happens to be an alcoholic, but I don't know it yet. My dad had custody of me. They were divorced when I was very young. I would visit my mom in the summers, and I thought she was fantastic. Just so fun and wonderful.

But when I moved in with her because I felt like a girl should be with her mother, it was not what I expected. It started out fantastic. I had no rules. I could do whatever I wanted, which is sort of a teenager's dream, right? It's obviously not good but to me it was fantastic.

Then I started to witness my mom drinking a lot. And when she would drink, she would just get very, very cruel. So she was just very emotionally and verbally abusive. If I came in and smiled at her, and had braces on, she would tell me, "You're so ugly." She was physical sometimes, but it was mostly just the fact that she was brilliant at sarcasm and cutting me down until you felt like you were absolutely crazy.

I can remember one time going and confronting her about being an alcoholic. And of course, I was only 14 years old, so I had no experience with this. I was very afraid. I went to tell her, and I somehow got the words out, "Mom, I think you're an alcoholic."

She said, "So what?"

I was like wait a minute, that's not what the shows tell you. They're supposed to say,

"Thank you for telling me. I'll go get help now." And she didn't.

I can remember saying like, "Mom, when you drink, you get really, really mean."

And she just laughed at me.

I said, "I don't think I even love you anymore."

Because she had just been beating me down for so long. And she again, just laughed and rolled her eyes. It was that night or a few nights later, I remember sitting in the bathtub because I was feeling just extremely alone. I thought I was maybe crazy because she was gas lighting me, which is just somebody who makes you feel like you're insane for what you think. So I was in the bathtub and I remember staring at this plastic pink Daisy razor and thinking, I wonder if you can kill yourself with a cheap razor? I didn't want to die. I just wanted her to care. Like I just wanted her to see me and say, "I love you, don't do this."

So I remember, again I'm 14, so this isn't like the most logical thing to say but I was emotional, and I was heartbroken. And I yelled out and said, I'm going to kill myself.

She said, "Go ahead. I dare you."

That really encapsulates our relationship. I just never -- I could not make her feel for me or care. She would say that she loved me but then she would go and be so cruel. So she did not stop drinking. So I did what I figured I needed to do to not be alone and I got a boyfriend. The boyfriend, he had a mother who was addicted to crack and he did not have a dad. So we just became each other's everything.

When I was 16, I got pregnant. At that time, my mom didn't know how to deal with it. It's because she had gotten pregnant and had abortions in her life and she had never faced those things and so I think she just didn't know how to process what I was telling her, and

she kind of became like a little girl. Whenever she was scared, I became the mother. So she had a boyfriend who was half her age who was abusive. I came home one night, and he had torn up our entire house. I had to become like the mother because she was so afraid. So that was the whiplash of our relationship.

So anyway, I'm 16, I found out I'm pregnant. I call my grandmother who lived in Pennsylvania where I'd come from. My mom was in Georgia. She said, "I'll have it taken care of."

I was like, "No. I want to keep the baby."

She just hung up the phone on me. So it was very confusing, and I was very alone. I did not know God, but I'd always believed in him. When I was -- this is important to the story because he is always with us even in our deepest darkest pits, even if we don't know he's there.

So when I was a little girl, when I was probably around nine years old, I have a sister with a different dad and her dad kidnapped her. My mom had dropped her off for a visitation and he never came back. So I prayed every night that we would -- to this God I did not know that I would find my sister. And like after six months or a year we found her. So to me, in my little girl heart, I was probably nine years old, eight or nine at the time, that just cemented that there was a God.

Then right before getting pregnant, around 14 years old, I had an uncle come visit and he gave me a Christian cassette tape. I remember listening to it and just crying out for whatever it was that this man was singing about. I had no idea. But I was like, God, whatever that is, like whoever this Jesus is, like I want him.

So fast forward now, I'm 16 and I end up going to back to Pennsylvania for the summer. I'm three months along. My family won't look at me. They won't talk to me.

James: Were they still trying to get you to...

Sarah: Yes! It was confusing because my step mom was Catholic and she was very pro-life and she wanted me to keep the baby but not for myself, she wanted to raise the baby. It was very confusing. I wanted... Nobody asked me what I wanted but I thought well, I could give the baby to somebody who can't have kids. But my family didn't like that idea. Basically, everybody wanted me to just have an abortion because I had a prominent family and they didn't want this stain to be on the family.

So eventually, I was so sick though of being alone and the black sheep of the family. Like I said, my grandmother who was so close to me wouldn't even look at me. I was very, very sick. I was throwing up morning, noon, and night. So not only am I super sick but I'm alone.

So finally, I'm like, I'm done with this. I'm like fine. I'll have the abortion. So because I was in a prominent family, they actually changed my name and took me to a hospital. The doctor said I was too fidgety in the clinic, so they took me to a hospital and put me under and changed my name. I woke up two days later in the home of my grandmother who didn't talk to me before but now is serving me toast with a smile. And we never talked about it again.

So I end up going back with my mom thinking I have to stay there. I felt stuck. Really, I probably only stayed because of the boyfriend but at this point my mom and our relationship was just terrible. I really hated her. After another year there I finally was like, I've got to get out of here.

So I was -- my boyfriend had like a trailer, it was so gross. There was so many terrible things. His sister was prostituting herself out of our trailer. I didn't want this life anymore at 16 years old, 17 years old, so I finally moved back to Pennsylvania. I thought, I can just start over. I'm going to have a new life. I don't want to do this. And I hate my mom. I don't have to have anything to do with her anymore. Like I'm out.

That's when the Lord began to call me to himself and that changed everything because I would not have had anything to do with my mom. She wounded me so very deeply. I felt very alone. But I came to know the Lord in high school, through *Young Life*. After that happened, I felt like, and I knew through reading the scriptures, that God kept calling me to love her and forgive her. I was like, no, no, no. How do you forgive somebody who wounded you so deeply and who keeps doing it? Like if I would talk to her on the phone it was name calling, it was constant just cutting me down. If I tried to visit her, I would leave in tears. So I was like, Lord, how? How do I do this? And because he is so kind. I learned that first for me, I had to make that decision like okay, God, I will trust you and I will surrender and I will choose to forgive her but you're going to have to show me how to walk that out and make it real.

So God in his kindness brought people into my life to teach me what to do. And there's three pretty significant things I would love to share with you on how he taught me to love and forgive my mother. The first one is he taught me that I needed to deal with some deeply held lies that I was believing. He did this through a mentor who I went to her house one day in college and I was like, "I'm an emotional mess."

She started writing these words on a page and she wrote like, "I am stupid. I am not in control. I'm not good enough." She just kept writing these things. She's like, "Do any of these hit you?"

And one was "I'm not taken seriously. So I'm not good enough, I'm not taken seriously, I'm stupid" -- all of those things. "I'm ugly," because my mom had told me I was ugly. So I'm like, "I believe all of these things about myself."

I had to begin to believe the truth because dealing with our lives pushes us toward the gospel. The truth was that it was okay if somebody didn't take me seriously because my worth is only in Jesus. This was huge for me. I didn't know this. To learn that only God had -- only God has the authority to tell me who I am, that changed everything for me.

And it was still a process of working through my lies, replacing them with the truth but discovering sort of those deeply held core lies was a huge first step.

We all have them because as children we're excellent observers of our world, right, but we're terrible interpreters. So yes, my mom was cruel to me but it did not mean I wasn't lovable if she didn't take me seriously. So that was a big one and that's flushed out more in the book. The second one was learning how to set boundaries. Okay, God, you want me to love my mom and forgive her and be in relationship with her? Like how? Because she cuts me.

And I remember there was this alcohol counselor that was a guest lecturer in my college class, and I ran up to him because he was an addiction specialist. I said, "What do I do? When I talk with my mom, we just go down this spiral."

He said, "If I have a ball in my hand and I throw it to you, what are you going to do?"

I said, "I'm going to catch it."

He goes, "Then what?"

I said, "Well, I'm going to throw it back."

He said, "Oh so you've decided to play the game." He said, "If you don't want to play the game anymore stop throwing the ball back."

And that was my first experience with what it meant to set boundaries. I don't have to stay in this spiral. I can hang up the phone. I don't have to wait until she's happy or pleased with me. I can stop this toxic cycle. And boundaries are really just what will I tolerate and what will I not tolerate? And again, that's flushed out way more.

And the third really important thing that I want to say to anybody who is struggling with

a difficult relationship and you're trying to figure out how on earth do I forgive this person let alone love them, is we have to learn how to mourn what we lost. So we don't mourn the future because that's where hope sits. But the reality was I didn't have a mother; I did not have a nurturing mother. And that was a valid loss. So I had to grieve that. But when you grieve something and you let go of the expectation that she'll ever be that, that she would be a mother that taught me then how to love her just as a human made in the image of God, in need of love.

So all of those things were extremely helpful in the journey for me on learning how to love and forgive her. And here's the incredible thing. There is so many impossible prayers and miraculous things that happened, you guys, and I wish I had the time to tell you all of them right now, but they are in the book. But one thing is, after she passed away, I was able to get a hold of her journals and reading them broke my heart because I had no idea how wounded she was. And how alone she was. It made me want to love everybody because everybody has something going on that we don't even see. I had no idea how desperate she was for the love of a father that she never had. And I was desperate for the love of a mother that I didn't have.

James: Don't you appreciate her sharing her journey? It is complex and complicated but I'm telling you, this is a beautiful work of God that is in process and continuing.

The thing I want all of you to hear, I don't know where you are, I don't know how you're responding, I don't know what's going on in your mind but I've been preaching now, I'm approaching 60 years of looking into the faces people, and Betty and I on television for 50 years, and I can see hurt. I can see hunger. I'm telling you there is a Father, this is a fatherless person who met the Father that everyone can meet.

And even if you had a good father or an okay father, there is the ultimate perfect Father, and he has a perfect understanding of you and love. He really wants to hold you so close to his heart that you identify with his love and you identify with his concerns. You're a concern. He wants to heal the hurt in the most complicated life or heart or mind -- he can.

And that's the reason you're listening. Because the God that changes life that gave his son that through Christ, we can have life even when she was seeking counselors, she was seeking the counsel of the Father through people who would seem to understand.

So you're seeking. That's why you're watching. I think getting the book would be a blessing to you, perhaps. But here's the thing I want you to know, right where you are, the Father wants to pull you up right into his arms. He really does. He wants to be the comfort you never thought you could experience. That's the reason we come into your home to share *LIFE Today*, not just with people on the other side of the world or in difficult circumstances, hunger or thirst -- but you.

Father, I pray for every person you're speaking to right now and you are, and you really want to hold them and heal their broken heart. And ultimately, make them a healer of broken hearts when having received your love, your grace, your forgiveness, they suddenly begin to share it. Please Lord, please take them in your arms. He is reaching out to you right now. You just reach out and say, "Lord, I receive you, all your grace."

You know Sarah, you really are on a journey that you're sharing with others to help them. I want to thank you for that.

You know what our viewers do? They're amazing people. They know when they watch us, they're going to hear that God uses people from all walks of life and all levels to really be amazing in what God does in their life. But when we show them a need, a very legitimate need, and we just show them love, they want to meet it. Right now we're asking our viewers to help us rescue girls and often times boys from sexual trafficking where they've been taken prisoner.

I want you to listen to me real close. Right now the opportunity is as great as it's ever been and you're going to see what love does. Let me tell you this. We've had some people just like you who said, "You know what? We so care about setting these children and these women free we're going to put up \$320,000 to match what you do."

It takes \$128 to rescue someone, to reach them, rescue, and begin to restore them -- \$128 and that will be doubled. Would you right now just watch and listen and say, God, what do you want me to do. Because I believe he will. And you are going to set captives free because of God's love through you. Watch.

On the mission field:

Kirie: I've traveled with *LIFE Outreach* to several different areas where human trafficking is a real problem. I can't tell you how horrible that is. Girls who have been trafficked at a very young age, kept in bondage and slavery and left bruised broken, crushed.

Open Captions:

>> They blindfolded me and put me into a van. When we arrived, I was put in a room with two locks. There I was forced to sleep with men.

Kirie: God, I pray that you would show your people how to love the broken, how to love the crushed. Show us how to move the mountains for them.

Announcer: What better solution to a problem of such evil than to prevent it from happening in the first place?

Kirie: I'm standing right now on the border between Nepal and India. Just in the last hour we've watched this team rescue several girls who were being trafficked across the border. They were able to notice something not right, stop the vehicles, question the girls, and realize that they were actually being trafficked. Because of their efforts, we are stopping lives from being ruined.

Announcer: The reality is stark. The more of you who choose to help, the more of these young lives we're able to save.

Kirie: If we can keep these workers, these monitors on this border, we can prevent children from being taken into a life that they were never intended to live.

End of video

In the studio:

James: That beautiful lady, Kirie James, will be here with Betty and me tomorrow; just coming back from overseas, rescuing -- just back. Eleven grandchildren, four beautiful children, loves people; she and her husband have helped us for a long, long time. Betty, she is coming here to just say, let's keep helping them.

What goes on in your heart when you see these trafficked children and realize that those rescue workers and those missionaries that our viewers support, they are not ineffective, they totally change the future of these children. What do you...?

Betty: And they also put themselves in danger, James, because they have to do everything under cover so that they don't get caught trying to rescue these precious little ones. And they are precious little ones, to God especially. We have an opportunity, and I call it an opportunity because that's exactly what it is, to rescue these children. We must do it.

I can't even imagine the tears, when I see one little girl shedding tears, how many tears she has shed hoping that it will be the last for this reason that she is been captured and taken advantage of.

Please join with us. Let's rescue the perishing and care for the dying because a lot of them do die as a result of the neglect and the abuse that they have been taken in bondage to. So please help us do that.

James: You know when we talk all about rescuing them, that's really not an

exaggeration. Love doesn't fail. The people that go there with a broken heart and with love, with such a desire to help, they're in many ways helpless without our help. We're the connection that makes it possible. We're the support base. We're the lifeline, literally to make it happen.

I'm asking you if you would go and get your bankcard or go online or dial that number that's there for people to call for prayer and it's paid for by love. But would you go and say, "I'm going to help rescue one."

They just rescued several, Kirie said, she watched them. They're heading them off before they get them across the border. They go into areas where they know these children are being recruited and they show them true love. Then we get them many times out of the brothels and it's very dangerous.

You actually, last year, helped us build a secure place where we can take them, and they couldn't come get them back. You made that possible. You! Who? People like you! If you'd say, "I'm going to do what I can" knowing that because of the love of God in other friends your gift will be doubled. \$320,000 as a gift -- that's huge! That's a lot of love.

It takes \$128 average to rescue one and get them started in restoration. It will be doubled, you'll rescue two. And I ask all who can, and if you can I believe you will, could you give \$1280 to help rescue ten? It will now be 20. Whatever you do will be doubled.

Father, I pray everyone who can help will joyfully, gladly help rescue those precious girls and boys who are often taken in Jesus' name.

Would you go right now? Reach out with arms of love and touch someone, set them free? Please! You can either go online or call that number. We have some gifts we're going to send you to say thank you and you're not giving to get a gift. We give a gift to you to bless you in your life and your spiritual journey because we love you and we appreciate you. Thank you for reaching out.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there's 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 faith, hope, love tea towel set. These beautifully woven hand towels are a wonderful reminder to remain steadfast in faith, hope, and love each day.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive the life-giving Proverbs journal bound in genuine leather. This journal is filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, featuring lined pages for your personal notes as you reflect on godly instruction to success in life.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,280 which will now help rescue 20 children! And you may request our beautiful bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I want to thank you. I want you to know this Proverbs journal is absolutely beautiful! Boy, do we need wisdom. I think you'll love the beautiful towels that reference our faith and our love.

And I just want to say this. That if you'd like to have Sarah Mae's book because you think it will help someone or help you, you say, "Would you send that to me? I think I need what she shares." You help touch some of those who need our help, you just ask for it, we'll be glad to send it to you.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Sarah Mae for being such a blessing? We appreciate you. God bless you on your journey as you help others. Thank all of you for watching again. Thanks for helping us share life every day.