



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** The Dangerous Gentleman – Part 1

**Guest(s):** Victor and Eileen Marx

**Air Date:** December 5, 2024

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**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 division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and today we're bringing you part one of a powerful and deeply moving conversation featuring Dr. James Dobson and his special in-studio guests, Victor and Eileen Marx of All Things Possible Ministries. This is one of our most requested Best Of programs for the year, and it's featured on the 2024 Best of Broadcast collection that's available right now at [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org). We'll send it to you as our way of thanking you for your gift of any amount in support of the ministry, but I've got some special details on how to get your own copy that I'll include at the end of today's program, so be listening for that.

Right now, let me introduce our special guests, whose story of faith and courage will truly inspire you. Victor and Eileen Marx are not only dear friends of Dr. Dobson and his wife, Shirley, they're also making an incredible impact worldwide. Through their ministry, they help restore the lives of trauma and abuse survivors across Iraq, Syria, North Africa and Southeast Asia. Eileen is an accomplished author and a second degree black belt who works alongside Victor, whose humanitarian work has touched countless lives. And I know you're going to be amazed by what they have to share with us today. Now, before we begin, I should note that today's program does cover some sensitive topics and may not be suitable for younger listeners, so parental discretion is advised. But now, let's join Dr. Dobson and Victor and Eileen Marx for this important conversation on today's edition of Family Talk.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Well, greetings everyone and welcome to Family Talk. I'm James Dobson and I want to introduce you to a fascinating man named Victor Marx and his wife, Eileen. Victor is an author, he's a speaker, he's a writer, he's a former Marine. Is that correct?

**Victor Marx:** Yes, sir.

**Dr. James Dobson:** How old were you when you joined?

Victor Marx: I went in at 18.

Dr. James Dobson: And you did that on your own?

Victor Marx: I sure did. Served under President Reagan, who you know, during this time.

Dr. James Dobson: And you were in the Marine Corps for how long?

Victor Marx: I was in for a short term, but it really prepared me for a life time of serving the Lord through what I learned in discipline and leadership, I believe.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, Victor and I have known each other for a long time.

Victor Marx: Yes, sir.

Dr. James Dobson: It kind of comes and goes. But you remember when we first met?

Victor Marx: Well, I do. And I think it'd be when I went on staff with you, gosh, 21, 22, 23 years ago.

Dr. James Dobson: I'm not that old. I am sorry. You got somebody else.

Victor Marx: I'm having to think about. But you know what I tell folks is two things about you. I go, "He is the man that you hear behind the microphone."

Dr. James Dobson: No kidding.

Victor Marx: I go, "There's no pretense. There's no guile. His commitment to Christ." It's just you're so sincere and your work ethic is beyond what most people can imagine. But then I told him, this is the number one thing I say, "He was a boss to me, a mentor. Now he's a friend, and I can't think of anything better than I would ever want."

Dr. James Dobson: Well, you were abused as a child.

Victor Marx: Yes sir, I was.

Dr. James Dobson: In many ways. How and why?

Victor Marx: Yeah. Well, I would say the main reason, if we want to get biblical, it's just sin, the selfishness of men and people to not follow God. The second thing is the lack of a man, a godly man, a father in the home to protect me. And the abuse was pretty severe and including torture. But I ended up having to have a 123 visits to a trauma specialist to kind of unwind my brain.

Dr. James Dobson: At what age?

Victor Marx: I was older because you maintain and develop coping mechanisms. But I got to a point as an adult where they all started to fail. And the one gift I tell young men and men, I feel like I'm always an ordinary guy, wasn't great in sports, wasn't high academic achiever, but I did have the gift of never giving up. And there's something to be said about that, always wanting to get older and saying, "I'm never going to give up." And look where it's brought us. I'm here with you again, married 35 years to my bride, friends with Roger, I mean-

Dr. James Dobson: Have five kids.

Victor Marx: Five kids, and now we have five granddaughters. And like you, we're very motivated knowing... We know that our days is numbered, so what can we do to most impact in advancing the kingdom of God? And I think right now, if we don't pour into men, it's like I've said on many interviews, the biggest threat to America is not terrorism, it's a lack of fathers. It's a lack of men to just be men. But here's the good news. We live in this chaotic time. I'm seeing that a lot of young men who tend to be more effeminate or passive, it's this cycle where they haven't had a dad. All these negative things, they're hungry for truth

Dr. James Dobson: And leadership.

Victor Marx: And leadership. They're looking for, as I say it, older lions to teach the young lions what they need to do.

Dr. James Dobson: How was it that you were abused? What was going on that made that happen?

Victor Marx: Well, my father and mother didn't make it. My mother would end up marrying six times. My biological dad left. And what I do know from having them together one time, as an adult, I sat on with them. I said, "What was the circumstances of how mom you got pregnant?" And they were both embarrassed, but they told me, because there's been a little bit of redemption, the night he got her pregnant, he shoved rosary beads down her throat and put a pistol to her head. So that was the formation of just absolute chaotic evil. And then my mother, she had challenges obviously, but she married a pedophile, a known... She didn't know it at the time, but he was a very twisted wicked man and he took advantage of the situation of me being a young child from the ages of three to seven.

Dr. James Dobson: How in the wide world did you get from that beginning to what we see now today? The Lord has done a miracle in your life, hasn't he?

Victor Marx: Yes sir. It's the text and the holy Scriptures. With man, it's impossible. But with God, all things are possible. And it's been a rough journey. I still have challenges, so I don't sit there behind a mic speaking about perfection, but I speak about the grace of God. A man willing to obey and trust God in the hardest times of his life. A loving wife that says, "Ah, God's not giving up on you. I'm not." People say, "Well, if Eileen didn't come in your life, what would you have

accomplished? What percentage?" And I go, "Probably 40%. Not even half." Because the influence that wives have on their husbands is far greater than most women can even consider.

Dr. James Dobson: Eileen, why did you marry this man? He was a wreck at the time.

Victor Marx: Yeah.

Eileen Marx: Oh, my.

Victor Marx: How did you get this one?

Eileen Marx: I did not know his story. When I said I do, I was a brand new believer and I had no idea that we were going to be on a journey. But what I will say about Victor is God has put him in the fire, he has been through the furnace. And Victor has an illustration of a sword that he uses and the strength of the sword, it gets put in the fire and it gets folded and folded and folded and folded until it becomes a weapon that is so strong. And that's how I see Victor. God has... Yes, he's been through so much, but now he's a weapon in God's hand. That is so... It's beautiful to witness.

Dr. James Dobson: At what point did you have a man in your life that really brought the man out of you?

Victor Marx: Well, I would say never, in the sense of the aspect of somebody coming in and just pointing to me. So what I had to do in that fatherless state is just look for things that I wanted to be and wanted to pattern my life around.

Dr. James Dobson: Victor, I can only imagine what you've experienced and what you've been through because I didn't. I had an absolutely wonderful father.

Victor Marx: I love it.

Dr. James Dobson: I mean, I admired him. I wanted to know what he knew that I didn't know, and he led me to the Lord, prayed for me nearly every day and it was an incredible thing. So the difference between your experience in your life and what you've been through and what I've gone through, which is nothing. It's just amazing to me that the Lord can do this and what he's done for you.

Victor Marx: Well, thank you for that. And I've always admired your story and obviously your dad because he was really an evangelist at heart. And he would go, speak and preach to folks in jail. But he invested in you and that's the way it's supposed to look. Had I a dad, that would have been like your father to me, think of where I would be, with less complication. Because young men often tell me, "Oh, I don't really have a testimony." I said, "Well, I think you have the best testimony of how God kept you from being devoured by this world and chewed up and spit out." So mine is a redemptive story. Yours is that protective, staying, like this is

what it's supposed to look like. That's why millions, millions of men have drawn from you. And that's what I tell my sons. My youngest son, I go, "Son, I broke the cycle, so you would never have to live this life." So that's God's design, but I'm grateful that He is the Great Redeemer.

Dr. James Dobson: Now you have an incredible story that we could spend days talking about, and I would love to do that on some occasions. But tell us how you became the person who tried to rescue the broken-hearted, the children, teenagers in jail. You would go after them and try to rescue them, and that's kind of been your mission in life, hasn't it?

Victor Marx: Yes, sir. I remember when God called me to it and it was a process, because I want to encourage young men out there, let God do the process of preparing you before you just jump headlong into something. Because when you're truly doing God's work, His will and His way and His spirit, the enemy will assault you. If you try to do ministry or good things in your flesh, the enemy will let you be because the fruit won't run. There's a lot of ministries out there that they just kind of do it in the flesh. But I'll say this, the three things our ministry does is set captives free, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And I think it's because of grace that God has poured on in my life that I've always had a heart to reach those who don't think they can make it, don't think they would do good.

And I go, "I'm living proof that if I can do it, anybody can." So yes, we started with kids in juvenile centers. Then it expanded to where, I mean, four months ago, we're in Iraq doing another rescue of a young lady who had been held captive by ISIS for nine years. And I mean, we've been doing that work for over around a decade, the high-risk work. And Eileen was with me on that one too. This young lady had two children. She was a sex slave of ISIS. She had two children in captivity and even her family thought she was dead, but we had the proper intelligence and we planned the mission over six months, and then we executed it in five days. And this was just four months ago. She's back home.

Dr. James Dobson: Boy, there's so much to talk to you about. I want to spend a little time here talking about your new book, *The Dangerous Gentleman*, Victor Marx, Forward by Charlie Kirk, which is quite a statement. Subtitles says, "They call for men to be courageous in a culture of fear." Are men afraid today?

Victor Marx: Well, let's start with the church. I think, men are afraid. The church is afraid. A great example is one year we're in Iraq, and I met with a Muslim leader that had, how many, 300 million followers. He's extremely influential man. And he wanted to meet with me. He won't meet with anybody else. I met and I said, "Sir, why did you want to meet with me?" He says, "We've watched you for two years here in Iraq and Syria, what you're doing." He goes, "You care about our children." I said, "Wow." And he-

Dr. James Dobson: I didn't expect him to say that.

Victor Marx:

No. And then the other thing he said that really took me back, he goes, "I'm meeting with you because you're a man of the book. You actually believe." And the book being the Bible. He took me to a place where persecuted Christians were hiding in Iraq from ISIS. We walk in and he goes, "These are your people. These are Christians." I'll never forget what he said. He goes, "Where are the men from America? Where are the Christian men? Why aren't they here helping?" And in all honesty, all I could say was, "Most are afraid they'll be killed." He just looked at me Doc and he goes, "But we all die."

And again, I'll focus on Christians, and I know a lot of men in a small percentage that are very courageous. I mean, I just spoke with some sale team activities in Coronado Island. We've had Delta operators, Rangers, we've had SF. Different people work with us that definitely are courageous. But the number one fear, unless men get adjusted, they're afraid of the devil. They're afraid of evil, when it all boils down to it.

Because that's ultimately what we're fighting. In anything we do, we're fighting against the forces of darkness. The battle's not physically, but the battle is mentally. And that's why the Bible says, "Take every thought captive." And most men don't know their authority in Christ. Therefore, they don't know their identity. Therefore, they're going to be passive, scared, weak. And that's what's caused our nation to really be upside down. Because just if the men in church stood up for what was right... I mean, you were the watchman on the walls years ago saying, "If the family disintegrates, watch what happens to the culture."

Never did we think we'd be accepting, much less celebrating in our culture, children in an attempt to change their gender, cutting off their body parts, taking hormones. It's horrific. But that's where we are today. So this is a great time. It is devastating what we're looking at, but it's also an exciting time if men rise up to be a remnant filled with God's spirit. And the whole thing about *The Dangerous Gentleman*, because people ask me because I'm on non-Christian programs too. I just go, "Dangerous meaning being filled with God's spirit and being dangerous to the kingdom of darkness more than anything."

Dr. James Dobson:

Whatever happened to masculinity? The kind that I described about my father, how did that get lost? And what in the world can we do to reclaim it?

Victor Marx:

That's a great question. And questions. I would say this, again, I have to go back to the church. I think the church started, it only takes one degree off any type of direction for a slow off-pattern track. And I think the church went from believing in the inherency of Scripture, the power of God's spirit, the basic fundamentals of Christianity, and they started softening everything. Or as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "It became cheap grace." And then therefore, there wasn't accountability. But what happened in the church, it became, in my opinion, behavior modification time instead of a transformation and a sanctification of a man's soul and life. Therefore, if you're just modifying a guy's behavior, man, that's really an attempt in the flesh to make him a nice person. I got to tell people I'm

not nice. Don't put me in that category. Ask my wife. A nice person typically is someone who will do something good for you because they want something in return.

And the moment they get it, well, they're not nice anymore. And if they don't get it, then they won't be nice. I prefer to be called a kind man. And a kind man and a kind person, they do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. So this whole behavior modification in the church, instead of men, godly preachers and preachers standing up, challenging, exhorting, not trying to soft sell, sin and saying, "Listen..." I mean, I've studied The Revivalists. I've studied how things used to be. There's always been challenges in the culture, but the one thing in the past is the men of God never compromised. And there was heartache, sacrifice, even serious persecution. These days, not so much.

Dr. James Dobson: Boy, the clock is getting away from us sudden. I would love to know about your recent trip to Israel.

Victor Marx: Yes, sir.

Dr. James Dobson: And what you experienced there with Eileen. And she's here too. Eileen, I appreciate you joining us today.

Eileen Marx: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: You guys have been through quite an episode of your life that very few people would've survived and would never have wanted to be part of. Tell me about what recently happened.

Victor Marx: To Israel, that was when Hamas attacked. That was several months ago, and then we talked about the recent one in Iraq. But Israel was, as much as we've seen, I wasn't prepared for what I saw when Hamas attacked Israel.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, tell us which one you want to tell us about.

Victor Marx: We'll start with Israel because it builds into Iraq. But we were in there days after Hamas had attacked. I had an SF friend call me and say, "Are you taking your team and into Israel?" I mean, the day after Hamas got attacked, I said, "By invitation and if we get access emplacement." And within 72 hours, it all had been done. So we prepped up, jacked up, went there. What I saw in the neighborhoods where all these people were killed, it was so bloody. It was so horrific. I told Eileen I will never wear these boots again. Because quite honestly, the amount of children's blood that I walked in.

And the thing that shocked me, I mean, when Israel got attacked, the last country in the world that anybody, especially Americans would've thought been caught off guard was Israel, because of everything they put into it. So I asked a question of my friends who lived there who were special forces, IDF guys. I said,

"Why? Why did this happen?" And they said two things. "One, we underestimated our enemy. We never thought Hamas would be able to attack us on this scale from air, ground, thousands coming in. They had only prepared for literally 8 to 10 Hamas attackers in any given time."

Dr. James Dobson: Even now, most Christians have no idea what really happened there, but it was awful. I mean, there are no words to describe it.

Victor Marx: And again, the Christian culture here is so influenced by propaganda. All you hear is about Gaza. And no one focuses on the tragedy of the most horrific things. They just want to focus on Gaza. So guess what? I tell when people come against me through social media or when I speak, they're like, [inaudible 00:22:15]. I said, "I've got more Palestinian friends than you. Trust me. I'm the one... With my bride, I've been into the West Bank. We've ministered the kids there. We've gone to the most dangerous places, bring the light of God." And even on this trip into Israel, days after all this stuff happened, I felt very specific. God told me, "Go into Gaza and pray." Now, there had been no Americans that have gone on the Gaza. It's war, it's fighting. But again, through us using our skill sets and experience, we trained a bunch of SF guys who were doing the fighting. And then I just said-

Dr. James Dobson: How do you survive that? I mean-

Victor Marx: Yeah. Angels, my guardian angels. Trust me, when I get to Heaven, one of them is going to slap me.

Roger Marsh: Well, what a powerful testimony of God's protection over Victor and Eileen Marx throughout their years of courageous ministry. Their dedication to helping those in crisis truly shows us what faith in action really looks like. Now, if you'd like to learn more about their remarkable work at All Things Possible Ministries and the lives they're touching around the world, visit [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk), and be sure to join us again next time for the conclusion of this conversation. You definitely won't want to miss a single moment.

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