



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** Dr. Alveda King and Her Family's Legacy

**Guest(s):** Dr. Alveda King

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Dr. James Dobson: Welcome, everyone, to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh. And today, this day after Christmas, we're going to do something a little bit different. I'm stepping out from behind the announcer's microphone and sliding into the co-host's seat. And we're about to hear a broadcast that was recorded at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It's the largest assembly of Christian communicators in the world.

And I'm thrilled to announce that my guest for today's program is Dr. Alveda King. She's the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And the daughter of Reverend A.D. King, both giants of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, Dr. King carries on her family's legacy of service as an evangelist, author, and passionate pro-life advocate. She's the founder of Speak for Life, which empowers advocates for the unborn and also leads Alveda King Ministries.

Well, Dr. King, it is an honor to have you here on Family Talk. And before we begin, please know that Dr. Dobson and his wife Shirley have asked me to send their warmest regards.

Dr. Alveda King: Hi, Roger, and hello to all the listeners. It is wonderful to greet you in the name of Jesus, and may God bless us as we speak and hear and to use everything that God gives us in a fruitful way.

Roger Marsh: Amen to that.

Dr. Alveda King: Amen.

Roger Marsh: Many of our listeners, of course, are familiar with your family. They may not be familiar with your personal story. Let's talk about that. I mean, the fact that you grew up in the family that you grew up in, I mean, that's enough of a legacy in and of itself, but if you can give us the short version of that, for those who don't know.

Dr. Alveda King: If I can do this first, legacy family is so important to me. And of course, I was born into the same family that birthed to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and I want to talk about that. But I want to say, because I don't think that people ever hear this part of this testimony, Dr. Dobson and Shirley helped me to raise my children.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: Now, let me tell you how that happened.

Roger Marsh: Okay.

Dr. Alveda King: I'm an old lady now, 73. All of my children are adults, and I have grandchildren. But when I was raising my children, I was at my wits' end. I had six strong-willed children.

Roger Marsh: Ooh, boy.

Dr. Alveda King: And now, I have 11 strong-willed grandchildren.

Roger Marsh: Oh, no.

Dr. Alveda King: I didn't know how to handle them, and so I followed Dr. Dobson's ministry on *The Strong-Willed Child*, and I learned how to work with them because I had the kind of children, the Scripture, "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

Roger Marsh: Right, right.

Dr. Alveda King: So, I would try to spank them or do all that, and they would cross out, "It didn't hurt. It didn't hurt."

Roger Marsh: Yeah. What was that noise?

Dr. Alveda King: So, this is what I got. The Bible didn't say hurt the child, kill the child. And if you beat them, it didn't say do it for destructive purposes-

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: ... so I'm going to give you a spanking now. And then, we are going to sit down and read the Bible and figure out what we both should have been doing, and we are going to read it together. So, I grew up with my children and now my grandchildren with Dr. Dobson and Shirley's messages and lessons. And so, I wanted to say that.

Roger Marsh: Well, thank you.

Dr. Alveda King: Now, to answer being born into what I call a legacy family. Every family is a legacy family. God makes no mistakes. So, God has put us in the families that God chose for us-

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: ... to be born into. But in my family, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and my daddy, Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King, and their sister Christine King Farris, brothers and sister. And so, we were taught to love God. Daddy King was a preacher. His wife's father was a preacher, and his wife's grandfather was a preacher. Daddy King inherited Ebenezer Baptist Church as a pastor from his wife's family.

And so, I was raised by preachers, business people, creative people, educators, and people who were involved in government. And so, that's who you see before you today. We were taught faith, hope, and love to forgive our enemies. And we were taught that of one blood, God made all people to live on the face of the earth. We are not separate races, and my uncle would say, "We must learn to live together as brothers and [inaudible 00:04:25] sisters and not perish together as fools."

Roger Marsh: Beautifully put and so well-stated. And this living legacy that you have, even today, something else you and Dr. Dobson have in common is your commitment to the sanctity of human life and-

Dr. Alveda King: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: ... you were named one of the 50 greatest pro-life leaders of the last 50 years. You and Dr. Dobson share a space on that list. Talk about why the sanctity of life is so important to you, Alveda King. I know you have a story to tell about why the preborn child is so important as well as the mother of that preborn child.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, I remember when Dr. Dobson began to get those ultrasound machines, and that was the technology that was being used in medicine. And he launched a whole crusade to put those ultrasounds in so many other places in pregnancy care centers and community places where mothers could see that baby in their stomach. And I remember saying, "I wish they had had that ultrasound technology when I had my abortions because if I had been able to see that ultrasound, I would not have had any abortions."

I ended up with two abortions and a miscarriage because of damage done to my body. Well, for instance, my grandfather, my mom conceived me, mom and dad, in 1950. And mom was a college student. Abortion was illegal, but they were doing D&Cs procedures to explore if you had a stomachache.

Roger Marsh: That's what they called it.

Dr. Alveda King: That's what they did. And so, mom wanted to get that exploratory process because she, "If I am pregnant, I don't know what to do." And my granddaddy, she and her mother, Big Mama Bessie, went to their pastor. Mom and dad were engaged to be married. They got married before I was born, actually. But granddaddy said, "That's an abortion. You can't do that. That's my granddaughter. She has bright skin and bright red hair, and she's going to bless many people." Now, prophetically, that was my prophetic ultrasound.

Roger Marsh: Oh, that's wonderful.

Dr. Alveda King: And so, the ultrasound of course has saved many, many babies since those times and those days. I repented in 1983 and received Jesus Christ, not his granddaddy's God or daddy's or Uncle Mel's God. Mama's. Jesus became my Lord in 1983. So, I realized my whole worldview changed. According to the Bible, "Choose life so that you and your children can live." And my whole mindset changed in '83. So, where I had supported women's rights, which included abortion prior to that, had been elected to public office on various platforms. I said, "No, this is a human being regardless of skin color, regardless of community, regardless if it's a boy or a girl, it's a human being."

And from that day on, '83 till today, I have shared the message with Dr. Dobson, supported the ultrasound ministry, the pregnancy care centers, the elect people who believe in human life from the womb to the tomb and beyond. That philosophy came. Really, lights came on the moment I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

Roger Marsh: Dr. Alveda King, you mentioned your time spent serving in the state legislature in the state of Georgia. It was a tough time for a lot of people, especially for those in the Christian faith and pro-life community. Has you seen it change? I mean, I look at the Dobbs decision. What was your reaction to that when you first... June 24th, 2022, what a great day that was for so many people who wanted to see Roe versus Wade overturned. What was your initial reaction?

Dr. Alveda King: One of my granddaddy, Daddy King's favorite Scriptures was, "Write the vision and make it plain, so that those who see it can run with it." And truth has to be told, the Bible talks about generations to come. Teach your children and your children's children and your children's children's children.

So, moving forward, if truth is not told in every generation, every decade and on every platform, people forget. So, when we look at the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the *Dobbs* case, it didn't just happen overnight.

Roger Marsh: Right.

Dr. Alveda King: It didn't just happen in a vacuum or anything like that. There were years and years of people proclaiming gospel truth that human life is sacred. And when we forget to proclaim that truth, then people forget, and so that's when bad things

happen. And there's a Scripture, "When bad things happen, it's because good people do nothing."

And I have a saying, "When peripherals collide, convergence is imminent." That can be for good or bad. When a lot of bad things happen, they all come together, and they make up evil. But when people do what's right, trust each other, love each other, repent, ask for Jesus to come into their lives, then whatever our gifts and talents happen to be, they can become useful when we serve each other and we serve God.

So, understanding that I can take no credit really for the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, but I could take credit, we all can because everyone who pray, "God, that's a bad law. Fix it." We all together, our prayers, our efforts, our governmental efforts, our serving efforts, our protest in front of those abortion middle efforts, those were needed too. When you put all of that together, then you see hearts change.

And I'm so excited to be at NRB, and that's where we are recording this. I'm seeing so many young people and without the young and without their voices and the technology, then we can't do it. I would say to people not to be afraid in this space. That's my song, Occupy. In the spaces in between, don't be afraid. Satan has a title, Prince of the Power there, but it's just a title. Jesus has all authority. He has given us authority. He says, "Occupy till I come." And He's given us authority to tread on snakes and scorpions. "Do not fear. Fear not."

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Dr. Alveda King: Knock out the uncircumcised Philistines.

Roger Marsh: Oh, I love it. That's exactly where we need to be. You talked about how Dr. Dobson helped you with your six kids and now you're 11 strong-willed-

Dr. Alveda King: Grandkids.

Roger Marsh: ... grandkids.

Dr. Alveda King: Yeah.

Roger Marsh: Oh, my goodness. And good for you, lots of copies of *The Strong-Willed Child*.

Dr. Alveda King: Still, and it's so relevant right this minute.

Roger Marsh: It is. It is. It's perfect. When you were younger, I mean, think about when you were born, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing when you were in those very impressionable years, middle school. What was that like at home? What was it like seeing, hearing the conversations behind the scenes that we didn't

see? We saw the marches, we saw the protests. We didn't hear the strategy sessions, especially.

Dr. Alveda King: I learned the truth of those strategy sessions the hard way when my Uncle Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed. Well, let's go back to 1963, before that. That was '68. So, we were in Birmingham, Alabama, and Birmingham was often called Bombingham because there was a lot of anarchy and bombings and hates over skin color in Birmingham. And our home was bombed.

It was the night before Mother's Day in 1963. Daddy was working on his sermon. Mama was sitting in the table. The children had already been put to bed. My brother was in the middle of the house. It was a ranch home. He was watching a war movie, and he had fallen asleep on the couch, and the bombs were going off on the TV.

Daddy gets up, Holy Spirit-inspired, I believe, walks to the front. He looks at my mother who's standing looking out the picture window, and the window had begun to crack. Dad said, "Let's get out of here. It's too quiet." He takes mom either by the hand or picked her up. There's two stories on that, I don't know. But they get to the middle of the house, the whole front of the house explodes. There were two bombs. First, they cracked the window. Holy Spirit had sent Daddy to get mother. He gets to the middle of the house, the whole front of the house blows up.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Dr. Alveda King: So, what I remember from that, they were trying to kill my uncle, Martin Luther King Jr., who usually stayed in our guest room, but God had sent him away. He didn't spend the night in that room that night.

Roger Marsh: Interesting.

Dr. Alveda King: And so, Daddy gets out on a car because the outside agitators, and that's people who are paid to go into a community and stir up anarchy in times of fear and distress. So, they were there, and then the residents of the community had come out of their home, so all of a sudden, people were flooding the streets. They were trying to turn the cars over, starting fires and things.

So, Daddy stands on the car. I don't remember if he had a bullhorn or not, but I remember him saying, "Wait a minute. Wait a minute. No, no. If you have to hit somebody, hit me. My family and I are okay. Please go home and pray. Please go home and pray." The residents who knew us heard that, they went home. So, all the people who were causing the ruckus were left out there.

And so, Daddy quelled that storm and asked people to go home and pray. I remember that. And then, in '68, by then the movement of Black power and

women power and free love and all that was going on. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed. And I remember saying to my dad, he was grieving, I didn't think about that. He was about to take my uncle's widow to get the body. And I said, "Daddy, I hate white people. I hate white people. Dad, I hate..."

"Alveda, you can't hate white people. White people pray with us. White people live with us. White people work with us. White people go to jail with us. White people die with us. White people didn't kill my brother. White people didn't kill your uncle. The devil did." He said, "Of one blood, God made all people to live together on the face of the earth. It has nothing to do with skin color. It has to do with the human heart."

So, that was a hard lesson, but I remember Daddy doing that. I remember my grandfather saying, "Serve and serve God and serve each other." I remember my uncle talking about love, and my daddy made me believe Jesus Christ was real, that Jesus walked on water and turned the water to wine. And that's why today, I'm able to forgive quickly and keep living.

Roger Marsh: That's so important for people to hear. You mentioned the agitators who come into certain areas. I don't think people realize-

Dr. Alveda King: They don't understand.

Roger Marsh: ... how many paid actors are the ones who show up. We think those are the citizens of the town.

Dr. Alveda King: Why are people burning up their own house?

Roger Marsh: Exactly. Exactly.

Dr. Alveda King: Why would you?

Roger Marsh: And we understand the passion, we understand the frustration, but we don't understand the destruction.

Dr. Alveda King: That's right.

Roger Marsh: And I think the beauty of what your uncle and your father instilled in you, and now the ministry you carry on with Alveda King Ministries, is that heart for saying, "Look, we want to tell the truth. What's really happening."

Dr. Alveda King: Yes.

Roger Marsh: And it's beautiful to see how God has used all of those moments in your life. What would you say now to the younger generation who's coming up and saying, "Well, Dr. King, with all due respect, you don't know what it's like to be

young and Black in America in 2024," which is it's 60 years removed. You've got a lot of wisdom to share with younger people who are seeing injustices-

Dr. Alveda King: Right.

Roger Marsh: ... and wondering, "Okay, what's a godly response?" What would you tell them?

Dr. Alveda King: I have that beautiful opportunity with my own children and own grandchildren. "It's hopeless. The world is terrible. You don't see anything. You don't know that." I say, "Yes, I know that, and yet I am determined to always overcome evil with good. And when we talk to the young people like that, that's where their hope comes from. And then, we have to remind the young," and when I say the young, that's even the little babies now almost into preteens all the way up, "they don't know their history."

Roger Marsh: I'm talking with Dr. Alveda King today here on the special edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk reminiscing, looking forward to the future. And moving forward now, you've mentioned the legacy that Dr. Dobson has had in helping you. Can you just briefly touch on that for just a moment?

Dr. Alveda King: When I sit and think about Dr. Dobson, Shirley, that whole legacy and that family, the days that I studied about *The Strong-Willed Child* with six children of my own with strong wills and now 11 grandchildren, and I talked to all of my children often, and they say, "Mom, we just still think you're great. You've taught us so much."

And one other thing, during that same time period with Dr. Dobson, Integrity Music had done a series on Bible music, and it's saying the Scriptures continually, continually. And so, I played that in my home and in my car and in the music environment, and my children always say now they're playing Scripture music to their children.

Roger Marsh: Love it.

Dr. Alveda King: So, it's important when we train up a child in the way that child should go. When the child is mature, the child will not depart, come back to it. I did, I certainly did. And my children and grandchildren are doing that. There is something that's occurring right now here in 2024, and I was so amazed by it. The fights over the national anthem, Colin Kaepernick knelt a while back, and everybody thought that was so disrespectful and so terrible. And now, there is another anthem Lift Every Voice and Sing, which some call the Black Anthem, Negro Anthem, which was written by a Black Republican in honor of Abraham-

Roger Marsh: Lincoln, right.

Dr. Alveda King: ... Lincoln's birthday, which is so funny. So now, people want to fight. Well, which anthem? I said, "Do you ever go to church and they sing two or three



different songs, and do you get in an argument about which song they shouldn't sing?"

Roger Marsh: Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Alveda King: So, we have a national anthem, and it says, "O say, can you see?" Well, we better see. We better see the truth. We better remember the beautiful history and all together as Americans sing that song, but I have sung that song, the national anthem, and then turn right around at the same realities. And Father Frank Pavone and I, for instance.

Roger Marsh: From your Priests for Life days?

Dr. Alveda King: From my Priests for Life days, would sing Lift Every Voice and Sing.

Roger Marsh: Oh, I'd love to hear that.

Dr. Alveda King: And then, we would say, but when we're not singing it over skin color, we're singing it for the babies. So, when we find ourselves splintering and arguing, that's strife. And we have to stop it, and we can do it If we continue faith, hope, love, repentance, forgiveness, embracing human dignity from the womb to the tomb and beyond. And even those who say, "Oh, well, the best thing to do for abortion right now is to say, 'We'll stop it after six weeks or 20 weeks or something.'" Why argue over weeks? Why not just try to save every life possible without killing anybody and serve the baby and the mother?

So, when we get bogged into fighting over weeks or now, this one is real crazy. You have to think about this, and I pray that your listeners pick this up too. Well, my uncle said, "Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. Darkness cannot drive out darkness."

Roger Marsh: Only light.

Dr. Alveda King: "Only light can do that." So, we admit abortion is evil, so how are we going to use evil abortion to drive out abortion by making a law of an exception? We are going to take this little bit of evil. We're still going to do it, but it's going to get rid of the other evil. Evil will not get rid of evil. It won't do it.

So, we have to find ways to serve people with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from the womb to the tomb and beyond. That includes the mama, the baby, the daddies, the grandparents, the community. And we actually can do it if we just enforce life-affirming laws that are already on the books because it's one thing to pass a law. But if the law is never enforced, it won't matter.

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen. That's powerful testimony. And you were talking music earlier, and I was just trying to envision Frank singing Lift Every voice.

Dr. Alveda King: We would sing it together, hold hands, "lift every voice and sing."

Roger Marsh: It's a beautiful hymn. I like the Clyburn suggestion of making it a national anthem.

Dr. Alveda King: And don't think about skin color when you sing it.

Roger Marsh: No, because-

Dr. Alveda King: Just don't do that.

Roger Marsh: ... it's such a song of unification, overcoming. I mean, Christians can relate to it. Everybody should be able to relate to it. Music has that power, and I know that's a huge part of your ministry, Alveda King. Talk about what you've been doing musically, and maybe we can even convince you to sing a little bit.

Dr. Alveda King: I might do that but-

Roger Marsh: You just might? Okay.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, one, I started singing it around the late '80s, early '90s. Thank you, Lord, for saving me. As a matter of fact, I'll just do that one right quick now.

Thank you, Lord, for saving me.

Thank you Lord for saving me.

Lord, you are my healer and you are my provider.

Thank you for supplying all my need.

Dr. Alveda King: Now, there's a YouTube video, Alveda King, Thank You Lord. So, you can see that you can occupy until he comes. Occupy. Jesus said, "Occupy and to overcome." So, we occupy and we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of-

Roger Marsh: Our testimony.

Dr. Alveda King: ... our testimony.

Roger Marsh: Yes, those great words from Revelation. Television has been a part of your ministry for a long time. You've been a contributor to Fox and Friends. You've been on Fox Nation's with *Alveda King's House*. You have a brand new talk show that just launched, a television program called *The Vision*. Take us through what the vision is all about. I understand it really got off to a fantastic start.

Dr. Alveda King: Well, we have a website, [thevisiontvshow.com](http://thevisiontvshow.com). And on the media dropdown, you can see the first four shows. There's a schedule of 24 of them, and we are

still in production. I'm working with Destanie Yarbrough, and we are co-executive producers. And my friend Day Gardner, who 10 years ago, we did a pilot called *The Vision*.

Roger Marsh: Really?

Dr. Alveda King: And we were tired of the secular show, *The View*. Now, we've got *The Christian View*. It's a good show. It's out there. And there's some other shows, the *Christian Vision*, all of that. So, we have joined that pool of overcoming evil with good with a Christian show, a Bible-based show, and we talk about different topics. We talk about hard topics, raising our children, the abortion issue. We were on with Lance Wallnau. So, it's exciting to join Destanie and four other hosts. We rotate as hosts, and we talk about heart issues and fun issues of the day.

Roger Marsh: True renaissance woman, Dr. Alveda King. Alveda King's House has a lot of cooking. I mean, that's a big part of your ministry too.

Dr. Alveda King: Absolutely.

Roger Marsh: Why is the culinary so important? I don't think people realize there's a real spiritual connection to preparing food, making meals.

Dr. Alveda King: There's a spiritual connection to the land, to the earth, to the soil. We've got the parables of where seed is sown, and it can only grow and prosper and blossom. And so, we want people to be healthy, whole in spirit, soul, and body. And we do that nutritionally as well. And interestingly enough, gardening was always my hobby.

But in 2023, I became a certified farmer with the USDA because I would, on Alveda King's House, and on my Christmas show with *The Vision*, and now we are going to do cooking rollouts. I grow herbs and vegetables in my home garden. And now, we are doing hoop houses with the farm and all of that, teaching people how to return to the earth to return to the soil, and then to cook good nutritious food. And I use some of the family recipes in my cookbook as well, and that's a lot of fun.

So, there's a lot of interest in cooking and also restoring houses too. We are in a time of restoration, looking for answers, looking for health, and so we find it. But we still look for our source and inspiration from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Roger Marsh: It all comes back to that restoration, redemption, reconnection with God, and your ministry in every aspect of it, in every language, every expression of it speaks to that.

Dr. Alveda King, thank you for your time today. Thank you for being with us and the wonderful ministry that you have, and God bless you from all of us here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. We appreciate you so much.

Dr. Alveda King: Thank you.

MUSIC: Stand firm, be strong.

The battle rages on.

But the victory is won.

Hold tight.

Don't give up the fight.

Jesus said that we should occupy...

Roger Marsh: Well, that was Dr. Alveda King and her song Occupy: A Kingdom Victory Song. You can find it on YouTube and Spotify, by the way. And if you'd like to share today's program with a friend or loved one, simply visit us online at [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk) or remember, you can always share our programming using the Family Talk app.

Well, if you enjoyed the conversation you heard today, be sure to request your copy of our 2024 Best of Broadcast collection. Today's interview with Dr. Alveda King is just one of the many exceptional programs we've included on this six-CD set, which is also available as a digital download. To get yours, go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org). We'll be happy to send you a copy as our way of thanking you for your gift of any amount in support of our ministry. That's [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk).

Remember, you can also give a gift over the phone when you call 877-732-6825. And keep in mind now through New Year's Eve, December 31st, your gift will go twice as far thanks to a special matching grant that's in effect. Just imagine, a \$50 donation becomes \$100, \$1000 donation becomes \$2000. But don't wait, the deadline is December 31st, and time is running out. To make a secure donation online, go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org).

Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks for spending some time with us today and be sure to join us again tomorrow right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.