

INTERVIEW – LISA & TYLER SEXTON – RAS

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RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER LS: LISA SEXTON

TS: TYLER SEXTON

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RAS: And today I want to introduce you to two people who have allowed the spirit of God to move in their lives. Who have taken tragedies and turned them into a triumph. Who are witnesses of what the power of God can do in our lives as we trust Him. Would you please welcome to the Crystal Cathedral, Lisa Sexton? Lisa, God loves you..

LS: Thank you.

RAS: ..and so do we.

LS: Thank you.

RAS: Where does this story of your miracle begin?

LS: Almost 18 years ago we had a little boy. He was born at three months early and he was very, very sick when he was born.

RAS: Now you.. I understand you weren't too excited about the news. Most people when they're told they're expecting get pretty excited. What about you?

LS: Well my husband and I are very, we were very young. We didn't own a home yet, hadn't reached the point in his career where he was ready to start a family and we had our own timing. It was our own timing. We weren't waiting for God's timing, we had our own list of to do's and we were going to do things our way. And we even prevented having a child. We were very adamant about not starting the family right now. And God had different plans. I came home pregnant one day, and to say the least my husband didn't pick me up and twirl me around and say, 'oh this is wonderful.' He sat down and said, 'no this isn't.. can't be.' And it is, so.. we were not real thrilled.

RAS: So did the thought of abortion ever cross your mind?

LS: No. No the thought of we're stuck crossed my mind. As a believer, God brings life and He's the one that takes it away so no.

RAS: Well that's good.

LS: Abortion did not cross our minds.

RAS: But the thought of having a child was not a pleasant thought whatsoever.

LS: No we weren't ready.

RAS: And suddenly he is born and the plot thickens.

LS: Tyler was born at three months early, he was very sick. He was full of toxemia poisoning. He was helicoptered away from us within an hour of birth to four hours away at a different hospital. And he was very sick. The first time I saw him, I felt like God was punishing me. He had tubes, both lungs had collapsed during the flight and when I arrived at the hospital, the doctors told us that they gave Tyler very little hope to live. And if something would happen during the night, that they would keep his body warm so that whenever we could hold him before we bury him that they would also.. his body wouldn't be stiff so we could do that.

RAS: So you were prepared for that, weren't you?

LS: We were prepared for that.

RAS: And you were expecting that, actually.

LS: We were expecting it. The best case scenario was that due to the high dosage of oxygen to keep him alive, that he would probably be blind. And that he would be mentally and physically disabled and probably ride in a wheelchair.

RAS: So what happened? He obviously didn't die because we see him sitting over here.

LS: No, he didn't.

RAS: And somehow God had a different idea, didn't He? How'd that happen?

LS: God had a different plan. We've had an awesome family and friends who have supported us and prayed for us during this time. We've had great doctors who have been a very special blessing in our lives. And today Tyler and I have written a book, "I'm a Blessing." And he scuba dives, and he plays golf and the most.. the thing that he loves the most is he does a lot of youth rallies and he gets up and tells people what Jesus has done for him and I'd like for you to meet him now. Here's Tyler.

RAS: Oh, we want to meet him. Tyler, God loves you and so we.

TS: Thanks.

RAS: Boy, what a big guy you are for 17, huh?

TS: Yes.

RAS: Wow. So, you.. we noticed you walk with a little limp.

TS: Oh yes. I have a.. lot's of problems. My balance isn't very good; I walk with a limp. But I think about you know Psalms 139:14 where it says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I know your works are wonderful, I know that full well." And this encourages me and I know that He doesn't make any mistakes. And so..

RAS: So it hasn't been an easy road for you, has it?

TS: No..

RAS: How many surgeries, do you know? Have you counted them?

TS: 13.

RAS: 13?

TS: Yeah. 13.

RAS: When did they begin?

TS: Since I was a child my lungs collapsed. They put in chest tubes so I guess that's when it began but I don't remember that. And then when I was 4 I had a rhizotomy surgery in me. A cross wire in my back so that I can walk, basically and then I've had eye surgeries and lengthening of heel cords and a bunch of other things that..

RAS: Well, you sure walk good now.

TS: Yeah.

RAS: You walk great.

TS: Yeah. It's been a long road but I've found out that I'd rather walk with a limp in Christ than with a strut in the world. So..

RAS: So you've been diagnosed basically with cerebral palsy. TS: Yes.

RAS: Or I guess the abbreviation is CP.

TS: CP. Yeah.

RAS: And how do you view your CP? What is that.. how does that hold you back?

TS: Oh it doesn't. It's a blessing. I deal with a lot of teasing and ridicule. But it's all about keeping a positive perspective and if I couldn't walk then I couldn't get made fun of. So, at least I'm walking. So if I

get made fun of for walking with a limp it's better than not walking at all and being wheeled around.

RAS: So I understand you golf?

TS: Yeah. I golf and then in my follow through I usually fall down but at least I watch where my ball goes, so I have to.. had to make sure I have a good shot. But I golf and I scuba dive and nothing has kept me down.

RAS: Wow. So you're very, very active..

TS: Oh, yes.

RAS: ..and you must do some exercises then if you're golfing and take good care of yourself obviously and you're very fortunate to have a fabulous mother here.

TS: Yes.

RAS: Who watches you as well.

TS: Yes, I couldn't ask for more support from my mom or any of my family because they, you know, I've overcome every "no" that a doctor has told me.

RAS: Well first of all they said you wouldn't live.

TS: Or walk. And..

RAS: Or walk.

TS: ..be blind.

RAS: And blind.

TS: Mentally retarded.

RAS: Mentally retarded.

TS: And I'm not.

RAS: We can tell, you didn't have to tell us.

TS: Yes.. yeah.

RAS: So you're a senior in high school..

TS: Yes sir.

RAS: ..and so you must be looking at further education or careers.

TS: Oh yes. I want to become a doctor. I want to become a doctor that..

RAS: An MD?

TS: ..yes. I want to be a pediatric surgeon and I want to be a doctor that gives hope to people instead of the worst case scenarios. I want to be the one that says you know, things are bad but Christ is looking out for you and that no matter what anyone tells you, Christ, you know. People say no but God says yes, so. And I want to be the one that when they go they have hope instead of the worst case scenarios when they leave.

RAS: Well, this is spectacular to have you standing here before us today as a living example of what hope in Jesus Christ can do. You must be very proud.

LS: I am. I am. I look at Tyler and I know that, you know no mother would ever bend down and pray for a disabled son. They just don't do that. We pray for health and perfect and perfection in our prayers. But Tyler has taught me things in life that nobody could have taught me. The faith and about the awesome God we serve and cerebral palsy would have been in vain but I'm very, very thankful that Tyler has chosen to use it for positive thing and to give glory to the Lord and tell his story.

RAS: Well Tyler, thank you for coming here..

TS: Thank you.. thank you..

RAS: ..Lisa, God..

LS: Thank you.

RAS: ..bless you. And may the presence of God's peace continue to go with you always.

LS: Thank you.

RAS: God loves you and so do we.

LS: Thank you. Thank you.

TS: Thank you very much.