

Week 14

3/28/11

James: Thank you so much for giving us an opportunity to share with you on *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Dr. Erwin Lutzer with us. He was with us a few weeks back in response to our invitation to come and talk about a book that is absolutely must reading in my opinion, "When a Nation Forgets God." And look at the subheading: "Seven lessons we must learn from Nazi Germany." Dr. Lutzer is the pastor of the great Moody Church in Chicago. I just thank God for a pastor who speaks as clearly and yes, as prophetically and with as much love and legitimate God-given concern for our well-being as this pastor does. And his insight and what he shares is absolutely important for us to hear in the free world, not only here in the U.S., but all over the world in the free world we need to hear the lessons that we talked about. We're going to join that program that we did with Dr. Lutzer.

James: Would you join Betty and me in welcoming Erwin Lutzer to this special program? I'm glad to see you.

Dr. Lutzer: God bless you!

James: Dr. Lutzer, what impressed you and led you to write a book "A Nation Forgets God" but then reference Nazi Germany and some of the things that you're seeing there. What inspired you?

Dr. Lutzer: Well, I think Nazi Germany is a good example of what happens when a nation does forget God. And as you mentioned, it is not as if we're going to start calling people Nazis. But James and Betty -- by the way, it is so great to be on your show. What happens to a nation when it begins to drift away from God, there are certain cultural streams that enable it to go the direction of Nazi Germany. And so as I began to think about Nazi Germany it dawned on me that there are some parallels. Now parallels between America and Nazi Germany can be overdrawn but what I have done is I have isolated those issues that contributed to the holocaust and also I wrote it for another reason. I wanted to discuss the role of the church in the midst of a nation that has forgotten God. You can't help but think about men like Bonhoeffer and Niemoller who did stand against the Nazi steamroller. So the question that we're going to be discussing tonight which is so critical, is our nation has forgotten God, James. We have drawn a line in the sand and we've said, "God, you had better stay on

your side of the separation of church and state. Don't you dare come over into what we call the public sphere because when you do you might end up having a lawsuit if we bring God into the public sphere." Now the first chapter in the book discusses how did Hitler take a nation that was nominally Christian and take that public square and denude it so to speak so that he could establish his own agenda? You do see parallels almost immediately. For example, the Christian holidays were reinterpreted so for many people Christmas became winter solstice. Easter became a spring holiday. Because what you want a nation to do is to even forget its roots, to forget its Christian background and its Christian influence. And then of course, as we'll discuss he used various laws that would be used against the church. But James and Betty, to me I think one of the most dramatic stories in the book which really helps us focus tonight is this, Hitler was getting more resistance from the pastors than he had expected. So he met with them and he shouted at them and said, "All that I want is peace." Then he said, "You pastors take care of the church and I will take care of the German people." When Martin Niemoller was about to shake hands with Hitler and say good-bye he carefully chose his words and said, "You said that you would take care of the German people and we are to take care of the church. But we also have a responsibility to the German people which has been given to us by God and no one can take it from us." And you know, James and Betty, to this day the church here in America is still struggling with its role in the wider culture. We know of course, that we have the responsibility of preaching the Bible and certainly all of us do that. We hope that everyone who is listening does that but the question is this, do we have a responsibility to the wider culture? Now there is another story in there that I think you have read and it has affected your thinking. I received this account from someone who lived in Nazi Germany. By the way, I've actually spoken to people who lived during the Hitler era and I can tell you stories about that. But in one of the instances there was a church that was faithfully teaching the Word of God and it was beside a railroad track. So they knew when the train would come by. And what they would do is they would sing songs louder as the train rattled by because they knew that it was filled with Jews on the way to a concentration camp. So here we have the issue and that's really our topic tonight if I understand it. The issue is what is the role of the church? Do we simply stay behind our stained glass ghetto, so to speak, and make sure that we are faithful to the word in terms of teaching? Or do we in addition to that have a responsibility to the wider culture? I know your heart, James and Betty because I've watched you many, many times on television and that is that you have a great burden for the wider culture as do I. We have a burden tonight for the United States of America because we have lost our way.

James: I actually was so inspired by everything in the book but you just referenced something that inspired me to write an commentary that I titled, "Will the Church just

Sing Louder?" I publish a commentary every week, basically on national issues on JamesRobison.net. Now I've often said, if you don't know know, Robison has no middle N. It is not Robinson, it's Robison. I was too poor to have the middle N, that's the way I grew up. So it is Robison: JamesRobison.net. But I wrote a commentary and this was the title, "Will the Church just Sing Louder?" And what the exact eyewitness account that you share in the book says that they finally learned to sing loud enough that they drowned out the cries and the pleas for help as the Jews were going to the death camps. They reached a point where they sang so loudly that they no longer heard the cry of humanity and the pain. Now we would say that in America we could never tolerate the termination of a race of people or a group of people, and yet Dr. Lutzer, at the same time we are tolerating, embracing it seems, and even though the bulk of the population, the majority would say they are opposed to it, we have terminated the most innocent and helpless human lives on the planet and that's the lives in the womb. Over 50 million lives have been terminated in the womb and we are not batting an eye. You point out in your book very, very pointedly how we will not even allow that to be stated as the taking of a life. We don't even want to use the true terminology. The church seems to be unable to even come together on an issue as basic as protecting innocent life. It really doesn't have as much to do as people are saying it is a woman's right, would somebody consider the Right to Life of that child? And we don't even seem to allow it. Like you said, there is a line drawn in the sand. If you cross that line and you take a stand you could be breaking the law. So in a sense aren't we, in the church, through silence or consent and not saying something, we just sing louder while we're actually doing something horrific?

Dr. Lutzer: In the book I have a chapter entitled, "The Role of Law," but the chapter's title is this, "It is Possible for Something to be Legal and Yet Evil." It is very important. You see the reason that Hitler -- he made up the laws. I have quotes there in which they say *dada theider*, which is German for saying, "Our leader is the source of all laws." So what he did is he reclassified as Jews as *untermensch*, the German word is, which is subhuman, and therefore, you could kill Jews would be liable. That's why at Nuremberg when Hitler's henchmen were tried they said to themselves, "We didn't break the laws of our country." Because you see what they did was lawful. And in America today, the taking of human life is lawful. By the way, the point I've referenced there, it is so important the role of language. For example, you're right. Politicians never say, "I believe in a woman's right to choose to kill her preborn infant."

James: No, they don't say that.

Dr. Lutzer: They will never say that. What they will say is, "I believe in a woman's right to choose." Now everybody can fill in the blanks. But why don't you finish the

sentence? Because James and Betty, there is something in the human heart that when they stop to think about it, they can't really accept what they are saying; that you have the right to kill your preborn infant. So it is just the woman's right to choose. This is the role of language. You know propaganda, which I discuss, for example, you have Hitler, he never killed the Jews. He called it "the cleansing of the land." And when he wanted to starve children he called it, "putting them on a low calorie diet." So what you do is you use language to camouflage unbelievable evils. And we can have the very same thing happening in America today and that shows you that when a nation forgets God and those absolutes and that responsibility to God is gone anything becomes possible. Can I give you one more example? The role of law, we were talking about it a moment ago. If I say that I make my own laws, I'm my own god. If the Supreme Court of the United States says that there is no law above it to which it is subject -- and of course the law of Moses no longer applies, we've taken care of that because of the separation of church and state -- in effect, the court becomes god. And that's why I quote one writer who says, "Show me your laws and I will show you your god." And while we're talking about the Supreme Court, isn't it tragic to think that many of the founding fathers, they would never be approved today to sit on the Supreme Court? The very fact that most of them were Christians, they believed in the Bible, they believed in absolutes, they would be immediately disqualified because they would be bringing their religion into the legal process and that of course is forbidden. So when you stop to think of it, it is as if the sock comes unraveled. You take God and you put him away and you say, "We will be subject to only the laws of men." There are certain inevitable things that boomerang in society and that's exactly what we're seeing in America today.

James: I'm wondering as you sit here and listen to him -- by the way, do you appreciate a brilliant man who has worked very hard to simply deliver truth? Would you say thank you to Dr. Lutzer? I do thank you! I thank you for the devotion to people, first to God but to people, to work, to study, to write. You are a truly gifted writer. If all of our viewers couldn't find this in the bookstores, you're on the radio every day. What's the title of the program?

Dr. Lutzer: Running to win.

James: Running to win. If someone said, "I would like to go online Dr. Lutzer and I would like to order the book, if I couldn't find it, how could I go --?" Where would they go to get it? Would they go to Moody Church?

Dr. Lutzer: Oh, yes. And of course, they can go to Amazon and so forth. But our toll free number is: 1-800-215-5001. Or they can simply order it by going to our web site: MoodyChurch.org.

James: I really recommend you get it. I don't really have time to waste. I told you a read a lot, study a lot, I pray a lot. I pray about what I read and I pray over what I read. I try to pass it on. I'm not going to recommend something that is not meaningful, not only to you but to everybody that you can possibly and any way have a profound and positive impact on. Betty, what were you going to ask or say? Do you remember?

Betty: I'm sitting here listening and I'm not a theologian, I'm not a lawyer, I haven't had a lot of education but I'm sitting here thinking, I do know the Lord Jesus Christ and I made that choice to accept him into my life. And when I did that, he didn't take my freedom of choosing away from me. He didn't rob me of that. But at the same time, with that acceptance of him in my life, I have a responsibility as a Christian, as a wife, as a mother, as a grandmother and I care about what happens in the future to our country, and the church. And you were using that illustration about them singing louder. That broke my heart because I thought, we are becoming passive. They make the choice to sing louder, to ignore the cries of "Help!"

Dr. Lutzer: Betty, I want to tell you that Hitler was confronted with the fact that he had all of these soldiers, most of whom had a nominal Christian upbringing, and the question was, how does he deaden their conscience? It was very important that their consciences be dead so that they could commit atrocities without feeling guilt. He had certain programs, especially for Hitler's youth and others where they would do that. First of all they would do something despicable. Perhaps they would kill their own pets and so forth. What he wanted to do was create hardened people who would not be affected by human sympathy. I'm looking into your eyes right now, Betty and I see your tears just thinking about it. Well, that would not do in a state that has forgotten God. You can't shed tears. So what Hitler did is he tried to deaden the conscience of these people, and you know he succeeded. And there is something else too, this gets into the whole issue of propaganda which is another chapter in the book. Hitler believed this, that if he could create what I call a cultural stream -- that's not his language it is mine -- that he could create such a euphoria for certain ideas that everybody would accept them. So that if you went to Nuremberg where the big rallies were held and there were 100,000 people, Hitler says, all chanting the same thing and you disagreed, "A" you would either remain silent or you would convert. But one thing you would not do is to stand against this cultural stream. You see, there were some soldiers who had to commit these atrocities and they didn't want to. But the

problem was they were part of a regime, they were part of this euphoric cultural stream and they couldn't stand against it. And James and Betty, one of the things that we really need today and I plead with everyone who is listening to us today, we need Christians with courage. Christians who are going to say -- students in school. You know I read recently a man in our university saying that Christians who give up their faith in university often don't do it because of the arguments that are presented against Christianity. They do it because of the pressure, political correctness and so forth, to stay within the groove. And what we need to do is to say to those who are listening today, have the courage of your convictions with God's help and do not be caught up with these cultural currents, they are leading us astray.

James: I pray with all my heart that you caught the full impact of what Dr. Lutzer was sharing, what Betty and I shared. It is my earnest prayer that as believers, as the church, as people of the kingdom where the kingdom of heaven at hand, present -- the weight, the imprint, the power and the influence of God's presence and his truth resting on us so that it makes an imprint on everything in the world. It releases a power that affects every power base. We mustn't just sing louder. We mustn't just go to church, we must be the church. We come together in fellowship but we go out and release literally the impact of God's truth demonstrated in our lives and in the way we're involved. Right now Betty, we're doing something that is really troubling because of what we see in the area of need. But we are trying to rescue precious children from sex trafficking. It is hard to believe that children could ever be trapped like that.

Betty: We don't even like to think about things like that happening to precious children that are innocent and really taken into captivity with this trade.

James: And they are used by people who are themselves trapped in bondage. But we can release these precious children through the power of love. I want to mention also that if you make a gift to help us rescue those precious children, you'd like to have Dr. Lutzer book "When a Nation Forgets God," I really encourage you to ask for it. I pray that you'll read it. You're going to see tremendous need that God's love through you can meet. This is not something we turn away from. This is where we look and don't just sing louder but we release the love of God, not in word only but in deed. Watch this.

On the mission field:

>> Actually she -- the old lady took her to the room and let the men rape her and then sold her to other men, one after the other and never gave her money.

>> At a time when she felt so disgraced for herself that she was sold and then when she was beaten all of the time she would think it is better for her to be killed.

>> They beat them and then locked in the room.

>> And they also put a spike in her leg.

>> A spike? Like a metal railroad spike? They put that into your leg? And here she is, she is caught in this trap and she doesn't see any way out. People have owned her and forced her to perform many sexual acts, ten men a day. You can look at her face and tell she doesn't want to do this. She hates it! She hates what she has to do again and again and again. I want to stop it.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Jeanne Rogers, along with the mission teams can want to stop it but they can't stop it without your help. Your help, people like you, rescued that beautiful girl. Here she is right now, these pictures were just sent to us, they're training her in a trade so that she can learn how to make a living in the right way because she is experiencing life and we're helping her in the *LIFE* Center that love shared through people like you built. It is an absolutely beautiful place. Now our mission team led that pimp, that man that was talking about how he could use a knife and control them and how he knew what he was doing. He was just talking casually, just like he was talking about dirt. But they led him to Christ; they led him to the Lord. The man's life was changed there on the street by the power of God and the power of love. Betty, what we're asking our viewers to do is to help us rescue more girls like that. Literally thousands of children that we can get, who are going to be sold into the sex trade because they go into the impoverished areas and out into the rural areas and they convince the parents that they're going to take these children and they're going to teach them a job, and they'll even give them money. So we watch -- you and I went there and we saw children that had been bought with a radio; the family got a radio or maybe a portable television, just some kind of electronic device and they got the child. I'm telling you, right now we can save those children's lives -- thousands of them! You know what it costs to

rescue a child? It costs \$128. The *LIFE* Center that is established there was by people selling everything they had who lived in California and served the motion picture industry, Hollywood. And they just sold out and they said, "God wants us to go over here and rescue these children." And they left everything. They're there and we've built the *LIFE* Center there in Thailand and we're building others in other areas, in Cambodia and other places in Asia. When I say we, I'm talking about us together. But we've broken out the cost to help rescue a child, it is \$128. Here's what I would like you to do. If you can help us rescue a child, dial the telephone number. It is truly a lifeline, always a prayer line for you -- always! But you dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check or write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're doing, you're rescuing lives or you can go online LifeToday.org. If there is any way that you can help us rescue ten children, think about this, \$1280, we can give life and hope to people in desperate situations. Would you help us do that? Would you help us maintain those incredible outreaches and even expand them? You are the source. You are the release of God's love. You are the enablers of those missionaries and those precious people that God has put in place to literally help express God's love. Would you enable them to do it? Please make the call God put on your heart and make the gift. Would you do that right now? Thank you so much! We have some gifts to bless you and to say thank you! Thank you for helping rescue these precious lives.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's hard to believe it is happening! But at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable and someone must save them! With your support of mission rescue life you can help rescue more than 5,000 children from the horrors of the sex trade in parts of Thailand, India, Cambodia and other targeted nations. Together we can reach vulnerable families and children by providing much needed food and relief. We can rescue those already ensnared by offering them a way out and we can restore their hearts, minds and bodies to enable them to enjoy life as God intended. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of this lifestyle. As our way of saying thank you, please request "The Butterfly Effect," how your life matters. The story of this book reveals how you were specially created by God to make a difference and have the power to change the world. As a special challenge, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children. With your gift be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture that demonstrates God's fatherly love for us as his children. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I thank you so much for your help. I want to mention also that if you make a gift to help us rescue those precious children and you'd like to have Dr. Lutzer's book "When a Nation Forgets God," I really encourage you to ask for it. I pray that you'll read it. And we'll also send you "The Butterfly Effect" because it really is, all of us coming together where we release a mighty wave of God's power, transforming power and we want to learn the lessons that Dr. Lutzer shared. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity. And thank all of you for being here with us. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*!

>> This is an amazing story and I wish the whole world could know this story.

Announcer: Tomorrow, bestselling author Eric Metaxas encourages us not to repeat the mistakes of the past.