



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: As I See It – Part 2

Guest(s): Cathe Laurie

Air Date: October 25, 2024

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Dr. James Dobson: Hello everyone. I'm Dr. James Dobson and you're listening to Family Talk. Yesterday, we were talking with Cathe Laurie. She is a wife and grandmother and the author of a book which we were discussing entitled, *As I See It*. She's also the co-founder of Harvest Christian Fellowship. At the end of the program, we were discussing the meaning of life from a Christian perspective, and that took us into those difficult periods when God doesn't seem to make sense. That's a subject that I've addressed many times and I've even devoted a book to it. Cathe, let me have you talk about it from your perspective because you've been there. You've experienced tragedy in your own family because you lost a beloved son, didn't you?

Cathe Laurie: We have two boys. Christopher, our firstborn, he was 33 years old and it was the happiest time of our lives, Dr. Dobson. For my husband Greg in particular because he had suffered so much as a young person in a dysfunctional home with no one who he could really call a father, he made it his determined purpose that his family would always know that he was there and the love that he had for them. And Christopher had a few years in high school where he wandered and lived a prodigal life, not ever disrespecting Greg or ever even stopping going to church. He lived sort of a secret life of waywardness, but he came back with a vengeance to the Lord. And in those last few years of his life, he was fully serving Jesus. He was working as the art director at our church and Greg and he had the most intimate and close relationship a father and son could ever have.

It was really the most joyous time of our lives. He had married, he had a little girl named Stella, was on his way to church. He was working, as I said, as the graphic designer, lead designer for Harvest Ministries. And on his way there, he met a terrible accident. There was a car that was street sweeping the carpool lane and the cones and the lights that had warned the cars behind that there was a vehicle in front were not lit, and he plowed into the back of that unexpectedly and his life was instantly over.

Now, we didn't know that. That morning I was at home having a Bible study with his wife, Brittany, and her mother and Greg could not get a hold of Christopher that morning. He kept calling his cell phone, no answer, no answer. He asked Brittany where he was and she said he was on his way to church and he had left

an hour. He should have already have arrived. So Greg began to get worried. We were calling the church. No one knew, and the reason no one knew was because his life had been taken suddenly and he was already in the presence of the Lord. For Greg and myself, it was so traumatic. He was just gone, gone from our lives and we had no chance to prepare for that. It came so suddenly out of the blue. It was a trauma that occurred in our lives that I pray that we will never experience anything like that again.

Dr. James Dobson: Cathe, did the Lord carry you during that very, very difficult time?

Cathe Laurie: I felt for myself and for Greg that had it not been for the Lord, I don't think we could have gone on. When we heard the news, Greg walked into the house and just collapsed. He just crumbled on the floor and I walked over to him and then I looked over at my daughter-in-law who was expecting her second child. And all I could think of was, "Jesus, you have to get us through this." And I don't understand all about suffering, and I know that I'm talking to a lot of people that are listening to our voice and my suffering and our trauma may not be the same as theirs, but I do know that there is a God in Heaven who promises us that He will walk with us through our sorrows. Even when we don't have the answers to those sorrows, He promises us He will be there.

And can I tell you that my experience of the Lord that day and in the subsequent days, I wish that I could have that closeness to Him that I experienced as we went through those tidal waves. He was nearer than I have ever known Him to be. His Word was true. The Scriptures and the truths of Scripture and those specific passages of those who have suffered in Scripture became such close companions to me. I couldn't breathe without meditating on what God had told me in His Word. That was my life breath to get me through those days.

Dr. James Dobson: For many people when they go through times of tragedy, they often blame God for it and they feel like they can't trust him anymore. But in your case, the loss of your son, Christopher, actually drew you to the Lord instead of pushing Him away. You rested in His arms, didn't you?

Cathe Laurie: I did. And the reason I could, Dr. Dobson, and I'm so grateful, and this is one of my passions in teaching women the Bible and telling them the importance of knowing the Scriptures, is that I didn't just pick and choose the passages of my Bible that I became acquainted with. I read the Bible through and I knew that there were those who had suffered. In Hebrews, it talks of those who were suffering, not just the ones who were delivered, but the ones who actually were martyred for the faith that were put into situations where there was no happy ever after ending.

And it's very clear the Scriptures give us many examples of wonderful heroes of the faith that died and in their old age, and they were taken in a wonderful, comfortable way. But there were so many passages in the Bible that I came across that I realized I wasn't the only one who had ever suffered. These were saints in the Old Testament and the New Testament who became my close

companions. As I walked that sorrowful road, they gave me hope and they put my hope in the right place that God was in control even when I couldn't understand it, that He promised to bring good things, wonderful things out of tragedy.

Dr. James Dobson: Cathe, let me read for our listeners the beloved passage in the 11th chapter of Hebrews that talks about those people that suffered for Christ. And we'll start with the 37th verse. "They were put to death by stonings, they were sawed in two, they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted, and mistreated. The world was not even worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains living in caves and in holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith. Yet none of them received what had been promised and what they'd been promised is the coming of the Messiah. Since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." That's a wonderful encouraging, an inspirational Scripture for those that are going through hard times. Yes, it is difficult, but God sees it and ultimately we will gain the crown of righteousness for remaining faithful. I love that verse because even though these people were suffering, they didn't lose their faith and that's why they are listed in the Heroes Hall of Faith.

Cathe Laurie: And the Scriptures tell us that we aren't promised a trouble-free life. And I think that if we understand that we are living in a fallen world, we're living in these in-between times, between the already and the not yet. Our sins are forgiven. Christ has risen from the grave. He's given us hope and a future that we can count on, but we're not in Heaven yet the devil is still alive and well on planet Earth. And so we don't have the assurance that even as believers that we are going to never experience tragedy or heartbreak or suffering. But what we do have is a God who has promised in Romans 8:28 that He is working all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. And-

Dr. James Dobson: So there's a reward for those who remain faithful.

Cathe Laurie: Yes. And can I honestly say that just as the disciples we're on the sea of Galilee in the midnight storm and they thought they were going to drown, we know the story that Jesus came to them walking on the water, on the very storm, on the waves that they feared. And in that day, in that moment, Scriptures like that came vividly to my mind that in the midst of that excruciating news, I could lean into Jesus and say, "I don't see You, but Your Word tells me that You're there, that Your Word tells me that You'll not leave me or forsake me, that You are here with me to the very end and that You're going to walk with us through this heartbreak."

And we lived in the scriptures, Dr. Dobson. It was the thing that sustained us. And if we're allowing God to sow the Word of God into our lives, to plant those seeds, those Scriptures, in that moment, it's too late to call your favorite pastor to run to your favorite devotional, to call your best friend on the phone even if

those people could help you. What you need is a personal and living relationship with Jesus Himself.

Dr. James Dobson: Cathe, that ought to be your next book. You said that Greg has been telling you that, and I think he's right because there are so many people out there who are going through hard times and they need the Lord and they need the encouragement to continue serving Him even under the most difficult of circumstances. Cathe, you have a very effective ministry to women. We really should take a whole program to talk about what you're doing. Do you see yourself as a Titus 2 woman?

Cathe Laurie: Yes, absolutely. I see myself as that older woman who has lived enough life. I'll be 63 in a couple weeks.

Dr. James Dobson: You certainly don't look 63.

Cathe Laurie: Well, thank you. I think that that is the great privilege of my life. It is one that I feel more and more strongly, especially after the Lord took Christopher to heaven because I knew that sooner or later, everyone and the women, my congregation were going to face tragedy and difficulty and hardship and suffering. And I knew that what I had was not... I'm not a superwoman. I am not a great woman of faith, but I have a great God who has given me His Word and the Word of God was planted as a seed in my heart and when I needed it in that moment, He was there.

Dr. James Dobson: Let's go back to Christopher's life. I know how much you cherished him. He went to Biola University in Southern California and so did my son Ryan and the two of them were good friends. Did you know that?

Cathe Laurie: Yes, they were. I did know that. Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: I'm telling you that when Christopher was lost, it affected my Ryan very deeply. It was a personal thing for him, and I know other people loved him as well. And so it's difficult for you to talk about even now I'm sure. I should have asked you about that before I raised the memory today.

Cathe Laurie: No, it's fine. I know that God allowed me. The Scriptures tell us that we comfort with the comfort with which we've been comforted. And I know part of the purpose in allowing Greg and myself to go through what we went through is so that we might be able to pour into and minister to other people who have gone or are going through similar things.

Dr. James Dobson: Let's go back to your book. We started our discussion last time with *As I See It*, and you tell a number of stories, I think about 80 of them in the book, and one of them made reference to a time when you and Greg were out for a walk and you encountered a man named Roy. And in your discussion with him, you began to be aware that he might not know Jesus. Tell us that story.

Cathe Laurie:

Oh yeah. Greg and I would walk every morning in our neighborhood and we would come across pretty regularly, an elderly gentleman whose name was Roy. He lived up the street and just through passing conversations, we would stand for a few minutes because we were out walking briskly and he would stop periodically because he had congestive heart failure. And he told us that at times he had to stop to catch his breath and we'd come upon Roy and we began having conversations with him and Roy did not know Jesus. We were certain about that, and Greg would share little things with him along the way and plant seeds and just introduce the subject of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Well, Roy was very pleasant, but he would break off the conversation after a little while and we would go on our way. Well, one morning Greg and I were sitting at our breakfast nook at breakfast and we looked out the front window and we could see Roy taking another little break on the corner, and he would do that to catch his breath.

And Greg said, "Today is the day I'm going to go out there and I'm going to ask Roy if he would like to pray to receive Jesus as his Savior." And he went outside and I stood in the kitchen, watched Greg walk across the street and just take on the subject specifically and say, "Roy, do you know if you died today that you would go to Heaven?" And he said, "No, I do not." And he says, "Do you know that you can?" And Greg shared the gospel with him one more time.

And on the corner right in front of our house, he prayed to receive Jesus. And then within a few days we ran across Roy again and followed up with him, gave him a Bible, encouraged him to get into church. And he said, "Do you know that now when I stop because my heart, I have severe chest pain, that when I stop and I suffer, I think about Jesus who suffered from me on the cross?" And we knew he had taken that message of salvation and was able to understand that he had a God who loved him, a God who had also suffered and was able to be there for him.

A year or so later, Roy had a massive heart attack and went to be with the Lord in Heaven. And it just showed Greg and myself that ministry isn't just from a pulpit, ministry is in our neighborhoods. It's with the people that we come across every day that need Jesus. And if we'll have our eyes open and our hearts in sync with the heartbeat of our Savior, that we will reach out to them with the gospel.

Dr. James Dobson:

I wish every Christian would be aware as you are of this responsibility to the Great Commission, when we're out with people, when we're encountering people that we don't know, to look for an opportunity to share our faith with them. Because there are so many people around us who do not know Christ and they don't know where they're going and they have no hope of eternal life. We have to remember to do what we can to introduce those people to Him.

Cathe Laurie:

And you know Dr. Dobson, I think one of the big needs in our world today, people are more lonely than they have ever been. We are very connected through the internet and through social media, but we're finding more and

more and more, especially in younger people and isolation that has come because of our devices. We're too busy looking at screens and communicating via text messages or on social media that we don't have vital relationships with people. So the door is wide open for us who come not only from families where our homes are families, but our church is a family. We need to invite people to church to experience what the family of God can be.

Dr. James Dobson:

Cathe, I want to tell you a story that I have shared before and some of our listeners will have heard it, but it's precious to me. Shirley's stepdad did not know Jesus. In the early days when he married my wife's mother, after the marriage broke up, he was the sweetest man. Everybody loved Joe. His name was Joe Cubista, and he would go to church with his wife, Alma, and he would talk about being a Christian, but he never got specific about it. And we began worrying about him as he grew older because we really didn't know what his faith journey had been in his late eighties. We were really concerned. We just wanted the assurance that he was ready to go to Heaven. And so at an appropriate time, I asked to have lunch with him. I took him to a lunch and we sat down.

We talked about small talk and things, and then I said, "Joe, there's something I really have to talk to you about because it's very important. Would you tell me what your faith journey has been like?" And he said, "Oh, Jimmy, you don't have to worry about that." And I said, "Why?" And he said, "Because when I was nine years old," which means when his mother died, "The priest took me into a little room and talked to me." That stymied me because I didn't know what that meant. I didn't want to tell him, "Well, you thought you were Christian, but you weren't," and yet I didn't have the details. And so we just continued to pray for him. And he would go to church even when Alma didn't go. And in those days you did not talk about your faith. Well, time went on and he came down with leukemia and he was 90 and Shirley and I went to the hospital to see him, and I brought up the subject again.

I said, "Joe, have you made arrangements to be in Heaven with the Lord?" And he changed the subject, and I really got serious with him. I said, "Joe, listen to me. You're going to talk to me about this because it's too important not to discuss. I want you to tell me about your relationship with the Lord." Joe turned his face to the wall and he cried. I mean, he cried like a baby, and I knew something was going on.

And sometimes the hardest thing in the world to do is to talk to your own family about Christ. So we ask a local Baptist minister to come and pray with him and to talk to him. And he led Joe into a marvelous relationship with Jesus Christ. This man who never talked about anything personal, put both hands in the air and he said, "Jimmy, I'm saved. I'm saved." And the next night we came back and he said, "I feel so clean. I feel so clean inside." And he died several weeks after that. And when he died, he was talking about seeing the angels coming to him in the last days of his life.

Cathe Laurie: Amazing.

Dr. James Dobson: And Joe is in Heaven today because we wouldn't give up on him. I don't know what his relationship with Christ was, but now I have no question. I want to say to those who are listening to us out there, you have family members whom you love. You have people in your neighborhood, people that are even in your church and really don't know Jesus. Don't give up on them. Take them to the cross.

Cathe Laurie: That's right. Pray for them and pray specifically that the Lord would give you that opportunity to have a conversation like that. The Lord is faithful. He has this in His hands, and all we need to do is just be available. He opens the doors around us all the time or our eyes opening enough to walk through them when they happen.

Dr. James Dobson: Cathe Laurie, I've loved talking to you on these programs. I hope we can do it again.

Cathe Laurie: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you love the Lord?

Cathe Laurie: I do, Dr. Dobson. He loved me first.

Dr. James Dobson: Give Greg our love and appreciation for all he does, and please do come back and be with us again.

Cathe Laurie: What a pleasure and a privilege for me. Thank you.

Roger Marsh: Well, that concludes our powerful two-part conversation featuring our own Dr. James Dobson and his guest, Cathe Laurie today here on Family Talk. Cathe of course is the wife of Pastor Greg Laurie. She's a leader in women's ministry. She's also a wife, mother and grandmother, and she's written a book called *As I See It*, and we have that book linked up at our website at drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. You'll also find information about Cathe Laurie's book, *As I See It*, there as well. Now here we are less than two weeks away from election day 2024, arguably one of the most pivotal presidential elections our nation has ever engaged in and yet, have you heard the statistics about how few Christians will be voting? I almost said how many, but the number is staggeringly high for how many Christians will sit this vote out. More than 50 million Christians who are eligible to vote will not be voting in this year's presidential election unless we pray and intercede and intervene.

The only people who can really vote for biblical values are people who live by biblical values, and that's something that a lot of Christians, for some reason, have a rather interesting perspective on. Dr. Owen Strachan is the senior director of the new Dobson Culture Center, and he's written a powerful e-book

to help explain to us and the body of Christ why voting is an issue of stewardship. He's written this free e-book called *Voting and the Church: Why Christians Engage the Public Square*. And we'd like to give you a copy just in time for the election. As a matter of fact, it's a free e-book. You can download it today when you go to drjamesdobson.org/voting-and-the-church-ebook or just go to drjamesdobson.org/engage and you could sign up to receive the e-book. All you do is put in your email address, click on the submit tab, and they'll send you the link.

You can download the book. Very, very insightful. A great persuasive argument from Dr. Owen Strachan as to why Christians should steward our votes wisely on or before November 5th. Now, of course, the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute is a completely listener supported broadcast outreach. We rely on your prayers and your ongoing faithful financial support to keep this ministry going and growing strong. You can give a gift online through our secure website at drjamesdobson.org. That's drjamesdobson.org. You can also give a gift over the telephone. A member of our constituent care team will be happy to take your call when you dial 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825.

Or you can send your tax-deductible donation through the US Postal Service. Our ministry mailing address is Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code, 80949. Again, that's Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code, 80949. And if you listen to us on terrestrial radio, please drop us a note and let us know where you listen to us and what time as well. That's very helpful. Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for listening to the program today. Have a blessed weekend, and be sure to join us again on Monday when we'll hear a classic conversation featuring our own Dr. James Dobson and his good friend, Bill Gaither. That's coming up next time right here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer:

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