



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Lasting Ever: Faith, Music, Family and Being Found By True Love – Part 2

Guest(s): Rebecca St. James and Cubbie Fink

Air Date: February 18, 2025

Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson, and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and today we are joined once again by Rebecca St. James and her husband, Cubbie Fink, two Christian artists who have an amazing testimony about faith, music, and love. Rebecca St. James has been a defining voice in Christian music for decades, earning three Dove Awards and one Grammy Award. But beyond her musical success, she has also touched countless lives through her books about faith and living boldly for Christ. Her most recent work, including the powerful film, *Unsung Hero*, continues to inspire audiences with messages of hope and God's faithfulness. Rebecca's husband, Cubbie Fink, brings his own creative gifts to their partnership, having found success in both music and film. As a director and a producer, he has helped bring stories of faith to life on screen, including Rebecca's own journey, the movie *Unsung Hero*.

Together, they've written a brand new book called *Lasting Ever: Faith, Music, Family, and Being Found by True Love*. It's a deeply personal look at their journey from first meeting to building a family together. And by the way, if you'd like to learn more about this new resource, go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. Well, Rebecca and Cubbie, welcome back to Family Talk. It has been such a pleasure to have you on the broadcast with us. Yesterday, on our last program, we ended by talking a little bit about how you two met. When I read the story in your book, it reminded me of what is known in the movie lingo as a meet cute. Cubbie, you're the film guru here. Is that how you would describe it?

Cubbie Fink: Oh, 100%. Yeah, the way it's described in the book is very much reality and how it played out. It was such a fun first encounter, but the lead up to the first encounter came really from, it all kind of stemmed from this philosophy group. So, there was a guy that opened his home, would talk about philosophy in the hopes of laying a foundation for theology through philosophy. So, I was part of this group and my roommates and I would attend on a weekly basis. And then there was a season about six to eight months where I stopped attending, because I was busy on a TV show that I was working on and working crazy hours.

And in that season, I start hearing this name being thrown around in my friend circle and within my roommates, Rebecca this, Rebecca that, she's so cool, she's so authentic, she's the real deal. And then come to find out that this Rebecca they're talking about is Rebecca St. James, which I was familiar with the name, but the interesting thing is I was not familiar with her music and I absolutely should have been. I grew up listening to a ton of Christian music. We had her records in our house. I have vivid memories of thumbing through the CD collection and seeing her record, but for whatever reason, never pulling it out of the jacket and putting it to the player. And I think in retrospect, it definitely was-

Rebecca St. James: Protection.

Cubbie Fink: Kind of divine protection because it just allowed that first interaction and first encounter just to be boy meets girl and just a really authentic moment that I didn't have her up on this pedestal or have any preconceived notions or thoughts of proposing.

Roger Marsh: Well, that would come later and that's a whole separate theatrical moment.

Cubbie Fink: Right.

Roger Marsh: We'll get into that in just a moment. Rebecca, what was it like for you at the time? Did I read this correctly, that one of your roommates was Lila Rose from Live Action?

Rebecca St. James: That's right, yes.

Roger Marsh: Oh my goodness.

Rebecca St. James: Have you had her on the show?

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Rebecca St. James: She's fantastic.

Roger Marsh: Yes, she's amazing, and I'm thinking, okay, this philosophy group would be all right by me if you guys were part of it, and Cubbie, and what a cool experience, but talk about what it was like. Was Lila in on this, too?

Rebecca St. James: Yeah, I mean she was really the one that connected me to the philosophy group, and she was so busy at that time, I was so busy at that time. I don't think we were there very often together, but such a wonderful roommate, such a great friend, and is really my connection to Cubbie. So, she invited me to this philosophy group and then we ended up meeting at this other event and it was literally like... I have this line in my song in Wait For Me that says, "Waiting for the look in your eyes when we meet for the first time." And it was literally this magic across the room where we met eyes and it was, it was like a Hallmark

movie or something, just this meet-cute moment. And I just am thankful for the sparkle of that, because I left that event going, "I like that guy and there's something special here." Very thankful to Lila for the rest of my life.

Roger Marsh: Yeah, that's awesome. Well, we'll give her a shout-out as they say. Okay, the courtship begins, you guys are both involved in life and career and everything, and then it comes to the time where now, did I read this correctly in the book? You guys didn't even exchange I love yous until well into the courtship, is that accurate?

Rebecca St. James: Yeah, well, actually he proposed without having said, "I love you."

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Rebecca St. James: It was so amazing because that night, I mean it was Christmas Eve, we'd watched a movie, he'd fallen asleep. He didn't even know I was going to say yes. He planned this whole thing, this, I mean amazing Christmas tree in the snow and gifts and these layers of gifts, and this note to me about all the things that he loved about me, but we had never said I love you to each other. He didn't know for sure that I was going to say yes. He'd asked my dad, my mentor, my brother, my best friend for their approval for us getting married and engaged and everything, all this stuff.

And we go up in the snow and it's just magical and there's candles, and it was just surprise after surprise to me. I mean, I just thought, "Wow, he is going to town on this whole Christmas giving gift thing." And then when he brings out the ring, I'm like, "This is the actual moment that I've been longing for my whole life." And I knew I loved him. I knew I wanted him to be my husband. So, there was that piece in my heart, but it was literally the biggest surprise of my life. I mean, it was so magical.

Roger Marsh: Was it that certain for you, Cubbie? I mean, the guys are always the last, we got hands in the pockets, kicking the ground. "Yeah, I guess so." Was there a moment where you wavered a little bit while you were dating or saying, "This is too good to be true, I don't think I could handle this?"

Cubbie Fink: I mean, there was probably some things that I needed to work through. I knew really from that first encounter, I went home that night going, "Okay, this has serious potential." And I had had just this standard in my head and heart of what a wife could look like and the wife that I would want to pursue. And the standard that was there very quickly was not only met but just far surpassed. So, I knew that I knew that she was the woman I wanted to marry.

There was some things that I needed to work through personally and probably some things that I was hanging onto in regards to a past relationship and just kind of life in general. But yeah, it definitely got to a point in our dating relationship where there was almost an ultimatum and it was like, "Okay, it's

time to commit or bow out." And just through some pretty intentional time of prayer and fasting on my behalf, just God was showing me the things that I was still holding onto that I needed to let go of so I could fully give myself to this relationship and work through those things, and we had a pretty incredible encounter relaying those stories and what God was doing. And it was kind of from that moment forward that it's like, "All right-"

Rebecca St. James: Green lights.

Cubbie Fink: Green light, I'm all in.

Rebecca St. James: Yeah.

Roger Marsh: I love it. Well, Cubbie and Rebecca did get married of course. Now they have three wonderful kids.

Rebecca St. James: It worked out.

Roger Marsh: It did work out, beautiful Wedding in San Diego, honeymoon in France and wherever else you guys went. And now you're living happily ever after, and you haven't had any problems-

Rebecca St. James: No, none at all.

Roger Marsh: ... during the 15 or so years you've been together.

Rebecca St. James: Just perfect.

Roger Marsh: Right? Okay.

Cubbie Fink: Right.

Roger Marsh: If people are watching the video of this, they know we're all smirking.

Rebecca St. James: Yes.

Roger Marsh: Talk about, I mean, there's obviously going to be some transition. You guys write about a winter season that you guys went through. Talk about how that helped your marriage. I mean, a lot of times the young couple goes through a tough time and they think, "Wait, I want that proposal night all over again," but you guys, you learned a lot during that season, didn't you?

Rebecca St. James: Yeah, the first three years I feel like of marriage were just kind of easy sailing. And we were like, "Wow, everybody talks about the challenges of marriage. This thing is great." I mean, he was with his band and things were going well. We were kind of traveling the world. I was doing a bit of music, but my dreams had come true. We had our daughter, things were going great. And then a year into

our daughter's life, our winter season hit and Cubbie lost a job that he didn't see himself losing. It was unjust and there was betrayal there, and I started miscarrying and then miscarrying again.

His mom was dying of an awful disease and healing was not happening. I mean, it was just thing after thing after thing. And so, I just remember feeling we in this time have to rely on the goodness of God. We have to rely on what we know rather than what our feelings are saying, which is just, "This is the worst. And how can this be redeemed? How can these kind of tragic things be redeemed?" And I was quietly retired from music at that point, but had been asked to do an event in Alaska and literally while I'm on stage in worship, have this encounter with the Holy Spirit where I knew spring had come to my heart and simultaneously, completely separately to me, Cubbie was experiencing the same thing. God just moved in his life and we knew everything had changed. It wasn't like circumstantially everything had, but it had in our hearts. And immediately after that, I fell pregnant with our second daughter. We now have a son as well, three children, three-

Roger Marsh: Wonderful.

Rebecca St. James: ... beautiful, healthy children. God's restored so much vocationally. He's directing and doing music and so much in my life on the vocational end as well. And so, we've just seen God restore and we've seen Him redeem. And I think that's a lot of the message of this book is that when you're in these kind of hard times in life and you wonder, how can anything good come from it? Trust the heart of God, press into Him, cling to Him, share everything with Him and with your spouse. Even in that vulnerability, move towards each other rather than away. I think that's what we do a lot in our culture today is we isolate and we self-protect, but some of our most beautiful moments in our marriage have been when we're crying together and where we're just in it together with God. And I feel like there's this marriage equity that we have now, because of the pain that we wouldn't trade for anything.

Roger Marsh: Cubbie, what's that like to have that kind of currency? I mean, we read in Scripture about the Bible talking about the knowledge that a husband and wife have of each other, mind, body, and soul. But when that pain kind of solidifies it a little bit deeper, what's it like from your perspective?

Cubbie Fink: And I think that was something that through the process of writing this book and reflecting on the highs and the lows, but really especially the lows and journeying through the reliving of those moments and compiling them all in one place, being able to look at those valleys from a different perspective, I saw purpose in the pain that I hadn't seen before.

And I think that's the hope that in sharing these stories that people would be able to find purpose in their pain as well. And having that currency in a marriage, being able to draw from the things that you learn in those challenging seasons, just pay unbelievable dividends. I mean, it's in the challenge that we're

forced to grow. It's in the hard times that we learn things about ourselves that we never knew before, and it's in the hard times that we experience the comfort of God that we can only experience in those most of challenging of times. When life is easy, we don't grow, we coast, we're complacent, because we don't have to grow, but it's in the hardship that we're forced to rely on the supernatural strength of the Holy Spirit to push through in the face of adversity.

And the growth that you experience in those moments, and especially as a married couple is just something I'm incredibly grateful for. I think it's easy to see marriage as this blissful, wonderful thing, but I think marriage becomes really blissful when you've walked through something challenging together and you have just such a deeper understanding of each other and a connectedness and a trust that all of that... You can have the choice to run from the pain and not face it, but when you're in a relationship where you're unified and willing to face the hard things together, the growth is just phenomenal. It's something I'm so grateful for.

Roger Marsh:

It's great that you guys have a creative outlet. I mean, whether it's making a movie like *Unsung Hero*, Rebecca's new album that's out, or of course this book, *Lasting Ever*, which we've got linked up at our website, there are so many different opportunities for you to not only improve your marriage, grow stronger as parents, but also to encourage other people, too. Rebecca, talk about that. I mean, what are you hearing from... What was the feedback like with *Unsung Hero*? You said for you it was very cathartic, but I'm sure there are other people too who are touched by your story especially. I can't shake the image of the fact that Cubbie didn't know you during all this time, and yet here he is, part of the team that's bringing this story to the big screen. That must have been really gratifying for you to know that he knows you that well.

Rebecca St. James:

Yeah, it was really, really sweet to just journey through that with him and be on set and bring the kids to it and just really experience the whole thing together. And I've just seen so much fruit, so much great ministry fruit from the film *Unsung Hero*, and even a lot of people just kind of asking about our story or maybe some people didn't know, "Oh, did she get married? What ended up happening with Rebecca?" And so, to tell this part of the story of the goodness of God and how faithful He's been has just been really beautiful. With that renewed interest, I think one of the things that we really want to say through this book is if you're in a time where you're discouraged or you're deconstructing your faith or really discouraged in marriage or family life, cling to Jesus, look to Him, don't give up.

One of the lead roles that I did when I first moved to LA was this movie called *Sarah's Choice*, and there was a mentor that was just saying, "Don't give up in marriage. A lot of people give up right before they get to the great stuff of marriage. They give up too early, hold on, hang on in there." And I just think it's the same thing for faith life. Sometimes we get discouraged in our faith and we're like, "This is not working for me," but if we just move through those challenges and cling to God and trust Him and grow closer in our intimacy with

Him, grow closer in our intimacy in marriage because of the hard times, there's so much beauty, there's so much great that is on the other side of those hard times. So, we hope that people close this book and go, "I'm encouraged to stick it out through all the seasons of life in faith and in family life."

Roger Marsh: Hey, Cubbie, what word do you have for guys who would read this book? I mean, because a lot of times Rebecca is so effusive in her commentary on this and we appreciate it so much. I'm sure the ladies are resonating like crazy, but talk to the men who are saying, "Okay, my wife got this book and she really wants to work through it." What do you hope that they'll... I mean, it's not a Bible study per se, but your whole life is kind of a living Bible study.

Rebecca St. James: Thank you.

Cubbie Fink: A couple of thoughts on that question. The overwhelming sense that I had in the completion of this book and being able to step back and see it as a complete work was God is so good. Seeing the story that he has written that I've been lucky enough just to be a part of, it's almost like I can't even take credit for the stories that are in the book because it's just God all over every page. And being able to see Him so intricately involved in every detail of my life as I've reflected over it has just been incredibly encouraging.

So, my hope is that the reader would have that sense that God is so good, but also be encouraged to look at their own life and to reflect and pause, because it's very easy to miss the hand of God in the midst of our circumstances and situations, especially the tough ones, but you get through them and you're able to get a bit of perspective and look back and you're able to a lot of times just see the beautiful ways that God was orchestrating and just beautifully attentive to every last detail as he was knitting you through those moments and creating you to the man or woman he wants you to be.

So to the guys, I would say there's a lot there for you. And one of the stories that I'm probably most proud of in the book is my hardest of stories. It was the hardest story to tell, but I think in bringing it out of the dark... So, it's a story of some trauma that I dealt with as a child, and it's a story that has been in the dark really until this moment. There's only been a couple of people in my life that I've shared it with. So, bringing that story out of the dark and into the light, I truly believe that's taking that victory out of the enemy's corner and putting it into God's corner and I would hope that it would be an encouragement or some form of an inspiration to people that also have trauma in the dark to bring it into the light and allow God to heal you, because the healing and freedom that I've experienced in bringing it into the light and facing it has been unbelievable and something that I will never regret.

And yeah, it was a vulnerable decision to say, "Okay, is this something that I want to include in a book that could be potentially read by a lot of people?" And ultimately, I just felt confident that the Lord would use it, and so I just kind of

placed it in his hands. So for the guys, courage often doesn't look like what the world says it is. It's not being macho and hiding your pain, it's facing the pain.

Rebecca St. James:

It's good.

Cubbie Fink:

So, there's a lot of that in there.

Roger Marsh:

And the look that Rebecca is giving you right now for those who aren't watching the video-

Rebecca St. James:

I'm so proud of him.

Roger Marsh:

She is, I could see how proud you are. You're beaming right now at the courage that this guy's showing, and men need that. I mean, I think if we're going to be strong, we have to be vulnerable and to have our wives come alongside and say, "I'm here. There's nothing you could bring to the table that I wouldn't stand by with you." And it's like, that's so encouraging. As we wrap things up, I know one of your heart's desires, you had this singing career, internationally known, and you're saying, "Yeah, but the whole time I wanted to be a wife and mom. My mom was such a big influence in my life, I want to be a wife and mom." What's the best part for you? Once God finally answered that request and has given you a brood of children, what's the best part about being a mom now?

Rebecca St. James:

Oh, I mean, I feel like every time we brought home a child to our house, it was just the ultimate in joy. I feel like I tear up just thinking about it now. And I think honestly, some of my favorite moments right now are just being home as a family and watching our kids play with each other and they're not always playing happily. It's the peaceful moments that I'm like, "Oh, this is so sweet. This is all my dreams come true," or a family meal when everyone's getting along and we're talking about our day, or it's just these simple moments of just family togetherness and I just feel extraordinarily grateful, just thank you, Lord, for your kindness and your grace, because I don't deserve it, but he's just been really kind in allowing that.

And I also just want to say a big thank you to Dr. Dobson, too, for his influence and legacy on my family. My parents were reading Dr. Dobson's books when-

Cubbie Fink:

Yeah, me too.

Rebecca St. James:

... we were growing up, and that was huge, and I was involved with Focus on the Family and his ministry in the early days of my ministry. So, I just appreciate his support back then as well, and the legacy it's had in my family life and the dreams that I'm living out right now.

Roger Marsh:

Well, and I think one of the beautiful things about that, because if we had a dollar for every time somebody walked up to the doctor at an event or at a restaurant and just gave him a hug and said, "Thank you for helping me raise my

children," it's so neat to see you guys as next generation parents who were raised by the doctor's principles of the things that he shared with your folks, and now you're imparting those to your kids and it's for the next generation. Well, they're biblical, so they're timeless, but it's nice to see that happening, too. Well, Cubbie, I will ask you if you picked up your dad's penchant for nicknames, did any of your kids have really cool nicknames just like yours?

Cubbie Fink: Probably don't have the knack like my dad does. I mean, all of our kids have some form of a nickname, but not quite as unique...

Rebecca St. James: Not quite as interesting as Cubbie.

Roger Marsh: It's a gift. I have a son-in-law, he was the same way. All his friends in school all had weird nicknames, but it worked where it's like, "Kevin, how do you do that?" He goes, "I don't know, I just do it." So your dad and Kevin, they've got the thing.

Cubbie Fink: He's got the gift.

Roger Marsh: That's it. Well, the book well *Lasting Ever by Rebecca St. James and Cubbie Fink, Faith, Music Family, and Being Found by True Love*, and we've got that link up at drjamesdobson.org. Cubbie, Rebecca, thank you so much for your authenticity in the book and just for being delightful to be with us here on the program. God's precious blessings to you and yours in the days ahead.

Rebecca St. James: Thank you, Roger. Thanks for your time. We appreciate you having us.

Roger Marsh: While the pleasure was certainly ours, it was an honor to have Rebecca St. James and Cubbie Fink join us here on this special edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. Their story reminds us that even the most picture-perfect relationships face their winter seasons, amen? But it's often through those difficult moments when we draw closer to God and each other that our marriages grow the strongest. As Rebecca and Cubbie shared, it's not about avoiding the hard times, but choosing to face them together, to be vulnerable with each other, and to trust in God's larger purpose. Now, their journey shows how these challenging seasons can create a deep marriage equity, as they call it, that strengthens the relationship in ways that easy times never could. So glad that you've joined us today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk to hear part two of this conversation. By the way, if you'd like to revisit that or hear part one in its entirety, go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

And once you're there, you'll also find information about Rebecca St. James and Cubbie Fink's new book, it's called *Lasting Ever: Faith, Music, Family, and Being Found by True Love*. And if you haven't already done so, be sure to connect with Family Talk on social media for daily inspiration and updates. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube to join our growing community of families who are standing strong together in faith. We regularly share

encouraging Scripture verses, inspiring quotes, and other faith-based content to help you apply biblical principles to your daily lives, so make sure you check us out, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for sure. Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we know that life's journey isn't always straightforward. Sometimes it's kind of a crooked line, getting from point A to point B where God wants us to go versus the way that we actually choose to follow, but God's truth does remain constant through every twist and turn in life.

Through these daily broadcasts, it's our hope that we will be sharing stories that will remind you that you're never alone in your walk of faith. If today's conversation has been an encouragement to you, why not consider helping reach more families with messages of biblical hope? Your tax-deductible donation of any amount makes a huge difference in touching lives all over the country. You can make a secure donation online when you go to drjamesdobson.org. That's drjamesdobson.org. You can also give a gift over the phone when you call 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825. And if you prefer to send your donation through the mail, remember, our ministry mailing address is Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, Post Office box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code 80949.

Well, for Dr. Dobson and all of us here at the JDFI, I'm Roger Marsh, thanking you so much for making us a part of your day, and be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

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

Roger Marsh: With another Dr. Dobson Minute, here's Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. James Dobson: According to research by Dr. John Cubert, only one in 10 marriages ever attains true intimacy in the relationship. By intimacy, we're referring to that mystical bond of friendship, commitment, and understanding that just almost defies explanation. If you're one who longs to attain intimacy with your spouse, set out deliberately to build it. Talk about your concerns and needs. What is it that's kept you from growing closer as a couple? Commit to open communication and honesty. Look for ways to show your love daily. Start touching each other in a way that communicates love and concern and approval. And above all, treat each other with respect and dignity. With a little effort, you can beat the odds and enjoy a lifelong love.

Roger Marsh: For more information, visit drdobsonminute.org.