

## 2020 TO Year End Special

**Dr. Rick:** [00:00:00] Welcome again to the Think Orphan Podcast. This is Rick Morton, along with Phil Darke with the black shirt on today. Dressing dark. He is dark. Wow, man. You're playin' the role today, my friend.

**Phil:** [00:00:15] Well, I definitely was not expecting that introduction today. I just grabbed a shirt and quite honestly, there was no intent behind it, but you know, it is interesting given the fact that we are doing the 2020 Review Show.

And a lot of people would describe this year really as a dark year.

It had nothing to do with my choice of attire today. But since you mentioned it. I got to bring something together. Right? So that's

**Dr. Rick:** [00:00:43] See folks, that, that's what makes Phil a pro. That no matter what you throw at him, he's able to work in, in and, and just make it seamless.

That's why, that's why I sit in awe of these recording episodes. Cause he's unflappable.

**Phil:** [00:00:58] And what we've learned right there, as we've learned before is Rick has a pretty low bar. That's good. That's good. That's what I like. That's fine. I love it. That's why I love it.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:01:10] It's why it works, my friend. It's why it works.

**Phil:** [00:01:12] Right, exactly. Right. So, so yeah, as, as I just mentioned, we are, we're, we're reviewing 2020, not so much the episodes that we've done this year, we just had a review show. For this last, for the current season, a few, mid season review, we did a few episodes ago. If you want to check that out, we do a lot more specific episode review there, but we just wanted to take a step back and go, you know what?

This has been a really weird year. And not just from the standpoint of just school and viruses and all that, but really what it's done in the orphan care context, what it's done in our lives, what it's done in different organizations. Unfortunately, some organizations have had to shut their doors because of it.

Other organizations have been busier than ever, then, and so it's just, it's just a really, it's just a really weird year. And so, you know, Rick, just general thoughts, kind of forest view on the 20. What, what, what, how are you feeling about it as we have a couple more weeks left,

**Dr. Rick:** [00:02:18] I mean, We're still here, right?

Like, so there's, there's something to be said for the fact that that we're, we're continuing and pressing on, and this has been a hard year. I don't think there's anybody that's not having, that's not having a just a really hard year. And I think in, in the, in the lane that we run in and then the things that we do Wherever mindful of the fact that one of the consequences of a year, like this is that the vulnerable become more vulnerable.

And that we are, more than ever really needed to press in. And this is one of those things that I think we've got to continue to encourage each other and to encourage the church in general to, to be faithful and to continue to press in. And, and that's hard, right?

Like I think we're all, we're all tired. We're tired of, we're tired of masks. We're tired of protocols were tired of social distancing. We, and, in a lot of ways in relationship and, in the body of Christ, we've been at distance from each other. You started you just think back and think about the, the number of things that we have in this community times that we would have come together this year and times where there would be refreshing and, and opportunities to work together in collaboration together on projects and all of those kinds of things that, that like none of that has happened. And, and we've done a lot of what we're doing right now, which is sitting in front of a monitor and doing things at a distance.

and I think. what are the things that I'm really taking away into 2021 and, and something that I'm really praying is that, I don't want to become comfortable in this, I don't want this to be the new normal, and I know that there are things rhythm of life that are going to change, but that's not a comfort thing as much as it's a, we become too comfortable.

I think being at a distance from each other and it's just, it's just not healthy. And so I think as we're turning the corner into 2021, and, we could talk about the vaccine and the hope for the future and who knows how long or, how this will stand the test of time when we go back and listen to this a year from now, or, or whatever, in terms of, of those things.

And I know people have deep convictions on all sides of that issue about the, take it, or don't take it, or, those kinds of things. But, we will emerge somehow in, in 2021 Lord willing to not be in the same place that we are in, in, dealing with this pandemic.

and I hope we will be reflective of. That which we have lost and not be comfortable in, in, in what we've, what we lost.

**Phil:** [00:05:07] I totally agree with what you say, there, Cause you have heard people say, Oh, it's the new normal we're going to do this more online stuff or this more that.

And I'm like, yeah, it can't be that way. Yes. Can't be that way. Well, that's not how human beings are designed to interact. It's not how human beings are designed to flourish quite frankly. And like you said, a lot of the, whether it's CAFO, whether it's, just. Calling each other up and saying, Hey, I'm going to be in your area.

let's grab lunch or, let's, just be able to hang out for a little bit, grab coffee at a Starbucks, like th those things aren't happening. and it's just in, and even if you're in the same city, Oftentimes, people are just scared people aren't wanting to go out and, and it really, it creates a fear based society and a fear-based mentality.

that is just so counter to scripture, first of all, but it's also counter to productivity. It's counter to innovation, it's counter to creativity, it's counter to just how we can create Shalom in our communities. Right? So these are things that. That I am 100% with you on that, that, that not only do I say, I hope it doesn't it like it can't if it does, like, if it stays this way.

And if, if the, some of the people out there who, kind of want to keep it this way for whatever reason, and we're not going to get into all of that and the politics behind everything, but, we all know that there it is there, but what I want to talk about now a little bit is we, we alluded to it, I believe in the last episode, but just some of the things that we were able to do.

that we wouldn't have been able to do in 2020, and I, and I look at a lot of the great resources that were created this year. I look at like world without orphans working with, parenting for lifelong health. To create the parenting tips. And so you see that you look at it, you go, that's amazing.

That's a really cool resource, but then to see World Without Orphans reach out to its network and, Get it translated into over 55 languages, like within a week. I think, I mean, it was crazy how fast that happened. Right. But those are things that, I don't know that that would have happened in a normal year.

Right. To see, we did a video conference series, right. Everyone in every organization in the world probably did some sort of video conference something, webinar or a video conference with their donors video conference with, we created that if you haven't watched that series, the vast majority of it is still relevant today as the day it was made. The episodes were purposefully, related to COVID-19 directly.

But those that. The things that we talked about, really go well beyond, COVID-19 so you can check that out, but that was something we wouldn't have done. And really we, we started video, because of it. Right. So now it's not like we're busting records on YouTube with video, but it allows us to do different things that w that we weren't able to do.

Just again with seeing what families, families are spending more time together, which is, which is really, really good most of the time. Unfortunately, it's created a much higher divorce rate as well. and that's, that's a terrible thing, but I think that that's a symptom to the, to the issue that, that wasn't, that didn't, COVID didn't cause it COVID exacerbated things and probably, in a lot of situations, but, as we know, The lockdowns from COVID caused all kinds of issues, in the vulnerable, in the lives of the vulnerable children, vulnerable families, but also in, the lives of the families that aren't vulnerable. Right. I mean, it caused all kinds of things that we might not have otherwise seen. And I, and I, I look at it and I go, there's good and bad. Like I just said some of the, but the bad is, is unfortunately really bad in a lot of situations. And so, that's something that I've, I've seen responses to that though, too.

And seeing the collaboration that has to happen. In the context of a global pandemic where we aren't able to travel to different places. And so the things that you and I both know very, very well stuff we've talked about on the show that the, our partners all around the world who are doing this amazing work are more than capable to do all the work that's going on.

And one of the great things. I think it is a great thing that happened this year is we weren't able to go all over the world all the time to do things. And I'm not saying it's good for all times to be able to, but I think what it did was it really instilled confidence and it's still

leadership in people who have always had it in them, but haven't felt like it's sometimes that they've needed to do it.

So sometimes it's just easier to let other people do it.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:09:37] And it's created opportunity. I mean, there's a, and I won't mention a name, but there's a, there's a friend of ours that is well-known to both of us, that that I have the privilege to partner, you know, pretty deeply in ministry with, and he's working in East Asia and there's a, there's a part of the country that he's working in that.

they've got a deep desire to work in for, uh, for a long time and quite honestly, because of, because of their faith and because they're, you know, because they're, outspoken, vocal Christians, they've been blocked by the government from working, in this area. And. when the pandemic hit and, the quarantining began and people that are, you know, very much on the cusp of calamity at all times, just because they're, daily hand to mouth and, and, very, very poor.

He became the option that the government had and he's been able to through help from friends and partners around the world to be able to, to resource an entire community of people with, food and, with the things that they needed in order to, to be able to survive.

And I mean, literally there are. There are hundreds and hundreds of people today that are alive because, because he and his family and, and the people that they're, that they're working with and have been able to do that. And, and the thing is it's forged, it's forged friendships and partnerships with

with people in the government, it's, it's, it's given a credibility, it's given an up close, look at them and in their work and, and he will readily tell you today that they will never be the same as a result of this. And, and it's been hard and it's been awful and they've, and they like we, and everybody else have seen people, die and, and the toll from this hasn't been.

Has been horrendous, but at the same time, good things and, and beautiful things have come out of it. And when the Lord is used it to, to further an agenda and, and I think, I don't, I don't want to lose sight of the fact that we, this is the, for those of us who follow Jesus, our pain or difficulties not wasted in this.

we're not, it's just not, and, and, and God is not, God is not wasting that, that difficulty and is not wasting the struggle. And I just, want to focus on stories like that and, and be reminded of that. And, and. And no, we don't want to be a distance from each other, a man, let's remember that the things that have happened, I told you earlier, they're one of the, one of the passages of scripture that's really become incredibly meaningful to me, for sure.

Through this in a really fresh way is just, Isaiah 40 kinda the end of Isaiah 40, where, Isaiah was talking about renewal and, waiting on the Lord and, and drawing, drawing strength from, from the Lord and, he, that, that beautiful passage, do, do you not know, have you not heard, the the Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary. There is no limit to his understanding. He gives strength to the faint and

strengthens the powerless. Man, how relevant is that today? Like that's us. And, yet he reminds us youths will become, they become faint and weary.

And young men stumble and fall, but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. the old King James says, they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles they'll run and not become weary. They'll walk and not faint. And, and, and, and the truth is we've, we've endured a year where, where we've all fainted, where we've all been tired where we're we're every, everybody on the planet is worn out with this. And, and we desperately are crying out for this to be over. That as I reflected on this passage, this is my grandmother's favorite passage of scripture. And, she, in my life, was a pretty much an intellectual giant. And I remember one of the things that my grandmother taught me a long time ago about this passage of scripture, she, she would talk about the reason that this was her favorite passage of scripture is because of how, how God had made the eagles and, and that there, like there was this, there was no accident that this, that Isaiah was, it was that God was revealing to Isaiah this thing about, about the eagles. Cause if you know anything about eagles, you know, that like there's a molting process that an eagle will go through at a better point in its life.

And they, and they go up into a high place and I go up into their, into their nest and they go through a pruning and, a winnowing process. They scrape off their beaks. They scrape off their talons. They, they wait for those things to, long arduous process of waiting for those things to grow back.

And when they begin to grow back, they, literally plucked their own feathers and it's an incredibly painful process, but the truth is that if an eagle doesn't molt it'll die. It will be weighted down by, by the tangles and by the extra feathers and by the weight and the, the eagle literally can't bear up its weight.

And so that's kind of what, what motivates it to, to molt and, and there's this, there's this beautiful reality that when they go through that pain, when they go through that time of challenge and winnowing and all of that stuff, that, that they come out on the other side and it's a process that carries them there then for the next 30 years of their lives, that when they've gone through that process of renewal, it literally makes them fit for, for decades of, of life.

And, we know, you look at a bald Eagle in the, just the majestic nature of a bird like that. And. And, and think about that. And I think that's, that's the imagery that Isaiah is trying to help us see. And man, a whole bunch of us feel like we've had our claws scraped off and we feel like we our beaks are gone and we're, we're plucked bald and don't have any feathers.

And like, this has been a really hard season, but I I'm just convinced that God's not going to waste that and he's going to use it and he's going to find opportunity for it. And there's going to be a return for the investment that he's made in you and that he intends that for the good of vulnerable children and vulnerable families and those around the world who don't have a voice and can't defend themselves.

And, and so, keep waiting on the Lord. and in due time we will, be able to experience the fruit and the bounty.

**Phil:** [00:16:18] Yeah. And I just want to, as you were talking about that, the other verse that just reminded me of was James 1 2-5, talks about consider it pure joy.

When you face trials of many kinds, we know we're going to face trials, but why it's because that's what produces character that was produces perseverance. That's what, that's what produces, ultimately the humility, all that that's going to come out of it, but it's not, it's not like.

You're in the middle of a trial and you're getting your suffering and being persecuted. And then you're like, when I consider that pure joy, it's really hard to do that. But what is the saying as well? Why can you consider it pure joy? Because you know, the other side, you know, the promises, you know, the covenant promises of scripture, you know what God is.

Is doing any of the refiners fire. Right. And so I look at that and I go, man, there's so much good that can come out of this, the trials that we've been having, I just look at our organization, to be able to see how we as an organization, Providence we've gone. And we've, we had all these plans for this year that we were going to do.

We were going to launch a curriculum in May that was gonna, there was going to just be helping organizations all over the world. And it couldn't happen because it was, it was based on in person training and we've now been working with another organization to create a, an online, training and online, online curriculum that we're now hoping we can help more and more people that we never would have been able to help otherwise.

And, sometimes, necessity is the mother of invention. Right. And I think right now we have had to do things that we never would have. Now, like we talked about earlier, I hope and pray that online training still is something that we do, because I think there are things you can do.

You can't do online. I mean, in-person training is something we continue to do, because I think there are things that you can't do online or that aren't nearly as, effective that way. But, I, but again, Well, like you talked about with our friend, and he stays, I have another similar story, with someone over in another country, in South Asia, that, she had an opportunity, she saw an opportunity, she saw a need and she made it happen, and again, I don't know that this would have happened outside of the context of COVID because it was a country that again, and is not super, they're very belligerent against, Christians and so she saw that there was a community center that was not being used because the, so everything was shut down, but there were all these people that were not getting food were not getting the things they needed. So she said, Hey, can we, can I kind of reconfigure that community center, so it can be a feeding center, so it can be a place people can get food, so it can be a place. People can come and get the things they need. And they said, Oh yeah, you can, you can do that. Sure. And so they opened, they let her go in and do that with her ministry. And, she did that and they partnered with other organizations in the area, in the area.

But again, those are things that there's obviously a lot more to the story, but for the sake of time, we're not going to details, but yeah. Again, I just want to hopefully encourage people as we finish up this year, as we go into a new year and again, January or December 31st and January one, those are just dates, right?

It's not like 2021 happens and all the sudden 2020s washed away. And now you don't have to worry about it ever again. A lot of the same issues are going to continue on in 2021. Right. They're going to be different. We are going to have different issues. We're going to have different problems.

You know what, when everything opens back up, we're going to have a lot of problems that we had before and we're gonna to go man, it was kind of nice actually when we didn't have XYZ. And, but because we, it was our normal and it was always the normal. I think that we, we forget, some of the things, but I look at it and go, at the end of the day, it comes down to your perspective, comes down to your worldview.

Do you have an eternal perspective? Do you have a, a perspective, a worldview, of abundance or scarcity? Do you have a fear based mentality or do you have a, eternity based a God based mentality, right? That you're going to be able to do things you're going to be able to use the gifts and talents you have for amazing things, whether it's COVID lockdowns or whether it's, open as it's ever been.

Right. whether you're making, you know, in abundance or in want we will be content. And what is that? I think a lot, I think honestly, our worldviews, our faith, has been tested in this last and these last few months then th then there's several months than it ever has before. What do we really believe?

Hmm. And, you know, I talk with a lot of people about that, that, what do you really believe? And do you even know what you believe? Like, do you even know what the Bible says? and do you know what it means? Do you, do you know that and have you internalized it and do you understand it and do you really believe it?

And I think when things like this happen, our actions will, a lot of it will show. What, whether we actually believe it, what we do, what we say, how will we react? I think really does show whether we believe. And so those are things that I think are good things that have come out of 2020. They are really good things because we've seen where we need to step up, but also we've created things that we never would have created otherwise. Things have happened that never would have happened. Otherwise that I think a lot of those, and I think what we can do now moving forward is take the, keep the good and get rid of the bad, like get rid of the things that we don't need any more. Keep the good and add it to what we did before.

Right. And what we have can be able to continue doing. And so then you have this, just add it to the arsenal of great things that we can do. And so, I just want to commend the organizations that we know in the orphan care space who have, who have stepped up from the, from the collaboration standpoint, who have stepped up from the innovation standpoint.

And said, we're not going to let this thing stop us. In fact, we're going to come in and go, there's so much more need now, right now in the vulnerable communities, we're going to be super creative and we're going to make different things happen. And so, if you're out there and you've kind of been cooped up and you're like, I'm just, and you are kind of that living in fear is something that resonates with you and you haven't been doing stuff. You know, I just want to encourage you to, to step out in faith and to step out and go, there's things, you know, God, God doesn't stop using us because there's a lockdown. God Doesn't stop using us because there's a pandemic.

In fact, he may have created you in such a way that that is when he was, he created you to shine in this, in this environment. So that's really what I just want to kind of encourage. And I, I love the passage that you shared. Cause absolutely all of that just totally resonated with me.

And really with a lot of, I imagine it will resonate with a lot of others out there. So

**Dr. Rick:** [00:23:07] Phil, One of the things that has that certainly 2020 has brought all of us is a different, different pace of life, give a different rhythm of life. and, this may be a little first world problem, but like one of the things that has kind of been a reality for all of our lives is we've had some downtime where we've had to stay home.

And we ended up streaming some things, right? Like we've, we've ended up with some time to, to watch and pay attention to some things that we maybe haven't, maybe we haven't had time for, for some of that stuff in days past and years past. And that's, that's kind of one of the, or maybe even one of the blessings and all of this, we've had some time to gear down with family and to, focus on civil there's things.

But one of the things you and I talked about a whole lot offline is Is his binge and a little guilty pleasure that you're going to take a couple of minutes and talk about, so you know, Apple launched a, launched a streaming service Apple plus over, you know, through COVID. And, one of the shows that Apple has, brought to their streaming service and their network is a show called Ted Lasso. and it's, like, the collision of our worlds. Cause it's a, it's a, story at this point in the story that's built around, premier league and English football, but it's a texas American football coach who goes and finds himself in the middle of the English premier league.

and it is absolutely. And I'll. I'll disclaim it and say, there's probably, there's a little language in there and some things that'll, that'll probably, they're a little off putting, but the fact is the premise of the show is just incredibly clever. And it's one of the funniest shows I think I've seen in a while. And it has served for a lot of witty banter between us offline because it kind of brings our, our sport passions together. And so now I wanna talk about it for a few minutes and just, like what Ted lasso, Where did it resonate with you?

**Phil:** [00:25:05] Well, before we talk about Ted Lasso, so I do want to say that that's something else that 2020 has brought is some amazing, content on, in particular, on the real football that we've discussed. So, soccer, for those in the, in America, but, there's just, the English game is a, is a phenomenal, Mini series or I think it was on Netflix. Might've been

Amazon prime. and that was, it was a great for, for you ladies out there listening, it was made by the people who made Downton Abbey.

So you can, you can definitely watch it and you'll enjoy that. but it also talks about the, the, the FA Cup and how it started. But there's also some great, I mean, the thing that I love about Ted Lasso as with some other documentaries that have come out. Amazon Prime has the all or nothing specials.

If you're not a sports fan, honestly, these are great leadership. things, you can learn a lot about leadership on because you'll see the good and the bad of leaders. And you can really say, I like that. I don't want that. I mean, like that. I want to keep that, but there's some stuff that you go, I don't like that, and that's not what I want to be as a leader but you see them in their, in their element. You see them in the good and the bad. But with Ted Lasso. let's get to Ted Lasso because it was one of those things that I was actually, if you're not familiar with Ted Lasso at all, it started as a commercial, on NBC when the Premier League came to America or came to NBC, or even NBC paid a lot of money to get the Premier League.

they made this. Four minute ad with Jason Sudeikis and you know, funny dude, and he just made it. And it's American football coach in London is what it was called and it was a four minute spot. Super funny. Then they made a second one the second year, the premier league. Super funny. Then I see it's going to be a show and I go, Oh man.

They're going to ruin Ted Lasso because how are you going to extend out this four minute video and put it into a series? And then I watched it and I thought, and then the first episode actually had four or five of the jokes from the, from the commercials. And I go, yeah, that's probably what's going to happen.

It was funny. It was great, great episode, whatever, but I'm skeptical. I'm like, how are they going to, I watched the whole deal. And like you said, I mean, it was, it's so funny. Yeah, it's crass. It's a British show. So you got a lot of language. There's a character in it that talks a lot about the sex stuff. So that's something that, you gotta not necessarily watch it with the kids.

I would definitely not do that, but. It has so many good leadership lessons.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:27:46] Right?

**Phil:** [00:27:48] That's the thing about it. Like it's funny. Yes. Which is awesome. I mean, cause it's just funny. It has, you know, actually the amount I wish I had more soccer actually, but. the soccer parts are actually for soccer fans are probably painful to watch because it's just a cheese ball, but I think they did that on purpose too. but they have a, I mean, they have announcers for the actual announcers from the premier league games. But beyond that, like I said, the leadership lessons, so. Just a couple that they, that they talk about is, or that, that, that are there.

One of them is this guy, his name is Roy. So Roy is the old guy. He's like 34. He's, you know, the old man on the block that slowed down. He used to be the best in the league and now

he's slow, but he's, he's the guy that people look up to still, even if he's slowed down on the pitch. So pitch his field for those of you who don't know soccer lingo.

And so Ted Lasso talking to his assistant coach, Roy comes in, he's all mad about something. And Ted Lasso is, Oh, cause Roy was mad that some of the guys were making fun of one of the other players and he wanted, and Roy came in and said, coach, you know, are you going to take care of it? He says, no.

I'm not going to take care of it because he wanted Roy to take care of it. Cause Roy was mad and he, and so Roy left steaming and Ted Lasso says to the assistant coach, he goes, he's the one. meaning if we can get him to get it, he will help us set this culture in this team. And the culture is one that we want it to be a place where people are loving each other.

We want it to be a place where people are get each other's back or people are, it's not going to be us, you know, us against them. It's not going to be clicks. It's not going to be anything like that. It's going to be a team. It's going to be one. And he goes, he's the one. If we can get him to get it, he will then impact the team and be a virus in a good way.

It'll be contagious in a good way. and that was something that was so cool to see and then to see how it played out throughout the whole season. on the flip side, there was another guy who was just this attitude, just attitude, attitude, attitude, and he was this cocky young guy. He's a striker cocky and how Ted Lasso handled him as well to not put up with it.

But at the same time, try to know, help him to understand why his attitude was not helping the team. And he won't be as good as he could be if he has that attitude. So all these different things, but honestly, favorite character probably in the, in the whole show. Who's your favorite character? Oh,

**Dr. Rick:** [00:30:31] wow.

it's kind of split for me actually. so I have a really soft spot in my heart for Nate, the great. Just, I think there there's something about this and, and that character, he essentially is the equipment manager who is just ridiculed by everybody. He's sort of the brunt of every joke, but he loves football and he's, Incredibly intelligent. And so he begins to kind of say a few things off the cuff, around the coaches and they like, they really seize on it. And, By the time you get to, the end of the show, he's in a completely different place. And he starts out and, and it's just, it's fun to kind of watch his development, you know, along, and then, you know, the other one that was just fun to watch is the owner.

And, and I can't, I can't think of her name, but to me, this Rebecca, right. And, and this, this whole, Her attitude of, she's hurt and been scorned and selfish and vindictive and all these kinds of things. And what's really fun. Cause, cause I, what, I've the way I've described it to people when they've asked is, is that the character Ted Lasso is, it's like Jedi mind tricks all over the place, right?

Like he is literally. applying psychology all over the place with people in order to lead them well. And, but there's a thread in the middle of everything that there is this genuineness and this integrity that kind of, and a disarming, way of engaging. And it's just fascinating to watch

someone who is really like out for his destruction and who through nothing, but honestly, servant leadership and integrity. he moves her to a place where she's resolved, some of her, deep setting issues and, and like, they come to a relationship of trust and I don't want to blow it for people that don't watch the show, but it's an amazing thing.

And I think, you know, the whole time I was watching that I'm going, man, this is, this is the farthest thing from a Bible study or something coming out of a biblical worldview or whatever. But the truth is when you boil it down to him and his character, it's, it's servant leadership and integrity.

And it's over and over and over in so many different contexts. So the cop-out would be to say, Ted Lasso is my favorite character. No, it's like, it's the way he interacts with all these different personalities and all these, all these people and the bonus of all of it is that through the middle of all that, and there's just such, such a great load of creative content, it is completely hilarious. And so while you, and I could talk it down to feeling like it's a science project or whatever. At the end of the day, it's just a, it's just a really clever, funny show. And, and so the wrapper that it comes in is, it is pretty awesome too.

**Phil:** [00:33:29] It's super fun.

It's a fun show. The character development's phenomenal like you talked about. Each character is so well-developed so purposefully added to the show. The writers of that show are phenomenal. Yeah.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:33:46] Punchy, you know, like, I mean, it's just so good.

**Phil:** [00:33:50] And so I, you know, Nate the Great is my favorite character.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:33:54] I

**Phil:** [00:33:55] think he.

He embodies, I think so much of what you were talking about there as the humble, he's this humble guy who knows so much. And, but he's in the world's view, this lowly dude. Right. And Lasso the thing I love about that character is I think Lasso finds the great in everybody.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:34:22] Yep.

**Phil:** [00:34:24] And he gets the most out of his players of his and of his staff and of his, and even the owner, like you're talking about with that, even as superiors. He leads everybody through the servant leadership and he leads Nate to understand his value and how he can help the team.

And, again, without, like you said, without ruining it, without spoiling it, The growth of that character throughout the first season. And they, I just saw they renewed it for season three. So that means there's a season two, which I'm excited for. But assuming that the same rider is in the same, everything in which I imagined.

So I think that that is what is so cool about it. Like each character adds something to it. And like you said, Ted is weaved into each of those characters. But it's not just, how it's done. It's not just some like, throw away character that just left, whatever. They have, and there's some talk about, it's not so much fatherlessness, but we can have a father son relationship that wasn't going to lead to, something else.

So there's, it hits on so many issues that are so relevant in our world today. And I just. Yeah, I can't, I could not recommend it more with the caveat, like I said earlier, that it absolutely has a lot of language and a lot of innuendo that is a bit more overt than you'd want it,

**Dr. Rick:** [00:35:57] watch it through vid angel and you'll, and you'll be, you'll be golden

**Phil:** [00:36:02] I don't know if there would be any words left.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:36:03] I don't know. But, but, but I say the other thing too is just one, one last comment is the fact that he. He's also not a super human character. Like there, there's a very, vulnerable, flawed guy. And so in one way, he's, he's doing these amazing things with other people, but, but he has feet of clay as well.

And so it's more real in that way as well. And so it's just, it's just a fun watch. So. I hope they keep the writers. I hope they, I hope they keep the ensemble together. I hope they don't mess it up. Cause they're often really good startup first season.

**Phil:** [00:36:35] And like you said, I mean, I think that's the thing that I meant to say and I didn't, but the, that Lasso is very flawed and, and he has issues and they draw those out very, very well. They draw out his, the human side of it. They the, just how he is flawed and how he struggles and his issues. and he wears them on his sleeve too. So it's, It's just really cool all the way around.

All right. So while we could talk much, much, much, much longer about Ted Lasso, that's, not what we are going to finish on. I do want to finish with, let's say a couple resources that really impacted you this year, other than Ted lasso, that came out this year or that you watched or read this year.

That, we want to highlight as we finish up another year of Think Orphan.

**Dr. Rick:** [00:37:30] I think something that I'm still chewing on a little bit and I, and I have to be honest, like I'm not, I'm not exactly, this is not in the endorsement place.

It's in a, it's an interesting idea that I'm chewing around with I've become familiar. There are a lot of folks out here that are probably listening to us that are way farther down the line and way more well acquainted, but Donald Miller, the story branding kind of idea, kind of this whole idea of story being the way that, that we're beginning to experience so much of our world and from a marketing perspective. So that's not Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz, Donald Miller. If you're in Christian circles, it's Donald Miller, the marketer, and this idea of story branding.

and so the idea behind that is just that, that we're, As we're putting things on display, as we're marketing where's out there, or whatever, that, that effective marketers are, are telling a story with their product. And there's a framework to that.

And part of getting into that has been really helpful for me to process even at a deeper level. I think the, the level to which we have become so captivated with story and how integral story is to communication and our world today. but it also is, is a little bit disconcerting.

and I'm going to go a little, weirdly intellectual probably. Whatever here, but, but the fact that a generation ago, we were talking a lot about postmodernism and talking about the loss of absolute truth and, and those kinds of things are particularly in the Christian community, talking about what the implications of that are for us in, in the working out of our faith and we're not talking about high anymore and we're not talking, but because it seems like we have, we've kind of given over to this idea that, facts are disputable. Facts are not even to be trusted, but the stories are always trustworthy. and that we, we give ourselves to. Like, I can't argue with your experience.

I can argue with your facts all day long, but what would you, but when you bring your experience, I can't argue with your experience and your truth is truth, and my truth is truth and, and all that. And it's, it's just kind of brought me back freshly into confrontation to say, I take a pretty hard line on this, I think, but that's not true.

Like there is a truth. and there's a truth that ultimately is, is grounded in, in the, in the person and the character of God and in truth is knowable and the Bible has a very different message that says that our feelings and, and our, and our circumstances and our subjectivity can't be trusted.

But, but God can. And so that's not even so much, so it's not an endorsement as much as it's a, as much as it's kind of a, a check to say, man, let's, let's be people moving forward. Who, who are not so quick to, to embrace that story is the most important thing. And that, and that a personal perspective or reality, doesn't always define reality.

There is a reality, and there is a truth that exists in that reality. That truth that exists is, is, is grounded in an absolute truth and who God is, and those things that he's laid down for us. and we need to hang on to that. So that's me for this year,

**Phil:** [00:40:59] Not at all was I was expecting.

Very good. No, I totally agree with all that. You said the one thing I, I think that StoryBrand is, has some really good stuff to say. The one thing I always get caught up in and I really struggle with, and I just can't bring myself to do when it says, you make your customer, the hero of this I'm like Christ needs to be the hero of the story and God needs to be there in the story.

Or else I don't want to be part of that story. So all that to say, for me, one of the, one of the things that I read and you read, and we talked about on this show and we interviewed the author. It was, Adoption Through the Rear View Mirror was a fantastic, fantastic book that came out this year that I read this year.

And I actually read it because Karen has not read it for us yet. So disappointed in that, but, hopefully she will at some point, but, that was just a, fantastic, fantastic book. I think, Lisa and Karyn Purvis's book as well, Lisa Qualls was another, which we've read. And I know, you know, a few to thought more about it, you said both of those books. I have no doubt Rick, so that's okay.

but

I would say, beyond that, what it's really spoken to me this year. I mean, those are really the, I don't need to talk much more about those. Cause we do have full episodes about both of those books with the authors.

So it definitely encourage you to go back to that. Lisa Qualls interview and the, Karen Springs interview. if you want to. just remember, or if you haven't read those books, go grab them. The Connected Parent is Lisa Qualls. The things that's really, honestly this year, what has really, been awesome for me is I've really listened to a lot of sermons.

I think I talked about this on another episode, but. it was starting to, as I was reading chapters of the Bible, I'd go to the gospel coalition website and just get the, people that have done sermons on those chapters and I'd listened to those as well. And then I realized that the guy who was really, just connecting with me, it was Alastair bag. So I went to truth for life and which is his ministry that, that he's able to do. And, and just getting different sermons that he's done on different areas. And, and one of the things that I really have studied a lot and I'm going to be doing a Bible study on it in the spring is

the story arc of scripture, really just the, the story from creation to fall to a God and his people, the land, and to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to the, to the acts of the apostles and how, where we fit into the story to Revelation, to the second coming to all of that and the story of it, that everything in the scripture points to Christ, and do we understand that? Do we see that when reading the Bible, do we really see that? So that's something that, Begg has a great series on that as well. but the book, the Drama of Scripture is another book that I've, I've read in the past and I started reading again this year. But I recommend if you've never done that, if you've never really understand the Bible and it's it's, it has a story.

It has the, the. That we are a part of. Then I imagine the Bible has never really come to life for you either. Because when you see that you realize, and I'm sure you've heard before, these are real people, they experience the, these are people like you and me. That's easy to say. But it's, it's really true, but when you see yourself in it, it really helps to, to truly come to life when you're, when you're reading, when you're listening to a sermon, when you're, experiencing it with, with, with others.

it's something that I think, is necessary to truly understand that. Full story with whatever you're reading. Cause otherwise you read and things out of context, right? You're you're listening to a sermon about a certain book or whatever. You don't know it in the bigger picture. You just see the tree, you don't know it's part of that big forest.

So that's really for me, and there's a lot of other stuff that I read and watched and listened to over the, over the year. But those are the ones that really stick out as, as we, as we finish up. All right, dude. The last thoughts, parting words as we, finish up this year,

**Dr. Rick:** [00:45:42] Lord willing, we'll see you a lot in 2021.

So. We'll be here. You'd be here. let's continue the journey together.

**Phil:** [00:45:52] Righty. I totally agree that I look forward to 21. I look forward to continue the conversation with everyone out there. as we've talked about as, as we, we really want you to, to get more engaged in the conversation. I would love for you to do that. info@thinkorphan.com. You can, you can drop, drop me an email, drop Rick, an email. you can join us on the Facebook group. Think Orphan Facebook group. That's something that's been, like I said, we we've gotten several of our guests from that Facebook group. So, look forward to continuing that conversation there.

Also, if you want to, if you want to give to. To help this podcast keep going. you can do so at providenceworld.com. We are able to do this through the generous supporters of that ministry. And, I just want to thank you for that. I want to thank you for being a part of this show for your download today.

For the other downloads you've been able to do. I just thank you for it. It's something that I, we recognize are both very grateful that we get to do this too. We get to have these conversations with some amazing people, because we know it's making an act because we know it's helping other people.

If we were just doing this, Yeah, we laugh and we have fun, but neither of us would do this. If it wasn't making an impact. And so share with us those stories of impact, because it's something that every time I receive it, I get so encouraged. So folks. Have a great Christmas, have a great new years with your family, hopefully you'll be able to celebrate with your family.

and I do hope and pray. I don't just say this at the end of every episode. I mean it. I hope and pray that you take everything you're learning on the show, everything that you're reading, everything that you're listening to and otherwise consuming, and you use it to help you to understand how you can love orphan and vulnerable children better and better each and every day.

Thanks a lot. Have a great week, have a great new year. We'll talk soon.