



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: The Dangerous Gentleman – Part 1

Guest(s): Victor and Eileen Marx

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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. I'm Roger Marsh. In just a moment, we're going to hear part one of a powerful conversation featuring Dr. James Dobson and his in-studio guests, Victor and Eileen Marx of All Things Possible Ministries. Now this program will cover some very sensitive material. It's definitely not intended for younger listeners, so parental discretion is definitely advised. First though, let me tell you about a brand new resource for you here from the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute that will make it easier for you to say "I'm going to vote my values on November 5th." Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we've created a brand new website called "Countdown to Decision 2024," and it features articles, it features biblical tip sheets and video podcasts featuring interviews with luminaries such as Riley Gaines, the woman who is single-handedly leading the fight against the transgender takeover of women's locker rooms and sports. Also, Eric Metaxas, author of the book, *Letter to the American Church*, which is also a documentary series. These conversations and more will help form your opinions more biblically with regard to whom and how to vote on November 5th. You can learn more about these election issues when you go to drjamesdobson.org/countdowntodecision2024. That's drjamesdobson.org/countdowntodecision2024 and you'll find the link for that website on our main page as well.

Now regarding our guests here today on Family Talk, Victor and Eileen Marx are dear friends of Family Talk and Dr. James Dobson and his wife, Shirley. Victor and Eileen are the co-founders of All Things Possible Ministries. Eileen is an author and a second degree black belt. Victor is an author and humanitarian who works globally to reach victims of trauma and abuse and to help them restore their lives. He's led missions in Iraq, Syria, North Africa, and Southeast Asia and we'll hear more about them over the next couple of days, so let's get into today's conversation right now. Joining Dr. James Dobson and his guests, Victor and Eileen Marx right here, right now on 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 the Marine?

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 his 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 lifetime 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 we... Do you remember when we first met?

Victor Marx: Well, I do. 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'm 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 them, the number one thing I say, he was a boss to me, a mentor. Now he's a friend. 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: Well, I'd say the main reason, if we want to get biblical, is 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 123 visits to a trauma specialist to 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. 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.

Dr. James Dobson: Have five kids.

Victor Marx: Five kids. Now we have five granddaughters. And like you, we're very motivated knowing... We know the number of our days is numbered, so what can we do to most impact in advance 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 just 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 down 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 through 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. 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 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 here 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, "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'd 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 that you married him.

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. 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 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." 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. I would love to do that on some occasion. But tell us how you became the person who tried to rescue the brokenhearted, the children, teenagers in jail. You would go after them and try to rescue them, and that's 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. 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 do it in the flesh. But I'll say this, the three things our ministry does is set captives free physically, emotionally, and spiritually. 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. I mean, we've been doing that work for over right 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. 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. Subtitle says, *A 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 an 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.

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 SEAL team active duties 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's 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 Gentlemen*, 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 the 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 teachers standing up challenging exhorting, not trying to soft sell sin and saying, "Listen, there..." I mean, I've studied the revivalist. 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. 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 into Israel?" I mean, the day after Hamas got attacked. I said, "By invitation and if we get access and placement." And within 72 hours, it all had been done. So we prepped up, jocked 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, 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 the 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 eight 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. No one focuses on the tragedy of the most horrific things. They just want to focus on Gaza. So guess what? When people come against me through social media or when I speak to Palestinian, 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 to kids there. We've gone 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 into 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?

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, that's a rather interesting way of describing the way God has protected Victor and Eileen Marx throughout the years of daring ministry they've been engaged with. I hope that you found today's program featuring Victor and Eileen and their conversation with Dr. James Dobson to be of benefit. Now, not all of us may be able to travel overseas on rescue missions but if you'd like to support the Marxs and All Things Possible Ministries, just go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. And one way you can support the ministry and help our ministry at the same time is by requesting a copy of Victor's book called *The Dangerous Gentleman*. We'll be happy to send it to you as our way of thanking you for your tax-deductible donation of any amount in support of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute today. So click on the link at the bottom of today's broadcast page to reserve your copy. Go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and then click on the link for the book, *The Dangerous Gentleman*. And as we conclude today's broadcast, remember that with Election Day 2024 on the horizon, we realize that the sad reality is that many Christians don't get out and vote. Well, we've created a special resource to help you get encouraged to pray about the elections, to get active in voting and then to share resources that we've created at a special website. Go to drjamesdobson.org/countdowntodecision2024. You'll see interviews with Eric Metaxas, Riley Gaines and others, plus information about voter guides that will help you in your specific area and more. Again drjamesdobson.org/countdowntodecision2024.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, thanks so much for joining us today here on Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

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