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Week 44: Mission: Rescue Life, Last Week

James and Betty Robison

Dennis Prager #3

James: All right. We don't have time to clap too long. Our guest has got to get on a plane. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Dennis Prager is still with us now for the last program. The movie is in the theaters. I hope in every one of them. God, I pray you get it in every theater, whatever you have to do do it! By the way, God uses people and this is important -- very important! The book, the movie is *No Safe Places*.

Betty: Can I say this really quick because I want to let you know that I'm sure you hear this all the time. I listen to you on the radio so I feel like I've already met you because you are so personable. And I look forward, when I get a chance, is it Wednesdays when you talk about the family or relationships? I think that's so, so important. And a lot of times, when I'm pulling in the garage I'll get out of the car when I've just listened to you and I'll run in and say, "James, you've got to hear what Prager said today. It was so good!"

Dennis: Thank you! I didn't know. Thank you. People say that a lot when they meet me. They say, "I feel like I know you." I always have responded, "You do." It's hard for people to believe because so many public figures aren't real. I understand people are cynical and skeptical. And people who work with me tell me, the first thing they say if they work with me is, "Well, what is he like?" So I always then say, "What do you say to them?" Said, "He's exactly what you hear. That's him."

I don't find that difficult. Maybe what I've been blessed with being at peace with myself. I have

unbelievably corny desires. They're so corny that I don't think, I almost feel funny always saying it, I just want to do good. I've got one life and I know I have gifts. I knew that as a very... You'll get a kick. How do you know you have a gift? Because it is true, how do you know? Because whatever you have you think everybody else can do. That's until you realize, well not everybody else can do it.

My father was an accountant and he had an office in the house, as well as in Manhattan. I grew up in Brooklyn. So on Sundays, clients would come to the house who couldn't go to Manhattan during the week. A lot of them would come an hour early to talk to me. I was in high school. I was 14, 15, 16. So I kept thinking, why do these 50-year old guys come early to talk? I'm 15! So I finally said to one guy, I said, "I'm just curious. Why do you come an hour early to talk to me? I'm in high school."

He goes, "Because you're really interesting."

That's the first time I thought, hey, am I interesting? It was such a fascinating thing. I interested me. And I get bored very quickly.

[Laughter]

So it is a fascinating thing. How do you know you're interesting? If you're in solitary confinement you don't know or you're on a desert island. It is only if people start actually reacting. But anyway, I'm sure you don't care anymore about my father's clients.

[Laughter]

James: What did you come here to the show for?

[Laughter]

Dennis: To tell you about my father's clients.

James: All right. *No Safe Places*, the movie is in the theater.

Dennis: *No Safe Spaces* -- I just want people to be aware of that.

James: Right! Not places. This is the reason we want to talk on the show about this incredible, it is two volumes and more to come, of the Bible, the Genesis and here is Exodus. These are absolutely beautiful; *The Rational Bible*, and that it is. But it is coming from a person who is very rational and very wise but knows the Hebrew, understands the language.

You said if preachers read it and don't get 100 sermons you'll give them their money back. I think you probably mean it but I think they'll get hundreds of sermons because the wisdom is so great and the Bible is so true. How important is it in America and wherever freedom is to get back to the basics of the Bible? And then let's talk some about Ten Commandments specifically, but how important is it?

Dennis: If people don't have wisdom... they have confused knowledge with wisdom. The internet has knowledge but it has no wisdom. You look up something, what is the capital of Mongolia? Okay, Ulaanbaatar. Okay. Is that wisdom? No, that's knowledge. That's what you get on the internet and it is good for that. I use it all the time. But there is no wisdom today.

There were few moments in my life that changed my life. This one happened when I was in graduate school at Columbia. I realized I was being taught by very bright people who I thought were foolish. I thought then were foolish because I knew men and women were basically different but I was being taught they're basically the same. I knew that America was morally superior to the Soviet Union, my field of study which was Soviet studies, Soviet Union was not morally inferior to the United States.

That's why when Ronald Reagan said that the Soviet Union was an evil empire he was blasted by every major newspaper in the United States. How dare you make such a... I thought, these people are sick! If the Soviet Union is not an evil empire then neither the word *evil* nor the word

empire has any meaning.

James: That's so good.

Dennis: So I was going crazy, sort of, at graduate school being taught nonsense at an Ivy League university. Then I truly, I give you my word, as God is my witness, and I told people at the time so I have witnesses from then, all of a sudden walking in the Columbia campus, 116th Street and Broadway in Manhattan -- all of the sudden, for the first time since third grade a Hebrew verse came to my brain. I had not said it since third grade because it was something we said every morning in our prayers with certain biblical phrases. And it was, I'll just say it in Hebrew because that's how it came to my brain, [Speaking in Hebrew] wisdom begins with the fear of God. And I realized, oh! That's the answer. There's no wisdom at Columbia because there's no God at Columbia.

And I came to realize the secular world produces knowledge but no wisdom. And I believe that. I believe that to this day. I didn't just believe it then. How could you produce wisdom if the world is pointless and if there is no God the world is pointless, how could pointless have wisdom? It's an oxymoron. It is not possible.

So this was revelatory to me. Of course! And now I realize it's not just God, God is not enough. If you don't know what God says, God is essentially irrelevant. Then God could be anything you want God to be. Somebody says they believe in God, I have no idea what they believe. None! I always ask them, and just out of curiosity, "What did this God reveal?" That's the key. And if they just say -- now my criterion isn't even the whole Bible. Just say the Ten Commandments and I'm happy. If you believe in the God who revealed the Ten Commandments, we believe in the same God. That is my criterion.

James: What do you believe is one of the most important ones? Because it kind of surprises some people.

Dennis: Yes! I have gone through incarnations on this one. I used to say, "Do not steal"

because of the, all of the commandments that pertain to man and man, murder, stealing, false witness, adultery, and coveting all involve stealing. Adultery is stealing a person's spouse. Murder is stealing a person's life. False witness is stealing justice. So I said "stealing" for a while.

Now I say to my great shock, I never would have predicted this, "Honor your father and mother."

Now listen. This is fascinating stuff. There are two tablets of the Ten Commandments, five and five. The second five are all laws between man and man. The first five are between man and God. With one exception: Honor your father and mother. Honor your father and mother should be on the second tablet because your parents are human beings. It shows how important God thinks honoring parents are that they're on the side of the commandments vis-a-vis God himself. And there is a reason. The way in which most people will be able to acknowledge God's hierarchy is by acknowledging their parents hierarchy. You do it by steps. Those who think they're the equal of their parents are very unlikely to accept the authority of God.

And we live in an age of radical egalitarianism. There is no God over me. There is no parent over me. There is no teacher over me. There is no policeman over me. There is no one over me. I am God. And that is...

I asked my father. I used to interview him on my radio show on his birthday, July 18th every year. Died at 96 and he was eloquent until 96. So I said, "Dad, what's the biggest difference in America today from when you grew up?"

He said, "Oh!" And he was very glib, my father. He said, "I'll tell you immediately. Kids run the house."

That was his biggest difference. It was very insightful on my father's part. In my house my parents ran the house.

James: There was authority.

Dennis: There was authority. There is a breakdown of the concept of authority. Teachers come in, "Hey! Call me Marty." I never called my teacher Marty. I didn't know one teacher's -- I didn't know one adult's first name. Adults were adults. That's another one, adults and kids. Why does the left want 16-year olds to get votes? Because they don't see any difference between themselves and a 16-year old.

James: Let me ask you this because I felt so strongly about it. I passed it by you just briefly that in the Old Testament the serious punishment for breaking certain commandments, the most serious, death. You'd understand that about some. Murder, you could even see the immoral problem and the separation. But the serious penalty on not honoring your parents. And I passed by you that I felt like God showed me that the greater penalties on sins were the ones that were more likely to keep you a prisoner, keep you captive, hold you in bondage to that practice and very difficult for you to break free to repent of. So the severity of the punishment was equal to the difficulty of breaking free from that. You nodded at me when I said it.

Dennis: Right! First of all the severity of the punishment is there overwhelmingly, except in the case of murder, to tell you the severity of the sin. People were not generally executed for these things. But I'll give you another example of why I believe what I'm doing is important on the Bible. It says if you have a rebellious child that you take him to the court and they can execute him. People use that as an example of how primitive the Bible is. "You believe in this stuff? You're going to stone rebellious kids? There will be nobody left on earth." This is a common argument.

But I realized something, and I know, I know what I'm saying is intellectually honest. This was one of the great moral achievements of the Bible. That law, for the first time in human history, took a right to kill a child away from parents. Nobody understands it that way but that is exactly how it should be understood. That law says, "You want to kill your kid? You can't. Oh, a court can but no court in Jewish history ever killed a kid." It abolished killing kids while preserving parental authority.

James: And what has the nation of America done when it went against the Word of God and the knowledge of God to the innocent kids? What's happened to them? They've killed their kids in the womb.

Dennis: That? Well, it's now out of the womb. The governor of North Carolina or Virginia, whichever it was. It is astonishing. They'll decide after the child is born, that's called infanticide. They can't claim that any longer.

My wife has a brilliant view of this. She said, "Forget passing laws. Pass this law that anyone who goes for an abortion must be apprised of what they're aborting. That's all!" In many states there is a law, I was just in Colorado, every menu tells you the calories. I agree with that. And I don't like generally, I don't like government intervention but I think information is important. Show the woman what it is she is aborting. That's it! That would be better than any banning right now in terms of turning people around.

James: The only way we're going to really protect innocent life is to show everyone the value and the preciousness and the potential of every life.

Dennis: But they don't even have it on born life. Forget... I have asked since I was 25 and started lecturing. I've asked high school students and I still ask them, and I get the same answers except now their grandparents say the same thing. Who would you save first? Your dog or a stranger if both were drowning? One-third, since I started 45 years ago, one-third the dog, one-third the stranger, one-third doesn't know. Two thirds of Americans would not save a human being before their dog. Why? I love my dog, I don't love the stranger.

I explained to religious people as well. By the way, I asked kids in Jewish and Christian schools, a lot of them would save their dog. That's what I'm saying. We're not teaching religion properly. I did it with a Christian class at the Nixon Library and to the teachers credit they were shocked at how many kids said their dog. I did it at a Jewish school in Miami, the same thing, the rabbis were shocked at how many kids voted for their dog. We're not teaching the basics. That human life is sacred, animal life is not. That means you can't hurt an animal. Animal rights are in the

Ten Commandments, your animal has to rest on the Sabbath. I totally believe that we owe animals ethical rights but humans are more valuable.

James: And what you're trying, I think help everybody see is we're really close to the edge of losing -- we're very close.

Dennis: We are! That's right. It is a miracle that this country exists as long as it does.

James: This next year is the most important election in my 76 years that I've been on this earth. You believe it is that important?

Dennis: I think it is the second most important. I think the last one was. Everything -- it would be academic. If the left had won now and made more Supreme Court appointments and more judges and more laws, I think it is the second most important.

James: Is it a miracle the way it turned out really? Would it be an answer to serious people's prayers?

Dennis: I'm not God's spokesman. I don't know when he intervenes and doesn't, but from a human perspective it seems to be pretty miraculous. I fully agree.

James: But we need another miracle.

Dennis: No, what we've got to do is work hard. There is a very famous saying, "Don't rely on miracles." We are not allowed to rely on miracles.

James: But we can become a miracle by our actions. That's it.

Dennis: Yes! That is right.

James: You're going to teach me how to think before we get through here.

[Laughter]

Let me just say this. I want to tell you something. Do you realize that I will have some people send me long letters telling me, "How could you spend time on Christian television talking to a Jew? Why didn't you just talk to him the whole time about Jesus?" Because I was trying to show him Jesus. I was trying to show him the love of God. He saw it from the moment he walked in. I saw it in him. I saw the Father's love all over him. This man loves you and your children and your family more than most people who are sitting in churches, Christian churches every week, love their neighbor. This man loves his neighbor.

Dennis: I might add, for those listeners who write that, I might add, and this is my one boast of all my appearances on your show. I believe I have brought more Christians back to their church than almost any living Christian.

[Applause]

James: I think you probably have.

Dennis: I mean that sincerely.

James: I know that. I want you to know...

Dennis: Whenever they call my show, "You know Dennis, it's really something. I can't believe it. You're a Jew and you got me back to my Baptist church or my Lutheran church or my Presbyterian church."

And I always tell them, "Just tell everybody it was a Jew who did."

But I got, you're going to love this, I know you don't have a lot. This is my favorite story.

James: No, it is your timeframe.

Dennis: On Jew/Christian, you will love this. So I was talking to a thousand people in southern California, Agoura Hills. There were about 500 Jews, 500 Christians. Question and answer period, people lined up at the microphone. A woman gets up to the microphone and she goes, "Dennis, I want you to know I'm a Christian. You are my favorite Jew!" And I said, "No, your second favorite Jew."

[Laughter]

James: And we know who the favorite is. I love you, Dennis Prager. Now *No Safe Spaces*.

Dennis: It will be in the book. But the movie, please, please, please see the movie! We have to fight.

James: And here's the commentary. Dennis, I hope we stay very, very close. And that we can see something very profound happen.

Dennis: I can't believe she is a great grandmother. I've been sitting here the whole time thinking, something is awry.

[Laughter]

James: And she really gets ticked off...

Dennis: Does she look like a great grandmother? She doesn't even look like a grandmother!

Betty: He takes really good care of me.

James: Yeah, I do. Yeah, real good care. It's wearing me out. Somebody said, "James, you're 75 now. Are you on assisted living?"

I said, "I was on assisted living the moment I got married."

Dennis: Who says, "Are you in assisted living?" That is terrible!

James: Because I'm so old, I'm 75. I tell people when I've had my birthday and then she really gets upset when I say, "And one month later Betty will be the same age."

She says, "Why do you have to tell them that?" Because nobody wants to be...

Dennis: I agree with you.

James: Dennis, thank you. I just hope everybody sees the movie, gets your books, get the Bible commentary. We are doing our best to get God's arms of love around people that need to be set free from sexual trafficking and we've had a tremendous effect. As a matter of fact, the whole thing started when a Hollywood actor and actress -- no, really they serve the actors and actresses; sold a seven carat diamond ring, left supplying all the power for various shoots in Hollywood, and went over to Thailand and started renting property. They watched us on television, got a burden for missions, they've never come back. Built the biggest, most beautiful rescue center in the world -- you did, helping them. Thank God. But that's how it started.

Well, what Dennis is trying to do is inspire that kind of love on the part of all of us where we care and I believe he is effective. I want you to look and see what happens when we reach out to those who have been trafficked and feed that outreach that became so great that was birthed in these people from Hollywood, believe it or not, and now it's been supported by Christians. Watch closely. You're going to be moved by what you see right now and you can be the miracle in someone's life. Watch!

On the mission field:

Sheila: Who's your best friend?

Translator: She said no... Nobody.

Sheila: Do you have anyone that you trust?

Translator: No.

Sheila: Some of these are like 14, 15-year old girls and they wake up besides some 50-60-year old man. And they're held for weeks and months!

Do you remember that first night? Do you remember what that felt like?

Translator: It was painful. I cried and ran away. But they hit me and brought me back. I have to sleep with the clients and drink with them. They can do whatever they want.

Sheila: You and I, as God's sons and daughters, we've got to be the ones telling these girls you have a future and you have a purpose, and you have a hope and there is a God that loves you. And there are people on this planet who know this God and want to share this love with you. You are not worthless. You are not worth \$10 every time a man comes through the door.

If we don't help, nobody is going to help.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Betty, when you see that, just tell me what you want our viewers to think and how you pray they respond.

Betty: I hope you will dig deep down in your heart and say, "God, what can I do to help these precious little ones?" And they are little ones. They're being taken horrible advantage of. They're being beaten. They're being drugged. They're being treated so badly if they don't obey what

they tell them to do. And they don't know if they'll ever get out of there. But they're little children crying out in their heart, somebody please hear my cry. I need some help.

Please won't you join with us and let's reach out and be that hope that they're looking for?

James: I'm praying that this last week now when we have this particular Rescue Life emphasis that you'll help us. We need to hear from every one of you. We need a miracle. We have a miracle that started this particular emphasis. When some of our friends said, "We'll put up a challenge gift of \$320,000 to match what people give" which means your gift can be doubled. The average amount it takes to start the rescue process is \$128 to reach one but now it will be two if you can make that gift. I always challenge people to see if you could rescue as many as possible. As an example, you rescue ten with a gift of \$1280 but now you'll be rescuing 20 because it's doubled.

Would you right now get your bankcard? Use it like a check. If you use a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving. But please go online or dial that number that's there as a prayer line and now a rescue line, a life line and make the gift God put on your heart. We have some gifts to send you to say thank you but you're giving these precious girls and boys the greatest gift, you're giving them life and freedom. Thank you so much for doing it. Thank you for your love and your gift.

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."

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I want to remind you this is the last week for Rescue Life and this emphasis. We need to hear from you. Please, please do what God leads you to do.

No Safe Spaces, I hope you'll get the book, I hope you'll see the movie. And pray for Dennis Prager. Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Dennis Prager? Dennis, we're going to stay close because we love you.

Dennis: No question, this is the beginning.

James: Thank you so much for watching. God bless y'all! Thank you, Dennis!

Dennis: Thank you! Thank you!