

Week 48

11/22/11

James: So glad to have this opportunity to spend time with you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Ruth and Billy Graham's daughter.

Every one of the family members always say, "Well, you say we're Billy Graham's child. We're Ruth Graham's child too!"

And it was Billy and Ruth, and I don't know of any couple have any greater admiration, rightly so, from the Christian community and the community of faith across all denominational lines.

Well, Anne Graham Lotz is here. She is a great communicator. She has, in my opinion, the gift to communicate like her father and there is a dynamic end of it, it's very real. You talk about a zeal for God, it is there.

Now she has written a book, *Expecting to See Jesus*. And she calls it a wake-up call for God's people. She is talking about seeing Jesus and I have an idea it is more than the coming of the Lord but the presence of the Lord, and I'm anxious to hear what she has to say.

Would you welcome Anne Graham Lotz to *LIFE Today*? -- Back to *LIFE Today*.

Anne: Thank you.

James: I'm excited about what God's put in your heart. I want, if you would, to share with us basically what you -- the message you want to communicate and that you put in this book.

Anne: If I can frame it this way, I don't know if you've ever slept through your alarm; have you ever done that?

[Laughter]

And if you set your alarm you mean to get up because you've got a place to go, something to do, somebody to see and I remember I was doing a series of messages that went for several days and I set my alarm for the last morning at 4:30 in the morning so I'd get up

and have plenty of time for my last sessions. And when I woke up in the morning the sun was warming my face, and I thought, you know I didn't know the sun was up at 4:30. Then it occurred to me it's not. And I looked at the clock and it said 8:00 and I had slept through that alarm. I had to get somebody else to take my first session. I made a mess. Alarms are meant to wake us up.

And I think there are alarms going off in our world. I think 9/11/2001 was an alarm, hurricane Katrina was an alarm, the economic meltdown is an alarm, the wars in Afghanistan, the longest war ever in American history is an alarm, and they're going off but the church is sleeping, and we're sleeping through the alarms. I believe God wants to wake us up in our relationship with him.

So at the front end of this book I have a section on Matthew 24 and the fact that Jesus told his disciples how they could know the last generation of human history. Jesus said we cannot know the day or the hour, I don't know if I should mention his name but the guy that said it was coming on my birthday, May 21st --

[Laughter]

And I knew Jesus -- you can't know the day or the hour, Jesus said that. It was such a contradiction of what Jesus said.

But Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 24, you can know the generation. I've taken what Jesus taught his disciples about how to tell time and I've matched them with what I see going on in the world today and I believe if I live out my natural lifetime I will live to see the return of Christ. And it is not based on what I feel, or what I think or what I hope, it is what Jesus said and what I read in my newspaper.

And the two very distinctive signs of the last generation, one is the rebirth of the nation of Israel, which happened in May 1948 after 2,000 years of non-existence, and then the gospel being preached to the whole world. Jesus said the one generation that sees both of those signs take place, plus all the signs that he called birth pains that increase in frequency and intensity, that's the generation that will be the last. I was born in May 1948 and so I believe that generation is -- as my daddy asked me, "Anne, is a generation 40 years or 70 years?" I said, "Daddy, I don't know but it is mine."

[Laughter]

So the front end of the book is that, just laying out what Jesus said and how we can tell -- how we can learn to tell time and wake up when the alarms go off and know what's

happening and connect the dots. But then the rest of the book is from Isaiah's testimony, in the year that King Uzziah died, when he was shaken and we were talking earlier at dinner about the way that our world is being shaken, economically, materially, politically, nationally, environmentally, it's just -- our whole world is shaking. When Isaiah's world was shaken he looked up and he saw the Lord. Jesus said in John chapter 12 that Isaiah saw my glory. So that's a vision of a pre-incarnate son of God. So Jesus was seated on the throne. And it was when Isaiah's world was shaken that he saw Jesus in a fresh way. And then in the end, he saw his holiness, holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. And in the light of who Jesus is, Isaiah saw himself.

Back in chapter five he was preaching a sermon that I pointed out to you and it has six points, they all begin with woe. Woe to you... woe to you... woe to you... woe to you... it's just like when I watch the evening news I want to do the same thing. Woe to you... woe to you... how dare you do these things? How can they do that? That's not right! So we point our finger at them but when Isaiah saw the Lord and in the light of his holiness, he said in chapter six, verse five, "Woe to me."

And I feel like in the Christian church because we know the truth and we have the plumb line we tend to be judgmental and critical and we're pointing our finger at political leaders or social sins or our neighbor or our husband or our pastor -- it is somebody else's fault. Jesus, all the while is looking at us saying first of all, we need to get the log out of our own eye. We need to repent of our sin. Isaiah went through this tremendous experience of repentance.

And it was interesting, if I could just share a little personally. It was after 9/11 and I was in the process -- anyway I was taking some other seminars but I had set aside 10 days to prepare. And so the first day I pulled out my pad and my Bible and I was going to work on a message and it was just cold. I couldn't get the passage to break open. So I thought, well, I need a good night's sleep. So I went to bed and got up the next day and I tried to break open the passage and I couldn't. So I prayed and prayed. I felt like God was saying, "Anne, I don't want to talk about the message, I want to talk about you."

I said, "Well, God, I'm here to talk about the message. I've set aside this time, I've got my agenda."

[Laughter]

So he just didn't budge. So I had to get on my face. And say, "All right, let's talk about me." He began for seven days -- he revealed sin after sin in my life. This is maybe five years ago, six years ago, and it was the most painful spiritual thing I've ever been through

because I've been in ministry, I tell other people what they need to do. And here I was being peeled back like an onion.

And he didn't do it in a mean way, James, he didn't hit me over the head. He wasn't being ugly or like blaming me or it was like a father saying, "All right, you can't get by with this anymore. I want to set this right because it is affecting our relationship. It's dampening what I want to do through you. It's deadening you on the inside." And I didn't even know that. I didn't know anything was wrong with me at all!

So for seven days I went through that. At the end of the seven day period he spoke to me through his Word and let me know he was finished. That he had, at least for that period in my life, and I was weak and wobbly but when I went -- I had three days now to prepare ten days worth of messages but I did it. When I went down the audience had no idea what I'd been through but I think there was a freshness in my outlook, my spiritual life, sharpness in what I was doing and more power in my ministry.

And then God just opened my eyes to Isaiah's experience and that's what it was. Isaiah was a prophet, he was in ministry when he had that experience in Isaiah chapter six. When Uzziah died, Uzziah was the king and Isaiah lived with him so I expect Isaiah, Uzziah took care of Isaiah's needs in everything but when Uzziah died the Bible says he wasn't right with God so he went into eternity shaking his fist in God's face, and Isaiah was his pastor. He was his spiritual leader.

So I think Isaiah was very shaken but he saw the Lord being in control, Jesus was seated on the throne and in light of that he saw himself that he had been pointing his finger at everybody else. And he not only said, "Woe to me I'm ruined but I'm a man of unclean lips and I live amongst a people of unclean lips."

In other words, he was no better than the people whom he had been pointing his finger. That's just losing his sense that I got it all together. God is lucky to have me in ministry, I'm pretty good. And just all of that crumbled in light of who Jesus is.

So God initiated it, he sent an angel from the altar to take a coal, put it on Isaiah's lips where he had confessed his sin. And it was a live coal, meaning it was burning so you know his lips blistered. You know he probably never talked the same after that. It was painful.

And God said, "Your sin has been atoned for and your guilt is taken away."

I felt that same -- the application of the blood of Jesus. When you've been in ministry and you're a believer and he convicts you of sin and you realize that the blood of Jesus is necessary for things that I've been doing that I wasn't even aware of and it is painful. It is like searing, scorching pain but it brings cleansing and it brings healing and it brings restoration, it brings freedom. I felt like I'd had a bath on the inside. The joy was back, the exuberance, the life, the sense of intimacy in my relationship with him.

Then Isaiah, at that point, he overheard God saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" I don't think Isaiah felt worthy to be in ministry at all. He was a man of unclean lips, meaning he was a prophet; he served God with his lips which meant he was saying, "How can I be in ministry if I'm no better than the people in the pew?" If the person in the pulpit is no better than the person in the pew then what business do I have being in the ministry?

Somehow I think we think people in ministry are a little step above people who are not. No, people who are in the church are better than the people outside the church when actually we are all sinners -- it's just that we've been to the cross and we've been forgiven. And then for some of us, maybe God has equipped us and enabled us to build up the body in unique ways with our gifting but it is not because of us, it is because of God's grace and his spirit in our lives.

So when God said, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

Isaiah, if he was like me, I think in fear and trembling he just barely raised his hand and said, "God, here I am. You remember me. I'm a sinner and I'm a man of unclean lips and I live amongst a people of unclean lips but I've been to the cross."

I know it was at the cross because that's the only way you can have your sin atoned for and your guilt taken away. But he said, "I've been cleansed and my sin has been atoned for. If you can use me, I'm available."

God sent him out and he told the people -- he said, "Isaiah, the people that you go to are not going to listen to you, they're not going to respond."

So Isaiah says, "Whoa! I don't know if I want to do this or not. This is pretty hard. And how long do I have to do that?"

And God said basically, until judgment comes. And Isaiah obeyed God.

In fact, if you look at chapter seven, first chapter eight, no longer did Isaiah say, "Thus says the Lord," "Thus says the Lord," "Thus says the Lord." From then on he says, "God spoke to me" and then he gave out God's Word. "And God spoke to me..." So it was a personal relationship and his ministry came out of the overflow of his relationship with God. And he became the greatest of the Old Testament prophets.

I believe God today, in this last generation, is looking for Isaiahs because Isaiah was never used of God to bring a revival. His nation did come under judgment. The tradition says he was sawn in two so he paid the ultimate price for his relationship with God and for his ministry. But he goes down in history as the greatest of the Old Testament prophets and somebody mightily used of God.

I don't know if we're going to see, before the return of Jesus, the revival for which we long, the great awakening that we all long for but that's up to God. But I want to be faithful to him in my generation. I want to be used of him in such a way that I make impact on my generation. I want my life to have eternal significance from God's perspective. When I get to heaven I want to have an abundant entrance, I don't want to just squeak in the door.

I believe that God has given me the privilege of living in this last generation to let people know about him that they can know God in a personal relationship through his son, first of all putting their faith in Jesus at the cross and then getting into God's Word that they can know him.

I was just telling our person that drove me here and he is of another faith and another religion. I was just telling him, God hasn't called us to a religion, to a denomination, to a church, to an organization, it is to a relationship with himself through Jesus. And there's a big difference!

James: Anne, I've known you a long time and you've been here many times, a lot on your heart. Let me just say to you in a way of personal observation. And you know Isaiah talked about the countenance of the people testifying against them. Your countenance really testifies to a great work of God he's done in your life right now. I see the glory and grace of God.

Do you not see this on Anne right now? It is the absolute glory of God. It is a fresh anointing. A divine enabling that is even greater than you have known for his purpose. And it is because of the great work that he not only began and is doing but is continuing, but I see it.

I see and I pray that what I see in you can also be seen in me because I want him to be revealed. I want him to speak first to me before he speaks through me. I really do want to deliver what I've heard and applied to me before I ever try to apply something to others. I know our mutual respect and love for our families that we both have prayerful attention toward our families and concerns, that we have this love and appreciation.

I want you to know I see the work of God in you. I think what you shared –

Look, get the book.

If people wanted to go to your web site and say, "I want to know where Anne's going to be. I want to know where she is speaking. Could I get the book there?" Where would they go?

Anne: Just my name, AnneGrahamLotz.com.

James: And it will tell everything, your schedule, itinerary, whatever?

Anne: It gives all that, it gives our resources. The ministry is supported through donations and also through the sale of our resources. So you can shop until you drop.

[Laughter]

James: And I recommend that you do it. I know -- it's so wonderful when -- you've kind of got a history of watching God work through the family. We prayed for one another. We've been able to lift one another up in ministry.

You know what? It wasn't like we got lifted up so we could, woe is you! But the Lord is working on us -- all of us continually. We believe it is because many of you are praying for us. Don't stop!

Would you say thanks to Anne for what God is doing in her life?

[Applause]

Blessings on your dad and all the family. Appreciate every one of you!

I know her brother took Betty and me to the Sudan and we've been through for years. You know what? We've been able to have our workers in there because they risk their lives and it is very, very dangerous.

There is a movie coming out about an individual who went into the Sudan and his life was changed. It is about a machine gun preacher, and went into the Sudan and what he did to fight for the lives. There is a lot of interesting things.

What her brother said to me, "The Christians in the Sudan that I've met, they look like the book of Acts Christians." And when I went there with Franklin, Betty and I went, we saw these Christians so full of Jesus, they were being killed, murdered and they talked about the missionaries. Some of the missionaries had been dead for a decade, some of them 20 years and they talked about them like they were their present father. That's the impact that those witnesses had had on them and they were witnesses. It's a beautiful thing.

The mission field is one of the most exciting places on the planet to be sharing the love of God with people who feel so overlooked and forgotten, many of them in the Sudan, many of them in the areas like Somalia, Angola, still areas of Mozambique and other parts of Southern Africa. We're asking you, would you... would you help us reach out to these beautiful but desperately needy people and demonstrate the love of God?

I want you to watch this closely. I want you to hear from a young man that grew up from the time he was born with our ministering relationship, listen to his heart on the mission field. He is the father of five children himself. You're going to hear the heart of God. Listen closely.

On the mission field:

Kyle: Our minds seem countless full from our journeys here in Africa, but there is always room for more, especially when that face seizes your heart.

Jacob, 18 months; a life hanging in the balance before us. Or was it two lives? Jacob's grandmother Marie was giving all that she had to care for Jacob, the only remaining memory of her daughter. You see three weeks after Jacob's birth his mom was lost to an illness the doctors never identified.

How much can the human spirit endure? Still reeling from the pain of loss is Marie looking into the face of more loss? The face of a child too weak to smile all because of a simple lack of food.

We can talk statistics; how many Maries and Jacobs there are here in Africa but Marie and Jacob, they're not a statistic. They're two very real people courageously fighting for

survival under unimaginable hardship. Prayer was our first line of defense for in no way do we underestimate its power. But God calls us to more than that. We are called to action but even our action is not enough here. For the clinic that could rescue Jacob is facing such depleted supply that it cannot care for him as he so desperately needs.

We are only one part of the solution for Jacob. Your action is the other. You can be the answer.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Will you be? Please!

We watched Kyle Rogers grow up from the time he was born. We were with him, and the family when he was born, father of five beautiful children. Wonderful husband! Great church leader. Now goes all over the world as a missionary too, to assist the missionaries. You heard the heart of God.

Would you help save those children's lives? There is a grandmother raising the little child that is hungry; the mother died of malnutrition, disease effect.

Betty, what should we do?

Betty: Wow! I can relate to that grandmother in that I know how much I love my grandchildren. As that grandmother sat there holding that precious child, all she could do is hold him because she doesn't have the resources to help him. If she did, she would give him the food.

But we do have the resources, we have the help to save the lives of these children. When the solution is so simple, they need some food to nourish their little bodies. We can make the difference.

What will you do? Will you help us reach out to these children? They need help so much! Please help us!

James: From the time Betty and I saw the need we've been meeting the need. When we came back home from the mission field, we said, "Whatever it takes." We actually sold a lot of stuff to start because to be honest with you, we did not know if Christian people and viewers of Christian television would help.

We knew two things: If you didn't want many people to show up at church, have a prayer meeting or a mission conference. Not many showed up. We thought, well, we don't know if they're going to do it so we just found ways to do it and then we started.

But you know what? You've been a miracle. You have been a miracle answer to prayer for so many mothers and so many missionaries who have planted their lives in the midst of suffering. So we're asking you to continue that right now. Hundreds of thousands of children represented by the few you saw, the missionaries have located, you just saw examples, we're asking you to help us feed as many as you possibly can.

Now here's the truth, this is what it takes, \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next several months. I think there is a level and a way you can participate. I will always ask, ask you directly, "Help as many as you can." If you can help us put arms of love around ten children with a \$100 gift, do it. We've got viewers who gladly and joyfully will write a \$1,000 check; some even more because God has blessed them and enabled them to and it is in their heart.

Don't accuse people who have made some money of always not caring. Some of them care very deeply and they provide opportunity and jobs and possibilities for many people. Don't put a brand on a group of people. Please don't! It is a mistake.

If you can help hundreds or thousands of children I believe you will. But be realistic for where you are. If you can give \$100 or \$50 and help us feed ten or five, do it. But what about the three? You may say, "James, I don't really have much." And some of the most precious people who help us faithfully can say, "\$30 is all I can do" and it is the biggest gift anyone can give because it's all you can do. Whatever you can do, would you do it?

Dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check, please. Or you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but put it in the mail, addressed to *LIFE*, you're giving life. You can go online LifeToday.org and make the gift there and we will have it immediately.

Father, please, touch everyone's heart to give right now, whatever they can. In Jesus' name. Now it's one thing to say, "I hope it happens," it is another thing for you to be the hope. It's one thing to pray, it's another thing to be an answer to someone's prayer. You'll have your prayers answered much more readily when you become an answer to prayer. That is a fact! Read Isaiah 58 -- that's a fact!

Will you make that call? Thank you for your gift! We have some gifts for you that will be blessings in your life.

Begin video clip

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing her last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help, many like her throughout Africa face death as well.

Today you can make a difference. You can save a life! *LIFE's* mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of hundreds of thousands of suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone and parts of Africa facing its worst famine and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately! Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift we'll send you Beth Moore's book, *The Life that Overcomes*. This Life Outreach exclusive featuring a collection of messages from Beth's heart will inspire you to live an overcoming life each day!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children you may also request our new 90-day Bible designed to help you read through the scriptures in just 90 days.

Finally, as a special challenge please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children. And you may also request the beautiful "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today at LifeToday.org.

End of clip**In the studio:**

James: I want to thank you for whatever you can do.

I do want to mention that artists give their great gift to present collectibles, a great piece that represents God's expression of love, "The Heart of the Father." We're sending this beautiful bronze as we do so often to those of you who will make a gift to help us care for 100 children or more, and we thank you for that, Beth Moore's book, *The Life that Overcomes*, *The 90-Day Bible*.

If you would like to help us today, I know this is one of the most mission-minded families; they came from missionaries, witnesses where the whole Graham family was impacted, literally.

Anne Graham Lotz book, *Expecting to See Jesus*; we'll gladly send that to you for your support to just help us feed as many children as you possibly can.

Join Betty and me again saying thanks to Anne.

Anne, thank you so much! Absolutely wonderful!

Thank all of you. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. You get the word out and we'll help get the word into the lives of your friends.

Begin video clip:

James: Everyone is rightly concerned about who will lead our nation? Who will fill the various offices?

I've written a commentary that I believe God put on my heart. It is critically important. It is titled, "What, not who." We must understand the "what" to find the right "who" and insist to right what is done.

Go to the web site. Get a copy and pass it on.

End of clip

Beth: When was the last time we got a fresh word from God? Well, he was talking over there! And we're still over here going, "What? What?"

[Laughter]

Announcer: Wrecked but not ruined – tomorrow!