

9/14/2026

Week 38

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

Jacob Coyne

"Good Secrets"

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

ANNOUNCER: Jesus never chased fame, so why should we? Jacob Coyne reminds us that ordinary is sacred.

JACOB COYNE: And in those years from ages 12 to 30, Jesus is living a life of prayer and devotion. And if Jesus constantly did that, how much more do we need to do that? And I think that so many of us have a problem with that, especially in Christianity today, here and now.

We have--we wanna perform, we wanna do more and more and more, and I think it's so--

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RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to "Life Today", I'm Randy Robison. Blynda.

BLYNDA LANE: Blynda Lane here.

RANDY: How are you?

BLYNDA: Reporting for duty. I'm so happy to be here.

RANDY: I'm glad, I'm glad you're here, and I'm very glad you're here, because we're actually going to really kind of peel back some layers today, and for some people, this is desperately what you need to hear, especially if you're just really struggling with a lot of things, life in general, but-- Our guest, tell me about Jacob.

BLYNDA: Yes, so Jacob here, "The Secret Life of Christians", and I just want to tell you, you've got to read this book because this-- I've been a Christian a long time. This has so many incredible--it's like, the way I thought about it was like a tool belt. It just gave me all these new tools, and it's like, I kind of want to carry it around and reference it, because it's

written so well, you explain so many, just, practices, kind of everyday things that I need to be thinking about that will help me.

I just loved it, it was so practical, so we're so glad you're here. "The Secret Life of Christians", what does that mean, "The Secret Life of Christians"?

JACOB: Well, everybody has a secret life, right? The secret life is what you do when nobody's watching. And the thing is, when no one's watching, that's the most important part of your life.

Jesus had a secret life, right? And in fact, the Bible says that there's 18 years of Jesus's life that are hidden from us. There's nothing written about Jesus from age 12 to 30, and I love that, because we're trying to piece together what Jesus did in those years, and we can try to figure it out.

I mean, it says that Jesus was a tekton, in Greek, which is a carpenter or a stonemason. And in those years from ages 12 to 30, Jesus is living a life of prayer and devotion. He's getting to know his Father, God.

He's spending quality time with his mother, Mary and Joseph, his family, and he's doing handiwork. He's building doors and tables, he's doing ordinary things. And I think that so many of us have a problem with that, especially in Christianity today, here and now.

We have--we wanna perform, we wanna do more and more and more, and I think it's so possible now today to just grow up in the church, but never actually grow in Christ. The Bible says that Jesus literally would retreat, he would leave his disciples to go be in the wilderness, to spend time with his Father. And if Jesus constantly did that, he loved to retreat to go pray, how much more do we need to do that?

We need to have a secret life that's full of prayer.

RANDY: Can I ask, you use a phrase I wanna ask you about, because I know you talk about it in the book. You talk about performance. And I'm not here to, you know, make anybody feel bad for the things you do or the way you worship or express your Christianity, but I wanna peel that back just a little bit.

Performance faith would not be what we aspire to, but what we oftentimes fall into. What does that look like?

JACOB: Yeah, performance faith looks like the scariest verse in the Bible. Matthew chapter 7, verses 21 through 23, Jesus talks to these people that thought they performed well enough to enter into heaven. And these people say, "Jesus, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name?"

Didn't we cast out demons? Didn't we perform many miracles and signs in your name? We're the big guys, we're doing the stuff, Lord." And Jesus says, "Whoa, depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

I never knew you." That's scary. There's literally two options of what all of us get to hear at the end of our life. It's either, "Depart from me, I never knew you," or it's, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." And the performative Christian thinks that they're good enough just because of the things they do, and it's possible to literally do a bunch of Christian activities but never actually get to know the Christ.

That's the whole point. The whole point of our life here on Earth is to know God, it's to know and enjoy Jesus. But we just get too busy, and then we just start performing.

RANDY: You've never done that, have you?

JACOB: I've done a lot of that. That's why I wrote this book. I've struggled with that, you know.

Through 2020 on to now, I've grown millions of followers over social media, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok. I've got millions of people that I reach. I get tons of speaking opportunities, but there was one moment where I had a huge gut check in my own performative Christian world.

I'm in a green room, and there's another pastor in this green room. I'm about to go preach and he's like, "Man, Jacob, you're getting all these opportunities, you're crushing it, both of us. If we don't fall into sin, if we don't cheat on our wives and have some big moral failure, if we just keep going, you're gonna be the next big preacher.

You might be the next Billy Graham or Judah Smith. Just keep going and all the invites are gonna come your way. The honorariums are gonna get higher and higher.

Just keep going, bro." And I'm like, what are we talking about here? The green room should be a prayer room. I'm about to preach to all these people that need a touch from God, and all we're talking about is ourselves and our own empires that we're trying to build.

And I think that's so funny, it's ridiculous. And in fact, one of the pastors that this guy compared me to, he said, "You're gonna be one of those guys one day," that pastor actually called me via FaceTime a month later, and he gave me a warning. And he and his wife are FaceTiming me and they're like, "Hey, you know, we see you're growing, we see you're getting all these opportunities, this is so cool to see, yeah, yeah, yeah.

But here's the problem: you're a married man, and you have a growing family." Right now I have five daughters, I'm a girl dad. At the time I had three daughters, and he said, "You're on a rocket ship right now. You're getting all these opportunities, your ministry's growing, everything's growing and it looks good.

But here's what I know from experience. It is impossible to build a home on a rocket ship, so there's gonna be something that breaks. And it's gonna be your family first."

RANDY: I heard my dad say that to so many people, and I can go back and I can't, off the top of my head, think of one who took his advice who didn't benefit from that, and those who disregarded it or took it for a short time but then rode that rocket, and you see, you know, how far is this rocket gonna go? All the way to the crash site, right? It's generally what it does.

But, and at the same time, man, big crowds, Jesus spoke to big crowds, so I don't measure things by a megachurch or a small church and say, "Oh, one's better than the other." I think it's what you're talking about. It's, yes, the public influence, wherever God puts you, whether that's in front of five daughters or in front of, you know, five thousand people at a church, that's okay if you have the secret life where you're spending time with the Father.

JACOB: Exactly.

BLYNDA: And I think what you're saying is at that season in your life, you didn't, but you made some changes so that you would. And what were those changes?

JACOB: I made a lot of changes. I grew up very charismatic in my faith, in Jesus, so I was told, you know, just feel it through prayer, just feel your way through prayer, and if you don't know what to say, pray in the Spirit, which is amazing. I'm grateful that I'm filled with the Holy Spirit.

But there's times in prayer where you're like, "I need some train tracks. I need direction. I need tried and true prayers that have worked from the early church till now." So I started researching, what did the early church do?

What did they actually pray? And one of them has changed my life, and it's funny because it's literally the shortest prayer ever. It's called the Jesus Prayer, and two men pray it in Scripture, but it's simple.

It's just, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," and that's it. I just pray that under my breath or in my own heart, or out loud throughout the day, because I need him. I need his mercy daily.

But there's been many prayers from the early church and on that I've taken as my own, and it feels like my life has-- it's a deep well now, in prayer. My marriage has these deep wells in prayer. My children, my wife and I pray for our children every Monday night now, and we have these prayers that we pray over our kids, and we're seeing God move in their own lives.

And other things, like we practice the Sabbath, and we weren't doing that before. I'm doing so much social media work, and I lead a mental health organization. So people always need ministry, the work never stops.

So on Saturdays I'm on my phone scrolling, making content, trying to help people, answering emails, and my kids are waiting to play games with me. They're waiting for me to go outside and play baseball with them, but I'm busy on my phone. So we cut that off and we started practicing the Sabbath, and it's not perfect.

We've got a loud house, and it's messy. But on Friday nights, my kids know, we're going into the weekend, we're gonna have this dinner with candlelights. It's gonna be fancier than most nights, and Dad's gonna pray over each and every one of us, and that begins from Friday night to Saturday night, no phones out, no work, I'm spending time with my family.

And it's been such a gift.

RANDY: And that totally tracks, and you know, I think it's important for us to remember that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So as soon as we start to codify it and legalize it, I think it just loses it. But what it is is it's stopping your work.

In a sense, when Jesus was in the thick of his ministry, he would stop his work and you go-- the trap is easy. It's like, "Oh, I have to do what I'm called to do. Time is limited, time is short.

The world's going to hell in a handbasket. I gotta--it's up to me," and yet God's going, "No, take that break, even from the work I've called you to, just to rest in me." And for you right now, in this season, it means the family that he's entrusted you with.

JACOB: That right.

BLYNDA: All throughout the book it's establishing these new rhythms. So maybe somebody watching today isn't a social media influencer, but they find themselves in their own distraction. They have their own way of the world tugging at them.

And how would you encourage somebody to find a new rhythm, a new way of doing something? You had to make kind of some radical changes, even so you moved. You had to move locations.

Not everybody's gonna do that, but what ways can you encourage them to find and establish these new rhythms of attention toward God?

JACOB: Yeah, I would just say, like, if you love somebody, you're going to want to spend time with them. You're going to want to schedule time with them, like if you're married. I schedule time with my wife, I still take her on dates, because you love that person.

So start with mornings. Schedule time out with God, wake up earlier, and just talk to him. Pray every morning, start your day in the Word of God, Before you doomscroll, feed your soul, read the Bible.

And I just want to encourage those watching, even Peter, an apostle, a disciple of Jesus, needed to learn this. There's a story where Peter, who's a fisherman, and James and John, who are other fishermen, they're on a boat with Jesus and the rest of the disciples, they're on the Sea of Galilee, and there's a terrible storm that hits them. And Jesus, what is he doing during this storm?

BLYNDA: Sleeping.

JACOB: He's sleeping, and he has a pillow somehow. Like, they threw that in there. Like, how does Jesus have a pillow on a boat?

So he's sleeping, and the disciples are losing their minds. These fishermen are losing-- it must have been a crazy storm, right? So they shake-- "Wake up, Jesus, Jesus, help us!

Can't you tell we're about to drown? We're gonna die!" So Jesus wakes up out of this nap, and he rebukes the storm, of course, with just a word, but then he rebukes the disciples and he says, "Ye of little faith, why did you doubt? And I've heard so many pastors preach that before, where they're like, "Man, they should have let Jesus take a nap.

They had the authority in Jesus's name to rebuke that storm themselves. That's why Jesus rebuked them."

RANDY: I don't think they knew that yet.

JACOB: I know, they didn't know that, they're still growing! So here's what I think Jesus was telling them to actually do. So in the very beginning, when Jesus calls them, Jesus says, "If you want to be a disciple of mine, what do you need to do?

You need to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow me. Do as I do."

RANDY: That's the whole rabbi thing in Jewish culture, is you follow the rabbi and you do what he does.

JACOB: Yes, so what should they have done?

BLYNDA: They should have all been sleeping.

JACOB: They should have been sleeping, which is crazy faith, but they should have been like, "All right, well, Jesus said follow him, so I guess-- I didn't pack a pillow, but I'm gonna lay down next to Jesus and trust that this storm is about to pass."

BLYNDA: That's so good because what a challenge to all of us.

JACOB: Oh my gosh, yeah.

BLYNDA: We just need to be doing what our Father's doing.

JACOB: Yeah, that's it. The storm will pass. And it took Peter 14 years to get it.

So for those listening, if you're struggling right now, maybe you've been a Christian for years. Even Peter, it took time for him to grow in fruit in this situation. Many of us go through storms, many of us go through turmoil.

Fourteen years after this incident on the Sea of Galilee, Peter is now arrested. Jesus has been crucified, he's raised from the dead. He's now ascended at the right hand of the Father, and Peter has just lost one of his best friends, James.

James was just killed, the first disciple of Jesus, the first apostle to be martyred, and now Peter's next. The very next day, it looks like Peter's going to die. So Peter's in another storm right now, he's in jail.

And the night before he's about to be killed, what is Peter doing? They put chains on his hands and his feet. There are two guards at his head, around his head, by his head, and two at his feet.

Like, these guys were afraid of Peter. So what is Peter doing? Is he screaming at the top of his lungs like he was on the boat?

Is he pacing around? Is he begging these guys, "Please give me another chance, I won't do this anymore"? No, what is Peter doing?

He's asleep. He's sleeping!

RANDY: One thing I do wanna ask you about that you do talk about in the book, and this goes to a lot of our audience, a lot of people that view who are like us. Blynda, you're a grand-- are you a grandparent?

BLYNDA: I'm a grand--yes, of the most precious little boy.

RANDY: And a lot of our audience, you know, we have grandchildren, or like my mother, great-grandchildren. Your grandmother prayed for you.

JACOB: She sure did.

RANDY: Tell the impact that made, because I know if anyone's out there watching that might just need a little encouragement from that, they're gonna hear it.

JACOB: She's gonna be-- she watches this show, so she's gonna love this, she doesn't even know.

BLYNDA: What's her name?

JACOB: Her name's Linda.

BLYNDA: Hello, Linda.

RANDY: This is for Linda.

BLYNDA: Hello, we love you, Linda.

JACOB: Yeah, I was just the worst. I was so rebellious as a teenager. I was sneaking out all the time, living a life of-- a double Christian life.

I would go on mission trips and then I'd come back and I'd smoke marijuana. But my grandma prayed for me. She just said, "For Jacob and Jonah," my brother, "there's a call of God in your life," and she would just pray Psalm 91 over us.

She'd pray Scripture over us day and night, and she would rebuke the enemy's plans over our lives so that God's plans would prevail. So one day, God met my whole family. My dad went to a men's Bible study, and God got a hold of him that night.

My dad was also rebellious, and we were just kind of following in those footsteps a bit. But he came home and he looked different. He walked into the room, I'm playing video games in the basement, but his face was shining.

There was something different about my dad. And there was so much darkness in me at the time where I was afraid as he got closer to me. I'm like, "What is this?

What's going on?" And I'm like, "Dad, what are you doing? What happened to you tonight?" And he's like, "I gave my life completely to Jesus. I'm delivered, I'm filled with the Spirit, and things are about to be different in this home now." And so I confessed my sins to my dad right there, and he said, "It's okay, God forgives you.

Do you want to give your life completely to Jesus?" And I'm like, "Yes, I do." So he didn't know how to do it, so he's like, "You gotta wait until next Monday at the next Bible study. They'll help you out." So all week long I'm like, "I can't wait for Monday night, I can't wait." So we go, and the moment I walk into this room, there's like 30 men at this little house, they all had the same look that my dad had. They had love in their eyes, it was real, they had Jesus, they knew Jesus.

The Holy Spirit was in that room. So I'm already crying, and it's led by this 75-year-old man named Eldon Blandford, and he watches this show too. He's gonna appreciate this.

So I sit down, and he preaches on forgiveness. He preaches on the story of the Prodigal Son, and I was a prodigal son, for sure. So I raised my hand at the end and I said, "Eldon, can you please do whatever you did to my dad a week ago?

I want this so bad. I want this deliverance thing. I want salvation, I want the Holy Spirit.

Please help me." And I just confessed my sins again to all these men. So he comes over to me, puts his hand on my shoulder, and he prays. And I felt darkness just leave me, one by one, all the strongholds in my life left, and I gave my life completely to Jesus.

I was filled with the Holy Spirit, and I have been burning for Jesus, in love with Jesus, ever since that day at age 16. It really started with the prayer of my grandmother.

RANDY: Your grandmother Linda.

JACOB: That's how it all started, and man, she's a prayer warrior to the core, man.

BLYNDA: And what an encouragement to all of the grandmothers and grandfathers watching and listening. The prayers matter, keep going. Don't give up on praying.

God's got your kids and your grandkids.

JACOB: And God sees-- you don't have to be famous to change the world. You don't have to have a platform to change the world. God is working through ministers and he's working through mothers, every single day.

We really need to start living for an audience of one. That's all that matters. It's God's opinion that matters most, and he sees the hidden life.

RANDY: And that's where it all begins. It begins in that secret life and flows out of it. And so, you know, we want you to experience that, and if you would like Jacob's book, it's available wherever you get books, but we would also like to send it to you if you will do something, because we have seen the prayers, the faithfulness, the support of so many viewers just like you change lives around the world, and as we roll into Christmas this year, we wanna do it again and we want to invite you into that.

Take a look at this.



ANNOUNCER: As the world celebrates the birth of Jesus this Christmas, Life Outreach International is once again celebrating this good news in a very special way: with shoes. Yes, shoes! We, along with our mission partners located throughout the world, have provided millions of children with the gift of shoes, children who in many instances have never had a new pair of shoes.

ISAK PRETORIUS: We all celebrate different holidays around the world, but a holiday that's pretty common to most of us is Christmas, and that's what it feels like here today. It feels like Christmas for us, because we are getting to do one of the most incredible things, and that is to bless these children with a pair of shoes.

ANNOUNCER: It's because of friends like you that we have been able to reach into remote areas every year, providing the gift of shoes and sharing the good news of Jesus. This year we want to once again see children's faces light up with smiles as they receive a new pair of shoes. Unfortunately, there are children who can't smile because they suffer from a condition known as cleft lip or cleft palate.

The good news is our annual Christmas Smiles outreach allows us the opportunity to minister to some of the world's poorest children who have no hope of correcting their condition with surgery.

DR. ANDREW HODGES: But thanks to Life Outreach International, we're able to make lasting changes in children's lives through corrective surgery.

ANNOUNCER: Life Outreach has partners who work with some of the world's most skilled surgeons, who have performed thousands of corrective surgeries for children. These surgeries not only protect them from health-threatening issues, but provides the gift that lasts a lifetime, the gift of a smile. So this Christmas season, as you gather with loved ones and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus, demonstrate his love for others by providing shoes and smiles to children in need.

RANDY: Please go online or go to the phone. Let's give shoes and smiles. Your gift of \$36 today will provide 10 pairs of shoes.

That's 10 children that will receive a special gift this year because of your love. Or a gift of \$72 will provide that for 20 children. A \$180 gift today will help provide 50 pairs of shoes, and you know, if you're able to give a gift of \$1000, that would provide two corrective surgeries, which are about \$500 each.

By the way, no charge to the parents, the families, for those corrective surgeries. This is a gift. It's the time of gifts and giving freely, and that's what we want to do.

But we can't do it without your help. I just love seeing the smiles, you know.

BLYNDA: The smiles, I know, and I loved when I heard the doctor say something about him saying "lasting," like, what we're doing gives them a lifetime change. Like, it's pretty amazing that for \$500, a child's life is changed forever. And, you know--

RANDY: And their health.

BLYNDA: And their health, because there's actually a lot of really bad things that happen when that's not corrected.

RANDY: Right, right, right. We don't think about that here. It happens in our country, we don't think about it because it's corrected.

But they don't have the ability to do it, but we have the ability to step in and do something good. So yeah, I love that, and you know, of course, all of our outreaches, they are--either overt or just through the the process, we take Jesus Christ into the picture. We don't require conversions or things like that, there's no coercion here.

It's all done with the love of Christ, and that's, again, why we come to our audience, because we know you want to share the love of Christ and express that love of Christ.

BLYNDA: And you are the hands and feet of Jesus.

RANDY: Absolutely, yeah. Let's reach out, let's be Christmas to some children around the world this year.

ANNOUNCER: Poverty is a killer, and because of it, children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water, but also from things we often take for granted, such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes, and while that may seem minor, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of painful infections, injury, and life-threatening diseases. But this Christmas, you can bring hope and healing.

Your gift today will help provide new shoes for 150,000 children in time for the holidays, and for some children, a beautiful new smile. Your gift of \$36 will help provide shoes for 10 children. \$72 will help provide for 20, \$180 will help provide shoes for 50, and a gift of \$500 will help provide a cleft surgery, restoring a child's smile for a lifetime. As a thank-you for your gift, please request the first-time-ever dual-color crystal shoe ornament with beautiful green and red accents.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake box set, featuring five of Life's colorful crystal shoe ornaments. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes, or corrective smile surgeries for two children, and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd". Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

BETTY ROBISON: You know, I'm standing here with these children, and they're just a small example of children all over the world that they deserve to be considered and loved and cared for. And we have an opportunity to do that right now, among these children and those around the world, to put some shoes on their feet, to give them a chance in life, and I ask you to help us do that. It's just a simple request, but a very urgent and important one.

Please join with us. You'll get such a great joy out of it, I know you will. God bless you and thank you.

RANDY: I hope you're going online, going to the phone, making the best gift you can. We're gonna make this Christmas so special, and it's all because of you. And today, if you request Jacob Coyne's book "The Secret Life of Christians", we would love to send it to you.

Blynda, we know it will bless people.

BLYNDA: It's going to bless. It has blessed me, it's going to bless so many. But also, not just are you a pastor, you have a ministry called Stay Here.

Can you tell us about that real quickly?

JACOB: Yeah, Stay Here exists to stop suicide in every generation, and we help individuals, we serve churches, businesses, and we see an average of seven lives saved from suicide every single day with our resources. So if you wanna check it out or if you need free therapy, you can go to our link. It's www.stayhere.live, L-I-V-E.

RANDY: Great resource, thank you, man. Appreciate you being here.

JACOB: It's been an honor.

RANDY: Appreciate all of you guys being with us. Please come back. We'll see you again next time on "Life Today".

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TIM TIMMONS: So they gave me five years to live, 25 years ago.

ANNOUNCER: How God gave Tim and Hilary Timmons the strength to wake up again, tomorrow.

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