

10/29/19

Week 44: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Dennis Prager #2

James: We have a lot of great guests on *LIFE Today*, and they love to come. I'm James Robison; Betty and I welcome you. I'm as excited about this guest as any we've ever had and ever will have. That's not in any way belittling those we've had because we've had just as good as you can get. This guy is just a special gift. Dennis Prager is a Jew. I'm a Christian. We love each other. Our savior, our Lord came from the Jewish family. I was talking to Ravi Zacharias and he loves Dennis. They do stuff together, and we love Ravi. I want you to welcome Dennis Prager. I'll finish the Ravi story.

Dennis: Thank you! Thank you!

James: One of the things that Ravi said, Ravi said he enjoys you as much as anyone he's ever been around. I feel like you really respect him and appreciate him. You've really blessed people. He said you made an interesting statement. Somebody said what do you think about what we... As Christians. You said, "Well, when I see the Messiah," Dennis said, "I'm going to ask him, have you been here before?"

[Laughter]

I said that's sounds like Dennis Prager.

Dennis: It does sound like Dennis Prager.

[Laughter]

James: I want us to talk about this...

Dennis: By the way, I love you folks. But there's something to me even more important because theoretically one obviously loves people of any faith, and atheists, but it is not just that we love each other. More important, we are fighting the same fight. That's the point -- that really is for me the point. I don't know if you have to love your buddies in the platoon when you're fighting the enemy, but you have to be aware that you are fighting the same enemy.

James: You have to believe you're fighting for the right purpose because you're giving your life for it. You're risking it.

You said something to us at dinner because I want to be optimistic. I believe we've had great spiritual awakenings. I believe this nation was born out of a pursuit of God and a respect for the Exodus of the Jewish people, and the freedom, you know that. It birthed the greatest nation. I think it is as great an event as ever happened in human history with any government or any nation's birth. It's great.

But we also know that today the war is against the truth, and the freedom that truth offers. That's what I see you standing up against, the enemy that is attacking the truth and attacking freedom. So you said something at dinner about, because I said, "I'm fighting for the next awakening." And you said something very profound. You said you didn't have to be an optimist, you didn't have to be optimistic. I'd love you to share that thought because I thought it was transformative.

Dennis: I'm asked all the time, am I optimistic? I said to you, and those who have heard me know that this is true because... By the way, one advantage about not lying is you never have to remember what you said. It is unbelievably relaxing.

[Laughter]

It is a great benefit of truth telling.

But anyway, so I'm asked a lot, am I optimistic? But I don't ever fool my audience. I have too much respect for them. And I can't say what I don't believe. It is almost, I'm really incapacitated in that way. The truth is the last election I was pessimistic. I was not just not optimistic, I was pessimistic.

By the way, it turned out for me such a happy night that I have told my two sons, this will definitely lower me in your esteem. I have no doubt about this. But I'm going to tell you anyway. I said, "Boys, the nights," they were both born at night "The nights you were born were extraordinarily happy nights in my life. But the night Trump won was happier."

[Laughter]

James: It wasn't because you were just enthralled with the man. You saw what he was standing against.

Dennis: During the primaries he was my last choice. It's on the internet. I broadcast it. But I said, if he wins the nomination, I will vote for him. I had no choice. The left is ruining the west, not just America. I have no choice. I cannot allow the left to win. So the night he won, by the way, I will even diminish even further in your esteem, because that night was not only was it so happy for me, but I engaged in something I never engage in, Schadenfreude: Joy at others' misery.

[Laughter]

And so I did not watch FOX News for one minute that night. I only watched M.S.N.B.C. and C.N.N. which added to my joy immeasurably.

James: Do you think they're left?

Dennis: Yes, I think they're left.

James: They're not only left, they left.

Dennis: The left did leave. Anyway, so on the optimism issue, I never ask myself... I don't think whether I'm optimistic. First of all, I've written a book on happiness, I care about happiness tremendously. So optimism has two definitions if you look it up and they're both accurate. One is you think things will turn out well. The other is you see the best in any situation. I'm an optimist in the number two. Whatever the situation, I really do try to see the best in it. But the idea that things will turn out well is just not true so often. I can't fool myself into believing that.

We can lose freedom. That's a fact because freedom is a value. Almost half of millennials don't believe in free speech for hate speech. Which means they don't believe in free speech. It shows you how poorly they think that they can even say, "Of course, I believe in free speech but not for hate speech." It means I believe in free speech for what I agree with. So that's moronic! Who doesn't? Every communist regime believed in free speech for speech they agreed with too. Hitler agreed with that too. You could say anything that they agreed with.

James: But if you didn't it wasn't safe.

Dennis: Yes, exactly! So it's an absurdity. "I believe in free speech except for hate speech." It is an absurdity! You either believe in free speech or you don't believe in free speech. And they don't.

Freedom is a value. I repeat this almost every day. It is not an instinct. The human instinct is to be taken care of. It is not freedom. And again, good old Bible, and I make this point in my *Rational Bible*, my commentary on the first five books. In Exodus, I

point out the genius of the biblical narrative. God takes the Jews, the Israelites, the Hebrews, whichever term you wish to use, out of Egypt. What is the first thing they do? Complain! Correct?

James: Yep!

Dennis: And what do they complain? "It was better in Egypt because we ate meat." They preferred to be slaves eating well than free eating manna. This is all there. Nothing is new. I have this -- I actually feel bad for God. It is like God experiences *Ground Hog Day* every generation.

[Laughter]

I think about, I can't believe it! Again! They're doing the same thing again! If he turned his attention to another galaxy, I could totally understand it. We are boring him out of his mind.

Betty: Excuse me. With freedom comes responsibility also. Not everything is given to us. Somebody paid for it.

Dennis: By the way, what's on the Liberty Bell? See the Christians who founded America were different from Europe's Christians. There were some great Christians in Europe, of course, but the Christians that founded America were the greatest Christians, as a group, that ever lived. I am so grateful for the Christians who founded America.

And what do they put on the Liberty Bell? One verse. And where is it from? The Torah. Almost no Jew knows this, almost no Christian knows this. There is only one thing on the Liberty Bell, and it is from Leviticus. By the way, anyone who knows Leviticus knows his Bible.

[Laughter]

This is my worry. The first two volumes of my *Rational Bible* series on the first five books, I'm very grateful, it was actually sold at Costco. In the middle of God knows what, *The Rational Bible*, it is hard to believe. I can't believe I got into Costco. But the real test is not Exodus and Genesis, it is Leviticus.

James: Tell us what's on the Liberty Bell!

Dennis: On the Liberty Bell? Yeah! "And you shall proclaim Liberty throughout the land through all its inhabitants."

So I will say this...

James: Is it okay if I keep doing that, Dennis? Because I'm doing that. I'm proclaiming liberty. Yeah! And I'm fighting for it. To me, that's not necessarily having to have an optimistic spirit, but I believe it is possible that we could keep some freedom for a while.

Dennis: That's what you and I are fighting for. That's why I'm here. That's why I adore you. And your work, that's right, we're in the same battle.

But anyway, I just want to say, if Costco sales my Leviticus then the Messiah is returning or coming. Whichever one! For us coming, for you returning, but it is definitely the Messianic age -- if Costco sales a commentary on Leviticus. That is clear to me.

[Laughter]

James: And they teach it at Berkley.

Dennis: No, no, no! You're asking for too much.

James: All right. I want to show a trailer. This is going in the theaters. You need to get

everybody to go. You pay people's way. Here's the thing, there's his address. Support what he's doing. I want you to see the trailer on this movie, on this documentary. Watch it closely.

Begin video clip

Adam: It is an honor to speak in front of y'all. Do we get to keep these pads?

[Laughter]

America was built on ideas. You should be able to share without fear of being fired from your job or shouted down.

Dennis: Fundamental American right is to say what is on your mind.

>> This new politically correct tyranny, it is creating an atmosphere of fear and repression.

Bill Maher: Whoever told you, you only had to hear what didn't upset you?

>> It's going to bust.

>> There will be resistance and it will not be peaceful.

>> If you have any spark of individualism, they will come to destroy you.

Music

Dennis: We're fighting for the soul of America.

>> When's the movie coming out again?

End of video

In the studio:

James: Dennis, what is your hope? Because you've put a lot into the movie, a lot of work, what's your hope?

Dennis: The hope is that it will awaken Americans. The vast majority of Americans do not know the closing down of the mind taking place at the university, the closing down of speech. And that's why you saw Bill Maher and people on the left. We want this... There's not much we can unite with Bill Maher on but if we could unite for free speech that's enough. Then at least we have a place to differ. Right now at the university there is no place to differ.

You know what *No Safe Spaces* is about? Why we got the title? Universities, this is frightening, if you don't like a speaker coming in, you can retreat to a safe space. They actually have places called "safe spaces." What happens, the conservative, it is always a conservative, the conservative speaker is speaking. You go to the safe space. They give you hot chocolate -- I'm not making this up -- Play Dough. You get to watch videos of puppies frolicking and they give you chocolate chip cookies.

James: Safe space.

Dennis: These are 20-year old human beings. When I was five, I could have handled this stuff.

[Laughter]

One of the things the left is doing is it infantilizes people and that's terribly damaging to the society as well as to the individual. That's where we got *No Safe Spaces*.

Life doesn't have safe spaces. Well, I guess to a certain extent it does. That's why we have churches and synagogues. They were meant to be safe spaces. You know, life is difficult. Come each week in fellowship with God and your co-religionist but they don't have that. See, the religious kids on campuses don't need a safe space. They've got one.

James: What do you want the film to do?

Dennis: I want it to wake up America. And I want people, actually, personally, this is not the official line of the movie makers, I would like a lot of parents to think, do I really want to send my kid to college right after high school? I think most kids should take a year or two off. The more mature you are before you go to college, the less likely you are to be indoctrinated. When you see these kids with their hatred screaming epithets at speakers. Heather McDonald is a woman and she goes there and speaks and they start screaming at her, "Fascist!"

This was unpredictable because as I said, the one thing Americans united on was, I'll fight for your right to say whatever you say.

When I was a kid I remember, we played stickball on the streets in Brooklyn. I don't know if stickball was ever a thing in Texas. But we'd play stickball and some kid would say something really stupid and then another kid would say, "What's wrong with you?"

And he goes, "Hey! It's a free country."

I remember hearing that so often. The kid who said the stupidest thing would go, "Hey! It's a free country!" And that would shut us up.

He's right. It's a free country. You can say moronic things. No kid today goes, "Hey! It's a free country." That's really sad. That's not in the vocabulary of kids today.

James: That's sad.

Betty: Well, James and I had the privilege of watching your movie/documentary and when we came to the end of it, I have to say the first thought I had was God, I pray that people will have ears to hear because this is truth and they need to hear it. We're not being taught the truth. Kids are not growing up teaching the truth. And I believe that starts with the breakdown in the home. We've just kind of turned our children out to pasture and we're not spending time with them before they go out into the world. We're not giving them the foundations they need, the truths they need.

Dennis: Well, you know I agree with you, but it is even worse than that. They don't know how. Americans forgot how to teach what America is about, Christians forgot how to teach what Christianity is about, and Jews forgot how to teach what Judaism is about. So the only people teaching them what anything is about is their leftist instructor -- now in elementary school. Kids in America in elementary schools in many classes are no longer called boys and girls. Did you know that?

James: No. I don't.

Dennis: They're not allowed to be divided by sex. This is a sea change.

James: Dennis, it's the reason that you spend so much time going through the Word of God, the Genesis and Exodus to start with. These are absolutely fabulous commentaries written with someone who is not only Jewish but has the understanding of the Hebrew language, has a genuine respect for what God has done as creator. You and I didn't wonder for one second when we were in the room together we loved each other.

Dennis: Well, as I said, that's easier than being allies in a struggle because it says, "Love your neighbor as yourself" and that's independent of whether you're fighting together and so on. We're better than just love each other, we're allies.

James: We love the truth.

Dennis: Yes! We love God, we love the truth. We actually think that the biblical worldview is the most sophisticated, moral, achievement in human history. We believe that. And my task is to explain why. So for example, just as I say to pastors, get this book. If you don't get 100 sermons, I'll buy it back from you. That's my deal with all clergy.

James: I agree with you. No, you're right!

Dennis: I mean it seriously. I'll give you an example. Okay and this is in my forward. I had troubles with my parents when I was 19. Shocking! Right? It's unheard of.

[Laughter]

But here's the key. From the day I left my parent's home at 21 until the day they died, 96 and 89, respectively, or 89, 96 respectively, I called my parents every single week of their life no matter how difficult I was feeling psychologically or emotionally toward them. And there was only one reason, I truly believed God had commanded me, honor your father and mother and it didn't come with an asterisk -- if you're getting along well with them. That's life-changing stuff.

James: Yes, it is. We're going to go into more of what you talk about in the commentaries because we're going to talk about the importance of the Ten Commandments and the Word of God in the next program. Do you appreciate Dennis Prager? Do you appreciate the fact that he is here sharing?

[Cheers & Applause]

Remember, the book is out but go to the movie. Get people to go to it. Support what Dennis is doing. And we're going to talk about the Genesis and Exodus commentary.

Dennis, we do our best to rescue people who are in total bondage. People who are being trafficked sexually. I want you to watch one of our friends, Sheila Walsh demonstrate the love of God that Betty and I, and Dennis, and everybody in this studio, and I want to believe everybody watching, believes is to be shared freely. Watch closely.

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 you're 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: I do want to remind you, this is the last week now for Rescue Life. We really need to hear from you, all of you.

Dennis Prager is going to be back. Now remember, the movie, *No Safe Places*, get everybody you know to go. Just remember freedom can be lost and all of us ought to stand and fight for what is right and freedom is right. God gave freedom to his people. Jesus gave freedom to us. "For freedom Christ set us free," Galatians 5:1.

Tomorrow we're going to talk about these commentaries. Dennis Prager is going to be back with us in the next program because I think we might have a program with Sheila. But I'm just telling you, I really appreciate you. And I really, and Betty, we really appreciate this guy! Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Dennis Prager? He'll be back with us. Thanks for watching. Thanks for helping.

Let's talk about Prager University in this one too!