

**KNOCKING PREMIERE:  
TRANSCRIPT FROM AUDIENCE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
AND DISCUSSIONS AFTERWARDS  
(Approx. 25 min)**

*Italics indicate side comments by Brenda Lee*  
Bold added for emphasis

First you will hear a Jehovah Witness (JW) Elder (Dave), part of the KNOCKING panel which consists of himself and an ACLU representative. Among other things, he says: “We appreciate the way we’re depicted (in KNOCKING)...”

Next you will hear “D” (an ex-JW) say: “About the movie and blood transfusions,...Seth (JW depicted in the film) was not able to have a blood transfusion because it was God’s law, right? And it’s my understanding though that the JWs didn’t embrace that until 1967, **so how could that be God’s law...?** Also, organ transplants were at one time not allowed, right? Am I misinformed?” *Elder responds by talking about “new light”...*

JW Elder (Dave) commenting: “By litigating we’re not embracing the political system...We’re defending our rights as citizens of the world.” *Isn’t that about the same as JWs going on welfare or food stamps or taking blood from the world’s blood supply but refusing to give back? How does that equate with “be no part of this world?”*

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) rep on KNOCKING panel: “Whether or not you choose to have a blood transfusion; it’s a personal choice.” *clapping by JWs? Another women in the audience mentions that you don’t have a choice because the WT will “kick you out.”*

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Brenda Lee: “The film talks about the fact that there are 30,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses who are disfellowshipped from the organization every year...Why does the organization shun family members who have done absolutely nothing wrong?...The film talks freedom of choice and freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Why can’t a person choose their own spiritual path without losing their family?”

JW Elder: “It’s really a matter of...if you believe that something is so important...(he changes direction) In your question you mentioned that if they have done absolutely nothing wrong and I guess that’s the kicker. **If there’s nothing wrong, then the person wouldn’t be shunned.**”

Brenda Lee STANDS up and says: “I take exception to that because my mother hasn’t spoken to me for the last 25 years and all I simply did was leave the organization. I lost my mother, my brother, my sister, my four nephews and my niece. And so I know first-hand the devastating effects of the Watchtower organization. And I take exception to what you are saying. I personally know thousands of people who are being shunned today because they simply wanted to have the same freedom that Jehovah’s Witness have fought years for.” *One or two people started clapping in the front of the audience, then I started clapping loudly to support those few who did.*

JW Elder: “**We feel deeply for family members..As you can see in the depiction, the documentary, people matter..**but we look at the long-range perspective. We want to love our family members forever. We feel very strongly again that doing things, a decision to choose to

serve Jehovah God, the creator of the universe the way he requires, requires a limitation and the use of that free will to benefit from that teaching. The free will that is talked about we all have that. But there are consequences. So that's really the bottom line. It's not because we don't love our family members. It's because we want to love them forever from the perspective of complying with God's requirements..."

ACLU rep: "I have a question and I'm not meaning to be challenging..**You don't shun people who are not Jehovah's Witnesses, like people in the audience who might not be Jehovah's Witnesses, so why do you shun someone who was and chose not to be later?**"

Elder: "Well, the shunning comes into play if somebody has broken one of God's laws. **If an individual family member as in the case of the lady in the back there choose to not speak to family members or associate with them. That is a personal choice** of how they deal with their family members. If there was nothing done wrong from a scriptural viewpoint, the breaking of God's law..." *Did you notice he never answered the previous question but simply dismissed it as a personal choice made by individual families? He just LIED!*

Brenda Lee: *I interjected with:* "My mother sent me a Watchtower in 1981 that said that according to new information brought out by the Watchtower organization she was to never speak to me again. **So she directed by the organization; it wasn't her choice.**"

ACLU rep: "I'm sorry, but this is getting to be a little too personal. I'm sorry."

Brenda Lee: "Well, it is personal because it is affecting millions of people worldwide."

ACLU rep: "I'm not trying to shut down conversation, but I am."

*At this point another woman asked why the JWs come to her door and the Elder begins to explain that they (JWs) are following what Jesus did, to which I interject--.*

Brenda Lee: "Would Jesus shun family members?"

Elder: "We are not just purposely ignoring you."

Brenda Lee: "Yes you are!"

D: "Don't Jehovah's Witnesses have to go door-to-door in order to survive Armageddon?"

Elder: "No, it's a command..."

ACLU rep: "OK, let's be civil...I don't think it's fair to ask someone to justify their religion..."

Jehovah Witness in Audience: "We love Jehovah God. And so we go out to the world to share Jehovah's message with you. It's up to you if you want to have it or not...**And we don't shun people. We don't shun family members.**"

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Continued...

## AFTER THE Q&A...

**Brenda Lee, “D” and “Friendly Sid” talk to another young JW male (with accent)** and after the JW refers to THE TRUTH, “Friendly Sid” says, “Do you know the biggest barrier to truth? It’s thinking you already have it.”

**Then...**

**“D” and Brenda Lee talk to Elder (Dave) from KNOCKING panel.** Some of our comments follow:

Brenda Lee to Elder: “But the Watchtower organization is not God. The Watchtower is a man-made organization founded by Charles Taze Russell who by the way was a disillusioned Adventist, so he was the original apostate because he forsook his religion.” *Elder was being pulled away in haste by another JW man. ”D” thanks Elder for coming...then Brenda Lee asks Elder:*

“How do you feel about that woman over here saying “No, we don’t shun families?” How do you feel about that when you know that’s a lie? How do you feel about a Jehovah’s Witness lying in the audience?”

Elder: “I know you have some personal feelings...”

Brenda Lee: “No, no, don’t evade the question!”

Elder: “**She didn’t say that Jehovah’s Witness don’t shun.**”

Brenda Lee: “Yes she did!”

D: “OK, I’ll say it. My family shuns me. How do you feel? I was never baptized.”

Elder: “Again, the reason I mentioned earlier is we look at the long-range; everlasting life is more important...”

Brenda Lee: “But you’re not going to answer my question?”

Elder: “Well, if your question is motivated because you want to understand but you had a point to make..”

Brenda Lee: “Well, I want to know how you feel about another Jehovah’s Witness lying?”

Elder: “Have a good evening, folks...”

*Elder ducks out....*

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