

Week 48

11/24/11

James: You all are great! You are awesome. Thank you! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I are thrilled to have the son of a former pastor that we had, who was absolutely great -- First Baptist Euless, tremendous church, always has been; a great high-impact Evangelistic church. And the Draper family blessed so many lives, blessed all of our family, and our kids grew up with the Draper kids.

And one of the kids is here, Randy Draper. Now kid is dad now and got kids and we've all got -- we have grandkids. I don't know if he has any grandkids.

Randy: Grand-dogs.

[Laughter]

James: But Randy Draper is one of the really -- been a functioning part of the staff and leadership at Fellowship Church, a great church in the metroplex out near the D.F.W. airport. Ed Young, Junior, Ed Young, Senior is in Houston, a great man, Junior is here, and was our neighbor for years, he and his wife and their beautiful family; they just have a great church.

One of the reasons is because of people like Randy. Because Randy, he is the kind of guy who says, "Be Happy to Do It" because he is Happy to Do It. He inspires people to be happy do it and he has written a book about it. That big smile, I want you to get out this out.

Let me introduce him. Here is Randy Draper. Would you welcome Randy to *LIFE Today*?

Audience, you've got to get this! Would you all get the impression that Randy likes this color? Can you get a little closer to that? He likes the color. Can y'all not come in close to that? I want to see it. Look at that! Where did you come up with this being your favorite color?

Randy: Well, it is a '70s color and it hadn't been around for a while and all of the sudden it is back. And I still live in the '70s pretty much, at my age, 54, I still like the '70s.

[Laughter]

James: So you're just stuck in the '70s and you don't mind admitting it.

Randy: I don't! My favorite band is Earth, Wind, and Fire. What can I say?

[Cheers & Applause]

I'm proud of it. They're still touring! They can't get over it.

James: Get them some shirts like this and they will take another jump.

This is Thanksgiving. We have so much to be grateful for. I'm grateful for the friendship and relationship with the Drapers, with all the influence and just the friendship. We've had a wonderful journey together. We just thank God for that.

But we have a lot to be thankful for. And frankly, I'm thankful for you communicating a message like this. And I want you to tell us what you're trying to tell us to be happy about doing!

Randy: Well, I grew up with -- my grandmother moved in with us, my grandfather died leaning over a putt on a golf course. What a way to go! I know that sounds scary but it is a great way to go if you've got to go.

And Grandma Draper came to live with us and I grew up helping her with her shoes on and off, her socks on and off, in and out of the car, in and out of the house. I just grew up helping Grandma Draper, and what I learned was when I helped her, it helped me more than it ever helped her. And the reality of our lives is when we serve other people it does far more for us than it ever will do for them, for the other people.

But people are running around trying to find the meaning of life, trying to find the success in life and it is all about things and promotions and projects and positions. And really, God's Word tells us it's really all about taking care of the people that I put in your life, Randy. If you'll just serve them you'll find yourself well served.

Betty: So much of the time it is the neighbor right next door to us. It is not a crowd of people but it is that one.

Randy: The one that throws his trash in your backyard.

[Laughter]

Yeah! Or the person over on the other side of the cubicle where you work... that's just not very nice. I call them "heavenly sandpaper."

[Laughter]

God brings them in your life, he is trying to rub the rough edges off of you and he's trying to use you to help them and if you get rid of them he has got a sense of humor, he'll just bring somebody else right back.

[Laughter]

And many times he'll bring two or three.

James: Sometimes it will go from sandpaper to blasting powder.

Randy: I'm going to add that in my next book!

James: You've watched me from the time I was doing the crusades. Of course your dad had a lot to do with a lot of the things we did together in reaching so many huge crowds of people. Then you watched Betty and me for the last 25 years or more, we just kind of became the happy servants.

You know what? Watching people helping people, it's the most exciting thing we've ever done. We tell our viewers -- they say, "I can't talk like James. I can't preach like some people I see. I can't do that."

I say, "Yeah, but listen, the most exciting thing I do is serve and help others, just notice them and want to meet a need -- see a need and meet it."

Hey! You can do that! Jesus said it is the greatest thing on earth. The greatest among you is servant. I get the impression this is really what you're talking about. Give us some examples.

Randy: Well, the disciples were arguing over who was going to be the greatest in heaven and Jesus just before he said, "Hey get on this side of the table so Michelangelo can paint our picture,"

[Laughter]

-- just before that moment in Luke 22:27, he said, "I am among you as one who serves." Then he grabbed a bowl of water and he washed the disciples' feet.

Unfortunately, and this is Thanksgiving week so we're all thinking about Thanksgiving, but First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks." Now we take that to mean I need to be thankful to the Lord but see, I think he wants us to give thanks.

Some people are thanks whiners. God's wanting me to do this but I'm going to whine for Jesus about every little thing that he wants me to do in my life. Or some people are thanks fakers. They're going through the effort of serving someone but they really aren't inside genuinely interested or caring about the person. Some people are thanks takers, "I'm here! It is all about me." They like being around the people that like them and praise them, so it is all about taking rather than giving.

God wants us to be a thanks giver. When you do that, you can't do something for somebody else without it doing something for you. So we don't need more medication, we just need more practice in serving people. It would take care of a lot of our ailments.

James: You just put a big smile on my face. You see, I'm just doing like this, do I match the picture? Yeah, I hope my teeth aren't that green.

[Laughter]

I really believe that you've learned to handle things that could cause you to come unglued. You had an experience with your four year old that you talk about, I think, where you really got some help on the car you really treasured.

Randy: I have a chapter called "Too Blessed to be Stressed." Most of us are all stressed up with nowhere to go.

[Laughter]

So we're too stressed to be blessed because we've overcommitted, we're overweight... we're just out of money. We're over -- we just have stress in our lives and God just has a sense of humor.

But when I was in the building business -- and you may remember this -- but I bought my dream car. It was a candy apple red 1981 Jaguar. Nobody told me you have to put oil in it.

[Laughter]

Those engines run really hot. So one day Liz and I had to go to a meeting in Oklahoma and about a mile or two across the red river our car overheated and caught on fire. And so we pull into a little gas station and the little guy comes out, "Y'all need some help?"

Man, Elizabeth jumps out and says, "Get some water, we're on fire!"

We're running around having to do it ourselves because he was moving really slow. So we get the car back home -- and this is where God has a sense of humor because in the chapter "Thanksgiving," one of the things that we have to do to get through it is learn how to be thankful.

But I have the car parked in the garage and one day I come home from work and Kyle, four years old says, "Daddy, come look what I did to your car! I washed it."

So we go walking down to the detached garage and he's taken turpentine and a steel brush and he's squirting turpentine all over the side of my car and has scrubbed the side of my candy apple red Jaguar with a steel brush, and there is red paint on the floor. And I look at him and go, "Son, that is awesome!"

[Laughter]

Then I go, "God, what are you thinking?"

You know what God said? "Are you thankful, Randy? It's a test." And I learned that day to be thankful for everything.

But it goes more than just having a heart of thanksgiving to our Lord, I think he wants us to be a thanks giver into the lives of other people. You have to be thankful.

James: Did you find a way to encourage that four year old?

Randy: He never knew he did anything wrong. I taught him not to play with turpentine. We talked about it. How can you scold someone who really believed he just did me a favor? He was so proud.

And we're the same way -- think about it -- with our heavenly father. We're out making mistakes, we're doing things we're so proud and you know he is in heaven going, "You're

such a good young man!"

[Laughter]

"Boy, you don't get it, Randy, but you're so cute! You're the sweetest little man out there!"

[Laughter]

I just think, Christians have a really bad habit. We say, "I'm going to think about that. Randy, you're right, I'm going to think about that. I'm going to pray about that. I'm going to talk about that."

I think God is saying, "Randy, tell the world I want them to be happy to do it and they need to get their snap on. It is time to quit talking about it and thinking about it and praying about it." Let's impact the person next door for Jesus' sake in a positive way, instead of him looking at us going, "Well, I don't want what he has! Because it is not working!" That's what the lost world sees in believing people who are just aimlessly running around acting like the devil.

Betty: Well, we need to be a demonstration of what God -- that we proclaim that God has done in our own lives.

Randy: I pulled in to get a car -- to fill up with gas one day and it said, "Do you want a car wash?"

I said, "Well sure!" So I -- you know? And so it gave me a code. So I pulled down to the key pad and I punched the code in and nothing happens. So I thought, well, I'm going to punch harder.

[Laughter]

Somehow that didn't help, but inadvertently I must have touched the help button. So all of the sudden now the speaker goes,

[yelling]

"Whatcha need?"

I'm like oh, my gosh! "I'm trying to get a car wash."

"You got code?"

I go, "Yeah, I got the code!"

"Punch code in."

"I'm punching the code in."

"Bring ticket here!"

I'm going, "Okay! I'm bringing the ticket there."

So I back up, go in. He is just as pleasant on the inside as he'd been on the outside. And most people, that would have ruined their day. Most people, if they're honest, would have walked out of there. They would have been angry, frustrated, mad, "I'll never come back here again!" I walked out laughing.

Elizabeth and I changed the way we answer the intercom with our children. They go, "Mom, Dad, where are you?"

I'd go on there and go,

[yelling]

"Whatcha need?"

[Laughter]

They call on the cell phone,

[yelling]

"Whatcha need?"

But don't miss this! There is a message here!

James: I'm listening!

Randy: We have a choice. I'm either going to be a whatcha-need Christian who makes everybody's lives miserable hoping somehow in doing that it will make me feel better

about myself or I'm going to learn to be

[snaps]

happy to do it and get my snap on. I think God wants us to be happy to do it!

James: *Happy to Do It: Get Your Snap On.* I think you're hearing it clearly. Great!

You have a web site? Where is it?

Randy: www.H2DOIT.com. It happens to be my license plate in Texas.

James: Are you serious?

Randy: H2 do it! Yeah! That's short for

[snaps]

Happy to Do It! If my car could be lime green, it would be.

[Laughter]

James: Until your kid gets a hold of it!

Randy: Yeah!

James: Well, you can go to the web site.

And Randy, I appreciate what you're doing. I want to ask you if this fits in when you talk about being *Happy to Do It*.

I listen to people all over the country and you listen to every survey and most people, most people -- most don't like the direction we're going as a country. They don't like what's happening. They don't like what the government is doing. They don't like what the government is not doing. They don't like... most people -- my question is, when are most people -- most people -- most people going to do something about it? What are they going to get their snap on and snap to it and start taking responsibility and assume the responsibility of choosing leaders who have a clue? -- Who know a direction to go? When are we going to -- when are most people -- most people going to start?

Excuse me, was that okay to put that in?

Randy: I love it!

James: I don't know if it fits at all.

Randy: No, I talk about in the first chapter that the key to true happiness is obedience and what you're talking about is it is time for us to step up and say, "God, you're calling me to take a stand and I'm going to be obedient and say yes."

I think it is time for us to become the light of the world. Jesus said, "I am the light" and then he turned to the disciples and he said, "You're the light." And it is time for us to step up and be the light.

Some people are a candlelight. It is just a very little flicker of Christ in their life. Some people are a flashlight and they only pull Jesus out for emergencies. Some people are a strobe light, they're in, they're out, they're on, they're off, they're up, they're down.

[Laughter]

They're a strobe light for Jesus.

I think God wants us to be a high beam floodlight with the love of Christ into the light of this world. And what you're talking about fits into that book perfectly. And a lot of those concepts are really in there because I believe it starts with our obedience, it starts with our love for Jesus and our passion for our heavenly Father's purpose for us on this earth. And then it starts with saying, "I'm going to quit talking about, I'm going to quit thinking about it, I'm going to quit praying about it and I'm going to get up and go do something about it."

James: Amen! Do you like what you're hearing? Would you say thanks to Randy?

[Applause]

Happy to Do It -- Get Your Snap On. There's his web site again.

Randy, your daddy and I were blessed to be in a prayer meeting -- this week while you're on, Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz is with us during the course of the week too, and Billy called a prayer meeting and your daddy -- I was invited so I asked your dad to go. I asked could I bring your dad, he's my pastor. We were part of a prayer meeting

that no question changed the course of history. I watched your dad, I watched him take a stand. I watched some leaders take a stand. Let me just say this, the whole world was affected by what happened in that little prayer meeting. We got our snap on. We got our snap to it. We still snap to it. This is some of the fruit of the snap-to-it daddy and a snap-to-it mom and a snap-to-it family and a church. That's what God wants all of us to be.

Randy, Betty and I, as I've said earlier in the program, we've not found anything that gives us any greater joy than serving. And when we can rescue the perishing as the Fanny Crosby song said and care for the dying, snatch them in pity from the sin and the grave, when we can reach out, what a joy! Let me just say this to you, when you see a need, I don't -- I've seen some of these little promos on television where they show these little animals that look so lonely. Who wouldn't want to take care of them? Who wouldn't want to?

What about people like that? What about people? Precious people. You won't know their name. They have a name. God wants their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life and gave his son that they might have that life but they need physical life.

It is one thing to talk about the love of God, it is one thing to demonstrate it. When you demonstrate it to people and they see it and they experience the expression of it, then they're ready to hear about it.

I want you to listen to one of the kids that grew up with our kids, now he is the father of five children. I want you to listen to the heart of God through this father. I want you to see if you hear the father's heart and see if you don't want to be the expression of God's love. Watch it real close and listen.

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: We will send you Beth's book, *The Life that Overcomes* to bless you, the 90-Day Bible; tremendous gift to you to bless you. And if you'd like to know how to be Happy to Do It and get your snap on

[Laughter]

We will send you this book if you'd like to have it for any gift. I know Randy would say that will be great and we'd be glad to do it. We want to bless you. You help us help others.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Randy Draper? Randy, bless you, buddy! You are really good! Really good!

Randy: You've been a blessing in my life!

James: Thank you, buddy! Thank all of you! Thank you so much for helping us help others.

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

Announcer: Next week, singer/songwriter, Heather Williams shares her struggles with child abuse.

>> He ruined my life. How could he let my birth mom not care about me?