

1/29/26

Week 5

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

Mel Chancey

“Hell's Rebel”

MALE ANNOUNCER: The following program is sponsored by friends of Life Outreach International.

ANNOUNCER: Coming up on “Life Today.”

Mel Chancey rose through the ranks to become Hells Angels’ youngest chapter president ever. This lifestyle eventually led him to prison and back to God.

MEL CHANCEY: And it was there, when I got locked up, that I felt the Lord again.

I was in them cells, and I said, “Whew, I left you for a little bit, but I’m feeling you now that I’m in here.”

Losing my freedom was my rock bottom.

[music]

[music]

RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to “Life Today.” I’m Randy Robison.

Blynda is joining me again. Great to have you.

BLYNDA LANE: Thank you. Thanks for having me.

It’s been really fun. We’ve had some great guests.

RANDY: It’s getting more fun because we kind of got—we’ve kind of got a crazy story today, and I love it because here’s the thing I want you to hear.

No matter what you’ve been through, no matter what your loved ones have been through, they are never too far gone, and we’re gonna prove it to you today.

Our guest is Mel Chancey. Mel, welcome.

MEL CHANCEY: Brother, thank you guys.

Thank you so much for having me. I’m honored to be here, and you took the words right out of my mouth about nobody being too far gone to escape the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

RANDY: All right, well, what gives you the right to say that?

MEL: Well, so, I was the Hells Angel leader for a dozen years and I grew up in a very strict Catholic home, Italian family.

I knew the Lord. I was an altar boy. I was the president of the student council of catechism.

My two older sisters taught at Catholic schools and everything, so I was that least likely boy to do what I did.

But I was a bodybuilding fan, I grew up watching “He-Man.” I wanted to look like that one day.

And when I was 16, I joined a gym right in my neighborhood, and I met these two guys that were 10 and 12 years older than me, and they took me under their wing.

“Hey, kid, you’re doing this wrong. Hey, Mel, you’re doing this wrong. Let me show you some form over here.”

And I did not know that they were members of the motorcycle club until a couple of years later when I seen them out on their motorcycles and said, “Wow, I didn’t know you guys were Hells Angels.”

And of course I’ve loved motorcycles, grew up loving the motorcycles and stuff, and then they took me under their wing in that life and showed me that, the motorcycle world.

By the time I was 23 turning 24, I now became the president of that motorcycle club, of the Hells Angels.

RANDY: Drugs?

MEL: Personally didn’t do any. Selling them, yes.

RANDY: Selling drugs?

MEL: Selling drugs, the violence, the women, the women.

I was—and it was so crazy, coming from the family I came from with my mom and the sisters.

My mom and dad were together 100 years. My mom hated that.

But I became that womanizer because I was that young kid, I was 290 pounds built, already looking like the He-Man character and stuff, I just didn’t have the hair.

And it took me down the path with the women, you know, the women and the violence. I say I got bit by that bug.

And now this time I’m not in that fellowship with the Lord anymore, you know.

Was I praying every once in a while? Sure, the hypocritical prayer, “Sorry for what I’m doing, Lord. How did I get here?”

But then the next morning going right out and just doing everything again.

BLYNDA: Was there a point in that, as you’re going down that path, that you had anything in you that said, if I keep going down this path, that there’s no way this can lead to something good?

Or did you just accept, hey, if I do this, this is how it’s gonna be?

MEL: I accepted it because I knew.

I had common sense, right, being raised in a good family, I had common sense.

And I knew somewhere it was all gonna crescendo and not end good, but I was committed already.

And you know, once we lost, I have some tombstones on my arms, some tattoos and stuff, and once we lost one of our brothers to the violence of that war, then I used to say, “Well, how can I leave now?”

I was a part of this that made this war happen, and I’m gonna just leave and get out of this?”

I was so far in the forest, the old saying, I couldn’t see the trees.

A couple of my friends that wanted to come in the club, and I detoured them.

I said, “This ain’t for you,” and they said, “Well, how are you saying that?”

And I said, “Because I can’t leave. I’m too far, I’m into this.”

And I had the tunnel vision.

And I just wanted to make the Hells Angels in Chicago the best, baddest crew that we could have.

BLYNDA: The best bad.

MEL: The best baddest crew that we could have, and through this whole turmoil, and—but then I found myself going away for a four-year prison sentence.

I had beaten up a guy pretty bad that was putting his hands on an ex-girlfriend of mine.

And it was there, when I got locked up in 1998, that I felt the Lord again, when I was in them cells and I said, “Whew, I left you for a little bit, but I’m feeling you now that I’m in here.”

Losing my freedom was my rock bottom.

RANDY: What was he saying?

Was it, was God angry with you? Was he correcting you? Was he—how did he approach you?

MEL: I felt very peaceful in there.

You know, I felt that peace, and I, you know, I knew the Scripture and I knew him.

I had that amazing relationship with him.

And when I got there, them doors locked, and I had to see my 70-something year old mother at the time, my Italian mother, coming in and crying in the visiting room.

And my, you know, 9-year-old daughter, and crying.

That was the hardest part for me.

Going back behind the walls with all the big maniacs was not hard.

And that's when I started speaking to the Lord and said, "Okay, Lord, I can't do this no more.

I'm crashing the car, so now I wanna give it back to you."

And I started running some Bible studies in there and getting back into the Scripture.

So four years.

I come home from that still fellowshiping with the Lord.

I said, "Lord, I don't wanna be a hypocrite.

If you know that I'm gonna go right back to what I'm doing, then let's just stop this here, if that's what I'm gonna do.

But I don't, I'm asking you, I don't wanna do that."

I thought I was a good guy now, because we weren't shooting guys off motorcycles and I wasn't selling drugs.

But the womanizing was actually worse now, because now I wasn't so focused on the club, I could be out in the nightclubs, and it was women, women, women, women.

And it was breaking my mom's heart because, you know, she wasn't like that, you know, my dad were together forever.

So now I'm home for four years and my doors get kicked in.

I'm out of the club.

I quit the club when I got off the non-association, and four years later my doors get kicked in on the racketeering law, the RICO law, and I was paying for the old stuff that I did through the '90s.

This was 2004 now.

So now I find myself sitting in a cell again with no bond, possibly looking at 25 years.

For the fed you gotta do 85%.

It was February of '05.

I was freezing in a holding facility in Illinois.

And I got down on my knees in that cold 8 by 10 cell, and I said, "Okay, Lord."

This is what I said, I go, "I'm not sure how I got here."

I go, "Hold on, let me rephrase that. I do know how I got here."

I said, "But here I am again."

And I said, and I felt him speak to me.

You know, I didn't hear his voice.

I just felt the presence of him there, and I said, "Full surrender."

I came home the first time, I gave you about 50%.

I still wanted to grab the wheel and run down them alleys, and the girls and everything.

I said, "This time, you're going in the driver's seat.

I'm sitting in the passenger seat.

I'm gonna sit on my hands, and I'm not touching the wheel.

Where you take me is where I wanna be."

And I didn't know what I was looking at.

I didn't get the keys the next day.

I tell everybody, I didn't get out.

So I got 111 months, which was 9-3, which was the sentence.

I felt a blessing for that because it could have been a lot worse.

RANDY: How much of that 9 years, 3 months did you end up serving?

MEL: Four.

RANDY: Four.

MEL: So I was home—I went away four the first time, I was home for four, and ended up doing this four.

RANDY: Back in the four.

When you were home the first time and you say you were 50% to God, right?

How did that sit with you?

Because I think, you know, even theologically, you know, when the Holy Spirit is inside of us and yet we're transgressing, we're knowingly doing wrong, it creates a dissonance there that is not comfortable.

MEL: I watched God take things out of my life a little bit at a time.

I say, like, a guy like me, he had to baby me, because if he just shut the door right on me, it might have been too much, right?

It might have been too much.

And he knows, he has perfect timing, and he knew what he was doing.

So leaving the club, quitting to sell the drugs, you know, I'm home and I just couldn't give the women up, and you know, and I look back and I had some amazing girlfriends in my life, but I looked back and I was like, "Man, I wasted years of these girls' lives," because every one of them thought they were gonna be the one to settle me down and change me.

And you know, they knew my mom and dad, and you know, my mom used to say all the time, "You're giving them false hope."

I said, "Well, yeah, but they know that I'm not exclusive with them."

And my mom says, "Well, they don't think that," you know, "you're giving them false hope."

So that's—I felt the Holy Spirit, and I knew I was doing wrong, but that was my addiction.

BLYNDA: So your second stint in jail, did you find that then to be really beneficial for your spiritual walk?

Is that where you got a lot of revelation about what full surrender looked like?

MEL: Full surrender, yeah.

I said it like this.

I said, "All right, Lord," when I was talking to him, because I never end my relationship.

I don't—it's very rarely I say "in Jesus's name we pray."

I do it for the devotional, but I'm fellowshiping constantly with him, right?

And I said, "Okay, this is your you've been a bad kid, you're gonna sit in a corner again for 9 years that I got."

But I'm gonna give you the memo, and the memo is give me full surrender.

Don't give me the 50%, 60%," you know, because you know, you wanna grab the wheel and run, and God's not going where I wanted to go, to strip clubs and staying out all night.

I, you know, I was never a really big drinker.

I never did any drugs, recreational drugs back in the day, so that was why I wasn't going out.

I was going out for the women and the party and the, you know, to be out and to be me.

So that's really where I got in there.

And then getting back into the Scriptures that second time in there, and deep knowing them, now I started seeing the Scriptures and feeling them in a whole way that I haven't felt.

I truly know now what it means, you know, when I say iron sharpening iron, what we're doing with everybody now, and they'll know you by your fruits, right, because a long-time friend of mine, Pastor Steve Troglio from the Firehouse Chapel in Chicago, knew me since I was 16, watched this whole journey with me.

I had some amazing people praying for me all through my life.

And he kept saying, "We pray for him," in the Firehouse chapel.

They say one foot from the gates of hell, we're praying for the lost, because some people in his congregation say, "Why are we praying for Mel?"

We're watching him on TV.

He just got his house raided.

They're doing these biker misdeeds.

Why are we praying for a guy like that?"

That's who needs it.

So Pastor Steve was always in my corner.

My mom, some amazing people from the congregation, were praying for me all them years.

That's why when you said, "No one's ever too far gone for the love of Christ," he's there, right, for the lost sheep and which I was the lost of, you know.

Like Paul said, the old Saul, like I was the chief of the sinners, you know, I checked every list off on the sin, running through it.

But I felt them Scriptures different, and now that I see what's happening and I said, "All right, Lord, you kept me from the tombstones."

I used to tell the fellows, "Keep a good spot on me—on your chest for mine,"

and they'd say to me, "Come on, Mel, don't say that."

And I'd say, "Well, how can you, how can—I'm the poster child here.

Them guys are trying to knock my head off on the other team.

They're killing us, and they're not—you know, save me a good spot."

RANDY: So who is Mel Chancey today?

MEL: I like to think that that I am a vessel and that I am able to reach the people that were the Mel Chanceys, you know.

And with the devotional team we'll be six years old in April.

And Terry Bollea, the late Hulk Hogan, is the one who gave me the "Jesus Calling" book, and started reading it, and here we are.

But the people that DM me and reach out to me are the lost of lost.

Motorcycle club guys, gangsters, street gang members reach out to me, and I think we all get that platform, from pastors to a guy like Tim Tebow, and you know, who's gonna reach who?

Tim Tebow's reaching people that they don't even know who Mel Chancey is, and vice-versa.

So I think that—

BLYNDA: I can imagine now that you run bodybuilding competitions often, isn't that what you do around—

That like you said, you have an opportunity to get into their world again and see how much lost there is.

Do you find in those moments that God ordains moments for you to speak into people's lives?

MEL: I say this, you know, we always say, me and Pastor Steve say, well, only God, but if I had a dollar for every time that he's put somebody in my path that came up to me and said, "Listen, we never grew up in a church.

We did not know the Lord.

Our family, we don't know Scripture one, we don't know if we believe.

We just don't know, but we've seen you on a podcast," or "We see how you are in this industry and how you treat people and what you're doing and how you share your faith with everybody.

We wanna know."

So it's just amazing, and I say, for a season like this God protected me, and all them bad judgment calls that I made and put myself in them positions, for a time like this.

RANDY: Do you get a lot of parents and grandparents wanting you to pray for their son, grandson, nephew?

MEL: All the time.

So we do, everybody DMs me or texts me and we do lift up people in the morning time.

So this morning when I did devotional, we try to keep it 20 names and under, because it's about 10 minutes.

And I put it up, you know, I record it on my phone and I put the devotional up and we lift the brothers and sisters up in the morning.

RANDY: I don't know how many people are in that position right now watching, but undoubtedly there are some out there who are in that position.

Would you just join with them in a prayer and pray for that prodigal?

MEL: Right now?

RANDY: Right now.

MEL: Absolutely, absolutely.

Heavenly Father, Father, we thank you for this time and this fellowship time that you are giving us right now.

And we ask, Lord, that hearts would be touched, that our brothers and sisters would know that nobody, nobody is too far gone from your love, that you gave us your love on that cross of Calvary, and your love is as far as you outreached your hands, and our sins are forgiven as far as the east is from the west, so may they understand that nobody has sinned that much that they can't call upon you, Lord Jesus, and be saved as your Word tells us.

"Call upon the name of the Lord, fellowship with me, know me, because I died for you and you will be saved."

And in your name, Jesus, we believe in your name Jesus, we pray and all God's children said amen.

RANDY: Amen, thank you for that.

And by the way, if you're watching, you're one of those and you wanna talk to somebody, pick up the phone, use that, and you won't get Mel, you'll get another believer though who will join with you and and continue in that prayer.

Don't underestimate the power of prayer.

I have one last question for you.

We talked about the prodigal son, right?

It's really a story about the Father.

You came back to the Father.

What did you find in the Father for you, the prodigal son?

MEL: That deep love and that yearning, that he was always calling me, he missed me that much.

And I knew that Jesus died for our sins.

I was, like I said, I knew that.

So for me to be able to come home and knowing, you know, let's kill the fattened calf.

Our son's home.

That's how I felt it.

I felt, you know, I shave my arms so I don't have any hair on them, but the hair was standing up on my arms when I said that in that cell.

And I got down on my knees and I said, "I'm home," and here I am locked in a prison, more freer than I was out in them streets.

RANDY: I love it.

MEL: I was free.

People used to ask me in the prison, "How do you walk around here so calm and so free, and you haven't even been to trial yet?"

I wasn't going to trial.

I pled guilty.

"You haven't even been sentenced yet."

I'm like, he's got me.

And I used to tell him, "Okay, Lord, I'm here.

If you need me to fellowship with one extra person."

I said, “Maybe if I don’t have to eat ramen noodles and honey buns for the next ten years, I would be glad for that, but I’m here.”

And that’s how I live my life today.

I don’t do anything be–

I pray on everything.

You know, and I’m not saying what I eat for breakfast, but I pray on all the big decisions, and he always brings me in that spot, and I always say, “Only you, Lord.”

RANDY: Yeah, we have a good Father.

We have a good, good Father, and that is foundational.

We want to share his goodness in the same way that Mel has shared his goodness with you today.

We want to show you another aspect of God’s goodness.

Watch this, and then we’re gonna give you a chance to be God’s love in someone’s life today.

[music]

[music]

ISAK PRETORIUS: So this mother would walk three to four hours a day to go and collect water, knowing that the water that she was collecting was dirty and contaminated.

But it was the only water available.

But two of her children got really ill.

She tried to take them to the closest clinic.

The closest clinic is more than a 12-hour walk.

She said if you leave before the sun rises, you’ll get there just when it gets dark.

Unfortunately, though, by the time she got there, her two children had passed away.

This story is so hard for me, because actually we’ve come here and we’ve put a water well in this village, not far from the very home we’re sitting in.

As much as that well is solving tomorrow’s problem, it didn’t solve yesterday’s one.

I asked her, “What would you say to those who made it possible to bring the clean water to your village?”

She would say thank you and she's so grateful, but then she became very urgent in what she said as she said, "But there's many other villages around here, many others that don't have a water well, that don't have clean water yet.

Please take water to those other villages."

She said there are many children dying in those villages because of the contaminated water that they have to consume.

And that's why from my heart, a broken heart today, I'm making a call directly to you, and I hope that it is directly to your heart to say please, please support Mission Water for Life, please make it possible for us to put wells in all of the villages in this area.

Please make it possible for us to do it now.

Now, it's an urgency.

You understand, when you listen to Catarina's story, the urgency of getting that well there now.

Not next week, not next month, not next year, but now because maybe, if it's next year, maybe another woman loses children in the meantime.

That's a price no mother should pay, and it's a price that I can't bear.

RANDY: I know those stories can be very difficult to watch.

Blynda, as a mother, what do you think when you see that kind of situation?

BLYNDA: I mean, your heart just breaks.

You look at it and you think no mother should know that pain.

No mother should have to go through that.

And I sit here and I think, you know, somebody watching maybe thinking, "I can't go there and actually help.

How can I help?"

And two ways come to mind.

You can pray.

You can pray for them.

And you can give.

And sometimes I think we get overwhelmed with the idea of, "Well, I can't give a lot, so is my little bit going to make a difference?"

But it's like God is the great multiplier, and what he does is he takes my little bit and your little bit and your little bit, and multiplies it together to actually make a huge difference.

RANDY: Yeah, you know, the boy in the Bible that gave what?

A fish and some loaves, depending on the translation you're looking at.

He didn't give a lot.

He didn't give enough to feed all those people.

What he gave was what he had.

BLYNDA: And God does the multiplying.

RANDY: And God does the multiplication.

And you know, we talk about praying for them.

Don't underestimate the prayer.

Please pray for all those people in need.

But they're also praying.

That's the beautiful thing.

They are praying and yes, many times they are praying, "God, send us some clean water, send us something so that we don't have to face death on a daily basis" or "Heal my sick child."

Here's another aspect of prayer I want you to consider.

You can answer that prayer.

It really is that easy.

When we look at our outreach, to drilling wells in some countries where you have to drill quite deep to get to clean water, and it can be very difficult to get to some of these remote areas.

But the average well costs \$4800.

Some of you can just do that, you can give a well.

I pray that you would.

You will change lives, you will save lives.

I know, I've been there, I've seen it.

I know what a difference it makes.

Others of you could give \$144, which on average would give 30 people clean water for life.

If you can give \$48 that will give an average of 10 people water for life, 70 years.

These are not just wells that reach down into water.

These are wells that are built to last and to keep contaminants out.

It truly is an outreach of life.

We have some wonderful gifts that we'd like to share with you, one of which I want to point out because it's a book.

It's called "A Life of Compassion."

I love this because it has so many of these images that remind us of the situation where we've gone in and we've been that answer to prayer.

But most of all, will you give generously, give as God directs, and know that you are giving someone life today?

Together we can do it.

We can be that answer to prayer.

ANNOUNCER: Every day thousands of lives are lost to waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five.

Through Mission Water for Life, you can give mothers hope and children a future as we provide clean, fresh drinking water, free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year.

Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 children.

A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10, and \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you "Discovering the Joy of Reading God's Word."

Whether you've read the Bible for years or are just beginning, this book invites you to experience Scripture in a fresh, more intimate way.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "A Life of Compassion" coffee table book, capturing Life Outreach's heart for the world.

Each page pairs timeless Bible verses with vivid mission field photography, making God's Word visible in action.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people, or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and request Life's beautiful 2026 bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

JOHN YEATTS: All week long we've been here talking to mothers that have sick children, or mothers who've lost children, or workers who are there in the village that are helping the best they can to make sure that children are not losing their lives to waterborne illness.

But the fact is, you can see right over my shoulder, this is the water source.

This is the only water source for this entire village.

And they desperately need our help right now.

And so I'm asking you, would you please help us?

Would you help us help this village, and villages all over the world just like it, receive clean, uncontaminated, good water that will be health to them and not death?

So right now, go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can.

We need your help, and we need to know it's coming.

Please go now.

RANDY: I hope you're going online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can.

Let's give them water for life.

You can be a blessing to someone today.

And boy, what a blessing today having Mel on the program.

BLYNDA: Thank you, Mel.

Thanks for joining us.

MEL: Thank you guys.

It's so cool.

BLYNDA: I'm seeing your shirt here says John 3:16 devotionals.

So you have, if we--yes, where can they find you and where do you do your devotionals?

MEL: So I do it on my social media, which is MelChancey316, and then that intertwines with my Facebook and stuff.

Monday through Friday, because we usually go out on the weekends, I record about a 10-12 minute, you know, I read from Sarah Young, "Jesus Calling."

I read the devotional from there, the passages on the bottom.

We open up the Bible, I open up the Bible, read the passages.

And then everybody can send in if they wanna lift somebody up.

So every day I get hundreds of DMs and they say, "Can you lift up Susie?

Can you lift up Michael?"

I tell the brothers and sisters we only need the first name and not the reason you're praying.

God knows.

So give me the first name and we do about 20 to 25 a morning.

We, you know, keep it in time restraint.

And we pray for them, brothers and sisters, and boy, in the last, we'll be six years in April, the last almost six years, we've seen some amazing miracles.

People praying for their loved ones and just God moving.

BLYNDA: What heart.

He has such a heart for the Lord.

It's so precious.

RANDY: A former Hells Angel, lifting people up to heaven.

MEL: If you would have told me this 25 years ago, I would have said, "What is everybody talking about?"

But I am so grateful.

RANDY: I love it.

So good to have you here.

MEL: Thank you guys so much.

RANDY: Appreciate you guys watching.

We'll see you next time.

[music]

[music]

[music]

[music]

[music]

FEMALE ANNOUNCER: Through Life Planning Services, we offer estate planning and giving solutions that provide tax advantages, income, and the satisfaction of supporting a cause close to your heart.

Call or visit Life Planning Services today.

LAUREN BURNS: At that moment, it's like I went into shock.

I thought I was dreaming.

MALE ANNOUNCER: Lauren Burns tells her covert international rescue story.

ANNOUNCER: "Life Today" is made possible by the supporters of Life Outreach International.

Your gift will be used exclusively for the exempt purposes of Life.

The ministry features specific outreaches as examples of the programs it supports and conducts.

Gifts are considered to be without restriction as to use unless explicitly stipulated by the donor.

The ministry is a member of the ECFA.