

12/11/25

Week 50: FMF

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Rabbi Jason Sobel #2

**Studio discussion:**

**TAMMY:** Hello, everybody. Welcome to *Life Today*. I'm Tammy Trent, and this is Randy Robison. It is so good to be back with you. Merry Christmas!

**RANDY:** And to you, too.

**TAMMY:** Thank you so much. I'm so excited about the show. Listen, if you missed our last show with Rabbi Jason, you can go online any time to *Life Today.org* and catch those shows. You won't want to miss them. But we have him back today. We're talking about his brand-new book, *Transformed by the Messiah*. It's one of my favorite books. I'm telling you, as I read through to prep for this show, I thought, you're going to want to listen to this. You're going to want to lean in and maybe take some notes. You take us through the birth, the life, the resurrection, the death of Jesus -- all of it through this book. You connect the old and new so beautifully for me. Truly, I said this in the last show. I have so many moments when I'm reading your books and talking to you where I think, how did I miss this? You're so good with helping us connect that.

But I also think about in this book you share a little bit about your personal story, that supernatural encounter that you had with Jesus, which was so interesting to me. I think everybody would love to hear a little bit about that story.

**RABBI SOBEL:** Yeah, absolutely. God is so good. I mean, I grew up in a Jewish family, went to Hebrew school. No one was a believer. I was working in the music industry, looked at the lives of all these famous people, and said to myself, there has to be more to life than just this. So began this spiritual journey with studying with my rabbi, but really wanted more than just

religion. I wanted a real encounter with God. So through meditation, I began to try and have this spiritual connection.

In the midst of that, there's some wild things that happened. One was I was meditating. My soul began to vibrate. It left my body. I went into heaven. I saw this king in glory on this throne, felt the power of God pulsate through my body. He told me I was called to serve him. I knew nothing about Jesus, but I knew that was him, his Hebrew name, Yeshua. The next thing I know is I'm down in my body, shaking under the power of heaven going, I'm called to serve him! But I didn't come to faith at that time because I never had anyone share the gospel with me before. I just knew Jesus was real and there was something powerful about him.

And then there's a part of the story that I don't usually tell that I talk about in the book, which is I'm coming out of a place where I was doing yoga in New York City, and I step onto the street and this woman says, "Do you think truth is clear, deep and absolute?" I was kind of shocked because the front of my shirt said "Truth." The back said those words, but she couldn't see the back of my shirt. The next thing I know, and I was totally transfixed. She had these piercing blue eyes and she began to tell me the gospel. The next thing I know, I snap out of it and she's gone. I'm like, okay, God, just did something right here.

Then my best friend comes to faith. He tells me about Jesus. He said, "Can you tell the difference between the Old and the New Testament? He reads me this passage: "He was bruised for our transgressions, crushed for his inequities. By his stripes we're healed." I said, "That's the New Testament." He said, "No, it's Isaiah 53. The Jewish prophet speaking 700 years before Jesus ever walked the face of the earth. I began to be provoked to jealousy, and that kind of ultimately led me to receiving him as my Messiah.

**TAMMY:** How old were you then?

**RABBI SOBEL:** I was about 20 years old at the time.

**RANDY:** Just a practical question because, I don't know how many people have those kind of wild experiences. I know some people are a little skeptical about such kind of wild experiences, but when it all brought it back to Christ for you, what was the process then? Because that's the beginning not the end.

**RABBI SOBEL:** Yeah, yeah. So I mean, look, what we have to understand is that for a lot of Jews and a lot of Muslims, we need those supernatural encounters because there's such a high price to receiving Jesus. The amount of rejection by our family and what we're going to experience because it's so culturally looked down upon for a Jewish person to believe. So God needs to, oftentimes, give us that so that we really know for sure, because there's a high price to pay.

Then once they gave me the first New Testament I'd ever seen, and I read it, I was blown away how Jewish it was, the messianic prophecies. I was like, okay, he's the One. He's the One Moses and the prophets spoke of. My mom found the Bible. She's like, "What is this that I found in your room? You've joined a cult! Go meet with the rabbi." That really drove me, because I knew I was going to have to meet with the rabbi. So I got my Hebrew Bible and my Tanakh, and I had to look at all the messianic prophecies to make a case to meet with the rabbi. That began the importance of me saying the connections between the old and the new are really important for giving a solid foundation for our faith.

That's what we're doing in the book, in a sense. And we want people to experience Jesus in high definition.

**TAMMY:** I love that. Can I ask you a personal question, too? When I hear about your journey, really to ultimate faith, what did you do with doubt? Did you ever struggle with doubt as you were trying to investigate? You said you were researching, kind of grabbing all the information for your cause for Christ. Did you doubt? Did you ever go through a season of absolute doubt? And I don't believe this. If you did, how did you get to the other side of that?

**RABBI SOBEL:** Yeah, I think everyone has those moments of struggle. There was a season in my life where we experienced a lot of opposition from Jewish friends and Jewish family. There was a lot of pressure on us to renounce our faith. On top of that, God -- I mean, I had been in ministry for some time, but just doors were closing, things were not working out, and I was just like, okay, what does this all mean? Did I not hear from God? Is this? And I really began to wrestle. But then I think it came. I had to remember. Like I had to remember all that God had done for me. I had to remember that encounter with him. I had to remember all the times that God showed up in my life. I think sometimes when you can't see the hand of God, you have to learn to trust the heart of God. That's what I had to lean into and just stand on those promises, and remember the goodness that he had shown me.

**RANDY:** A very Jewish thing. An Ebenezer stone, if you will. That's what God's teaching us all through. Okay, let's jump into some of the life of Christ that you cover in *Transformed by the Messiah*. What do you see overlapping between the old and new that jumps out at you?

**RABBI SOBEL:** One of the parts that I love about the book is we talk about the triumphal entry in the third part of the book, and that Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The question is, why does he come riding on a donkey? What's interesting is that the donkey is very important in messianic prophecy. Abraham rode a donkey when he went to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah. It's a type of Abraham offering his only son, of God offering his Son. Moses put his family on the donkey when he rode down to redeem the children of Israel out of Egypt. Therefore, Jesus rides a donkey because he's greater than Abraham, he's greater than Moses. He's bringing about a greater redemption.

But the practical point is this. The word for *donkey* is chamor. You've got to get ckah-ckah-ckah-ckah. Chamor. What's interesting about that is it is also the word for the material or physical matter. And so the donkey represents earth. It represents physicality. Jesus riding the donkey represents heaven. Jesus riding the donkey represents harnessing all of earth, all of this physical world for the sake of serving the Lord and for the sake of serving the kingdom. The danger is sometimes we get so focused on the material things in this world, of trying to acquire things or to become successful that we get those values inverted.

That's important because think about it. We talk about it in the book. Why are the streets of heaven paved with gold? Is God just ultimately the ultimate hip hop artist? Lifestyles of the rich and famous? He's just showing off? Bling-bling! No! Because the thing that people most value and will do anything to get in this world is only pavement in heaven. It's a complete reversal of the values of this world. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Then all these things will be added unto you. Store up treasures in heaven, where the moths won't get it or the rust won't get it. There's an eternal inheritance for us. And so therefore I think we have to ask the question, are we riding the donkey or is the donkey riding us? And if the donkey is riding you, then, you're the donkey. This isn't Shrek. Don't be the donkey!

**RANDY:** Okay, that's so interesting. I don't think you talk about this. I'm curious, though. I just have to ask since I got you here. Right? Heaven and earth, the symbolism there of the donkey. We see that phrase "heaven and earth" throughout the scripture. My understanding is that when we talk about the heaven and earth and what Jesus is bringing a new heaven and a new earth, that a lot of that goes to the authority structure. So is he also proclaiming that?

**RABBI SOBEL:** Yeah. Well, yes. I think him riding the donkey is showing that he is king over all of creation. That everything will be harnessed for him and everything was created by him. Everything is for him. It all belongs to him. Even the fact that there's in one account of the Gospels, there's a donkey and her foal. So a mature donkey, the mother donkey and the baby donkey. One represents the old, one represents the new, it represents the coming together of the old and the new. It's the perfect fusion of ultimately heaven and earth and the kingdom of God beginning to come on earth as it is in heaven, being harnessed for the King.

**RANDY:** All right. Give us another little taste. I know we can't cover all of it.

**RABBI SOBEL:** Think about the crucifixion. Why did Jesus have to die on a cross? Well, think about it for a moment. How did sin enter the world? The first man and woman took from the tree so God put Jesus back on the cross, which in Greek the word is literally "a tree" for you and me to undo what the sin of the first man and woman.

Why were his hands pierced? Because our hands took the forbidden fruit from the tree. His side is pierced because Eve, the one taken from the side, led Adam into temptation. So he's not only making atonement for Adam's transgression, but also for Eve. He's birthing the new Eve, which is the church, out of the one birthed from the side, just like Eve was. His feet are pierced because what's the first messianic prophecy? Genesis 3:15, "The seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent." That's talking about the Messiah crushing the serpent's head. Satan's mocking the promises of God. He's like, you think you're going to crush my head? I'm going to nail your feet to the tree. Let's see how you're going to defeat me. Satan thinks he's foiling the plan, but he's actually fulfilling it. So the things that other people mean for evil in our life, don't worry, God will use it for good.

A crown of thorns on his head. Why? Because what's the curse of creation? The ground will produce thorns and thistles. He's literally taking the curse on his head to break the curse and to restore the blessing. Then that ties into the fact that just before that, he did the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, which is actually a Passover Seder, there's four cups. Why four cups? Because there's four aspects of redemption. And those four aspects are spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical.

So when Jesus died on the cross, he came to bring spiritual wholeness. He came to bring emotional inner healing and wholeness. He came to bring relational healing and wholeness. And he came to bring about physical healing and wholeness. That is the fullness of the abundant life and of the salvation which he purchased for us on the cross. Therefore, we can believe God for him to work in those four aspects of our life, to bring healing and wholeness to us. Not just our souls, but our emotions, our relationships, and our body as well. That is the full promise of salvation that we have in him.

**TAMMY:** What is your core message? I feel like I just heard what it was, but what's the core message that you want Tammy to get at the end of this book when I put it down and go, my goodness. Wow!

**RABBI SOBEL:** I think there's a couple of things. Obviously, part of the reason why we named it the way that we did is that we believe the life of Jesus provides the model of transformation for our lives. It's interesting, on the Mount of Transfiguration, the word for transfiguration that we talk about in the Greek in the book is actually where we get the word metamorphosis from. Right? When you think about metamorphosis, it's the picture of the caterpillar going into the cocoon, going through chrysalis, and coming out as the butterfly. So the word to transform there means that it's a transformation when our outer reality begins to match our inner essence. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus on the outside had no beauty that we should be attracted him, but there was this glory on the inside of him. There was something more. He removed what people couldn't see, the veil of his flesh and the glory was revealed. They saw more than what anyone had seen on the surface.

The truth is that there is more in us. There's more than meets the eye. There is the presence and the power of God that wants to change us from the inside out. So our outer being reflects the inner presence of God's Spirit in our life.

**RANDY:** I have a question about that because we all want like the end of that. We all want to be the butterfly outside of the cocoon. But isn't the pattern that life is the transformation itself? And so, wherever we're at on the journey, as long as we're where God has us, wants us to be, we can rest even though we're not at that final stage. Does that make sense?

**RABBI SOBEL:** It's a process. We so want to get to the end that we overlook the fact that the transformation is about the journey. They had a journey up the mountain. God changes us in the midst of the journey. It's about the going. It's not about the ultimate end results. But then there's a part of us that has to die, just like the caterpillar has to die. There's something in it that's more. But part of it has to die so that what it truly is can be revealed.

I think that ties into another thing. Jesus is buried in a garden tomb. Why a garden tomb? Because the fall happened in a garden, so it has to be reversed in a garden. So what's also beautiful there is that the word for tomb in Hebrew, which is *kever* is also the word for womb. How can the same word in Hebrew be for death? When we think about death or the tomb, we

think about, that's the place where you go to die. It can be the death of identity. It can be the death of a dream. It can be the death of a relationship. It can be the death of any of those things that we really want and love in our life. But here's the reality. Both the tomb and the womb are portals to another state of being, right? They both take us to a different place. They're both doorways to something more. So Jesus is in the business of transforming the tomb into the womb. The very thing that seems like it's going to be our end is actually the very thing that begins to birth us into our destiny and births us into our potential. So when we look at our life we have to say, what are those tombs in my life? What are those fears? What are those things that are trying to hold me back and keep me back from God and who he wants me to become? We need to identify the tombs in our life, and then trust that just like Jesus transformed death into life, he transforms our tombs into our wombs. It's not our end, it is our very beginning.

**TAMMY:** That right there. That is a word right there. I'm telling you, Rabbi, that is a word for somebody watching right now. You have been living in the tomb for way too long. It's become your identity. It's become everything you think you are. It has become everything you think you'll ever be. You maybe have even come to a place of thinking it's all I will ever be and it will ever be. I'm telling you right now that word was for you. It is time to rise. It is time to move. It is time to get up and let God do something greater with the story of your life. It is not finished. It is not over for you. Your story has just begun. So rise up right now and begin to move into new life, abundant life, and all that God has for you.

If you want us to pray with you right now, please call us right now. You'll see a number right there on your screen. If you didn't even know what to say, it's okay. Just pick up the phone and someone will stand with you right now. We will believe with you. We will come alongside you right now and believe for new life. That new life has just begun today; in Jesus' name.

There are people right now also that are struggling for life that need to feel God's life breathing in their direction, and we get to be a part of that. I'm going to tell you, if you are able to come alongside us to help step in and bring new life to these people, all of us want to send you Rabbi Jason's new book, *Transformed by the Messiah*, because we're all in this together. We need each other and we need to stand in the gap for each other.



But right now, I want you to take a look at this. We come out on the other side. We'll wrap it up with Rabbi Jason. Watch this.

**Transition roll-in: [Others will Die]**

**ANNOUNCER:** *Failed crops brought on by an over 40-year drought in parts of Angola have sent villages into a food crisis. Mothers and their children are forced to forage for anything they can find to eat. The result is a silent killer called malnutrition that creeps in sending children into a death spiral if they do not receive help in time. Isak sits at the bed of a little one suffering because of the lack of food.*

**ISAK:** You're looking at a child that is suffering; suffering because of malnutrition and the related diseases that come with it, like TB and others that literally steal these children's lives. I've got to tell you that I'm tired of the situation. I'm tired of watching children die in clinics like this. Child after child, mother after mother whose heart is broken because of something so simple -- the fact that children don't have enough food. It's an injustice. The fact that in the world we live in today, with the abundance that we have, that we're not able to ensure that children like this don't suffer and die from malnutrition -- the painful death of starvation. Please! You've got to change that. You and I have to actually take our responsibility. We've got to do what we can do because we're able. You're able and I'm able. And together, we need to act. We can't be silent anymore. We've got to take that action. We've got to save their lives because we can. Because if we remain silent, the silent killer, malnutrition will win the battle again and again and again.

**Studio appeal:**

**RANDY:** We are able. You and I are able. I have been in a malnutrition clinic there in Angola, likely the same one that Isaac was just in, and seen a little girl who was extremely malnourished. Prayed for that little girl, and she died that night. It was too late for her. There was nothing we could do. We weren't able. But there are many more right now who need our

help. Your help! You are able. My question for you is are you willing? Are we willing to sacrifice a little bit? Are we willing to take action? Are we willing to inconvenience ourselves, to even consider, to think about the horror that is going on right now? Are we willing to face that and then step up and say, I want to do something about it. I hope you are, because Tammy, we know the consequences if we aren't willing to do what we're called here to do on this earth, which is to reach out to help the poor. It's all in the Gospels.

**TAMMY:** When I watch something like that, the thing that sticks with me, Randy, is hearing the cries of the mom, the mothers. I've been in those clinics, and I have been around those mothers crying. I know the ache of loss. I recognize the cry when you can't change something. I stood on the edge of the water when I lost the love of my life and I couldn't change it. So I recognize that. My heart can align with these mothers that are crying.

And yet, the difference is that we could change this for them. Not one more mother has to be crying out in pain at a clinic because her little baby has just died because of the lack of food. This can be changed. And I'm telling you, when I'm in those places and I see that change is possible, there's a fire that rises up in me. There's a hope that rises up in me to come back here and to tell you, I've seen it year after year after year, 16 years I have traveled with LIFE Outreach around the world, and I have seen the change. I've seen the impact of what mission feeding can do and how it can save not one, but another and another -- 350,000 that we're feeding every day, to millions of children that need food every day so that they don't die, and to bring hope to these moms.

So what does that look like for you and for me right now to get involved so that we won't be silent anymore? I know you have needs. I have needs, but I'm telling you that it's nothing compared to what these mothers are crying out for right now. Just a little bit of help from us right now. So for \$30, you will help feed three children right now. For \$50 you'll help feed five children. \$100, you will help feed ten children right now. For those of you that can, \$1000 will help feed 100 children right now to stop the cycle of death that has plagued these villages all around the world. We together can bring hope and we need to step in.

Let's not be silent anymore, Randy. It makes a difference when we come together. When we become that army, it takes a village to heal a village. So let's be that today.

**RANDY:** Yeah. And you know what? If it was my child, my grandchild, I would do anything. Why? Because of love! And that's what you do today. When you join with us in mission feeding, you express God's love to people who desperately need it. So I pray that you'll make the best gift you can. If this is your year-end gift, make it a good one. I can promise you it will save lives. We always do it in love and in the name of Jesus Christ. So go online, go to the phone. Make the best gift you can.

**FMF Cause spot 2025:**

**ANNOUNCER:** *Right now, across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves critically depleted and many areas experiencing devastating famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us every single day.*

*Through Life's mission feeding outreach, your gift of love can be an answer to a prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift, we'll send you "Happy, Healthy and Free." A powerful 31-day journey to help you embrace God's promises for healing, wholeness, restoration, peace, and joy. Step into the abundant life God has prepared for you.*

*With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the beautiful and soft "Perfect Peace" blanket bearing the words of Isaiah 26:3 as a meaningful reminder that those who trust in the Lord are never alone.*

*Finally, this is the last opportunity to request our 2025 majestic bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah" with your gift of \$1,000 or more, which will help feed 100 children in desperate need. So please call, write, or make your gift online today.*

**Studio goodbye:**

**TAMMY:** I hope you're going online and giving the best gift that you can give today. You must know it will make an enormous difference today in the lives of so, so many. For any gift that you're able to give today, we want to send you Rabbi Jason's new book, *Transformed by the Messiah*. You will love it and you need it in your life. Don't they, Randy?

**RANDY:** I'm still hung up on that womb; that tomb to womb thing.

**TAMMY:** I know it.

**RANDY:** I love that that's what we do in the mission field, taking that place in death. Jason, you've blessed us so much. Thank you for being here. I appreciate you so much.

**RABBI SOBEL:** Great to be with you all.

**RANDY:** We appreciate everybody else watching. Thank you for being here. Love to see you again next time here on *Life Today*.