

Week 49

12/02/11

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are really excited about sharing with you how whatever challenge, whatever mountain, whatever valley you may face God is greater -- bigger than any mountain, can lift us up out of any ditch, point of defeat, disease or challenge.

We shared, Betty, my challenge with the hip replacement surgery and the staph infection that really led a team of doctors into a battle for my life for which I'm grateful. Betty, not one of those doctors, not one nurse, and I had 24 hour continual care for an extended period of time, no one ever left their place. They were in a good fight -- fighting for a life most of them didn't know -- some of them had heard of a minister that was on television but they didn't know me, but they loved me and my family prayed for me. We talked to you about our daughter and her challenge with cancer. No one bailed on her. Everyone focused to help her win the fight.

Two of the greatest ministers and pastors in our area, our close friends, and they've been in a battle, Andy McQuitty, Matt Chandler, two great pastors just north of here, one with a brain tumor and cancer, the other with stage four colon cancer. We've watched God miraculously work in their lives. Everyone that I mentioned, God will work in your life. You're important to God.

God, I pray for every person, for every couple, every grandparent whose grandchild has a challenge physically or spiritually, for every parent who has a child in a battle, for everyone who has a spouse in a battle, perhaps it is the relationship, I don't know, perhaps it is financial difficulties or challenges, for everyone with a child, a brother, a sister, a sibling, a family member, they're in trouble. God, lift that load. Help them know they're not just a number, not just an overlooked, forgotten, unimportant person but so very important to you. Meet their needs. In Jesus' name.

Have you ever felt -- let me ask you this, have you ever felt like the Psalmist said, "I looked around and beheld, and no one cared for my soul." Have you ever felt like no one cares for me?

It's likely I don't know you. Some of you might say, I wish we did know you, we feel like we do. Well, I think I would like to know you, and I know that I would care about any challenge, any heartache, any hurt, any family member, I would care -- yes, I would! So many times in restaurants or public places I find myself praying not only for someone but with them because they feel like they can talk to us because we care. And we care because

we know the father in heaven cares and you're not just an overlooked unimportant statistic. You're precious to the Lord. He loves you!

I want you to experience the joy that I've experienced for so many years, and that's the one that can lift people's head so they look up from whence cometh their help. So they refocus their attention. That I can reach out and offer a hand of love and care and lift people up, pointing them in a new direction and oftentimes, not winning them to Christ, which is of greatest importance but lifting them up out of a pit of hopelessness and giving them a future hope because God has wonderful plans.

Here's the thing I think is really important for you to understand. Most of the time we see God expressed in others. We can read John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son -- and it is absolute truth -- that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life -- everlasting life. That's truth! But when you see love expressed there is no greater power.

The missionaries, those who work with the suffering, so often they just read about statistical reports, so many starving, so many dying, so many malnourished. And as long as we just see people as a number or a statistic, it is kind of like you, just an object to be overlooked. Not so! God directs his love on you, to you, and he wants to express his love through you.

Listen to the heart of a missionary. Listen to the heart of God and ask God, "Can I do for someone else what I so often need someone to do for me?"

On the mission field:

[Child crying]

Isak: Working here in Africa we're constantly confronted by statistics; we track these statistics. I've got to be perfectly honest, after doing this for 14 years I'm actually a little sick of statistics. I'm tired of hearing about the statistic that tells us that a child dies every six seconds. I'm sick of people telling me that there's a literal tsunami of children whose lives get stolen away by malnutrition. They have faces. They have names: The Matthews, the Jagombys, the Alberts.

When I see the desperation in a mother's eyes as she sits on a concrete floor looking at her child literally dying in front of her -- that's what's being lost every six seconds is a life. It is not a statistic! It's a life!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You won't either. I want to make it as clear as I can. Betty and I want you to know, we don't do *LIFE Today* television and we don't travel all over the world or go out and minister or just try to love people around us because it is a job... it's a privilege, and it is a privilege to talk to you.

We come into your home every day. I've said this over and over but it is not of little importance, right now we're talking about people starving to death. But today, we will pray for five times more people, 80% or more, oftentimes 90% of the calls that come in even when we're saying, "Help do this" -- this desperate situation, the majority of the calls are somebody, "Pray for me!" We do! We're here every day for you.

Yes, we're going to give everybody that watches *LIFE Today* an opportunity to express *LIFE Today*, to share *LIFE Today*, to do what Jesus said to have out of your innermost being a river of living water flowing freely. Because see, Betty, people live jammed and stuck in whatever pain or challenge they have until they begin to look beyond their need and their world and say, "Let me be a light in somebody else's situation." That's when everything begins to flow freely.

So we come to help you, but you'll get help, even greater help -- as I've said many times -- basically Isaiah 58 teaches it. If you want your prayers answered quickly, become an answer to someone else's prayer, meet a need, feed the hungry, touch the suffering, care for the dying, make a difference here on earth and God makes a difference in your life; just making a difference makes a difference in us; just loving others fills us with greater love and greater capacity to love. We're asking you to do that.

This is our mission feeding emphasis. Twice a year, I think most of you are aware of this, twice a year we come and ask you to help us feed children for several months who are starving, who are malnourished, who are desperate, and then we see the situation totally turned around. It's a miracle.

Betty: James, I was sitting here thinking the desire as a Christian in my heart is for people to know God. But I was sitting here thinking, how are they going to have that opportunity to know God? -- Through us showing them God cares -- through us showing them God's love. It is a demonstration of what God has done in our lives and how he has changed our hearts. We can start that process with these precious children and all these people that are

starving. We meet their needs and through that demonstration of love they see the love of God.

James: There is no question, love demonstrated is more powerful than love proclaimed or declared. It's a living illustration. Right now we're asking you to help us feed three, five, or ten children for the next several months. Some of you can help us feed 100 or more. You say, "What does it take to feed a child to save their lives, to stabilize a situation?"

For \$30, for \$50, or for \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months every day. And by the way, we tailor it to the need. There will be some places -- now this is really a tragic thing -- but some places in malnutrition clinics where we actually establish them, oftentimes in the bush, we will have to feed them intravenously; we will have to give them sugar water. We'll have to give them something to just begin the turn around because they're so weak they can't even take food. So we do whatever it takes.

When I say "we," do you understand that's a big encompassing statement? "We" -- that's you. We are very, very small. We can only do our part but we will and we will always give -- we love to give! But our part also is to encourage you to do your part and to make the difference. I want you to listen, already making up your mind, I'm going to help you feed as many children as I can. We're approaching the last days of this emphasis, which we have twice a year to literally feed hundreds of thousands of children but you've got to see them as one child. You've got to see their little world and say, "I'll save that family" -- "I'll save those children." Listen to what children face through the words of an African child.

Begin video clip:

>> I have always known hunger. It was in my village before I was born. There have been times me and my brother will have gone days without eating. One time it was so bad in my village that many children died because there was nothing to eat.

When it does not rain, our crops dry up and turn to dust. Sometimes we can't grow our food because of soldiers fighting.

At night the pain of hunger will not let me sleep. I tried to listen in school but my stomach is empty and my head feels very dizzy.

I sometimes think hunger is just a bad dream... but it never goes away. Hunger doesn't care how young you are. It will follow you until you are in your grave. My little brother died because he didn't have enough food. I hope I can eat tomorrow.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: That voice is the voice of a little African girl that came here and learned to speak English. And she was telling the story that is typical and true, not just thousands... millions! But if that's all you see -- we won't do much, will we?

Betty: My first impression and I'm sure many of you have this impression as you were watching, listening to the voice of that child, one voice speaking for many. And my first thought is I want to go over there. I want to hold that child! We can't all go but we can in our giving -- we can in our helping. We can be there. We can pour out love through helping to meet their needs. They're starving. They need help. They need food. Won't you help us?

James: You know sometimes and for so many years you try to be a voice for the suffering and an advocate, and yet we spend most of our time trying to minister to brokenhearted people like you or friends that you may know because we love you.

And we're so glad many of you are watching "Wednesdays with Beth" or listening to our guests or something Betty and I are sharing, you fall more in love with Jesus and your life's changed and that's so thrilling.

But sometimes when you've seen the suffering of the world and you know that love never fails and you know you can save their lives and you can give them a chance and you think, are people just tired of hearing us? I think Betty and I have a broken heart for our country, we have a broken heart for our nation; we want God to heal the land so we can continue to bless people who suffer right here in our own midst.

We're trying to bless you every day but sometimes I really wonder, do you get tired of hearing us be a voice for the suffering? Sometimes I wonder God, do people just wish we would go away? Well, see the pain won't go away. We could go off television. As a matter of fact, listen, we've dropped television stations when we've been challenged financially, we've dropped media, which is terrible because ultimately you lose people who will continue to help others. But we'll cut back anywhere in order not to ever cut back in missions. I've said, "Lord, do I just keep coming to people. Are they tired of me?"

But in my heart I keep having this hope, some day I'm going to knock on the door, not just homes, through television and hearts but I'm going to be received and the concern and burden that is on your heart and on mine, and on Betty's and on the missionaries, every viewer is going to catch it and one of these days, every person in America, in Canada, in

the U.K., in Australia, every one of you watching will say, "I've got it! I got it!" They won't have to go to bed hungry. They won't have to wonder if they're going to have food because we can do it! "I'll take 100 kids -- I will! I know it is a step of faith, but I'll do it." I'm longing for that. I'll take care of ten, here's my \$100 gift. Here's my \$50. Here's my \$30, I've got three; I don't have much. -- But it is big to those three.

I'm praying -- I'm talking to you. Be an answer to that heart cry, that child's need, that reality to our prayers and the missionaries' prayers -- be an answer! God said, "I'll answer your prayers, I'll come quickly." Read Isaiah 58.

Please dial that number. We're going to send you some beautiful gifts to help you grow but you're going to be sharing the greatest gift, the love and life of God. Please -- please! If you ever get a busy when you're trying to help somebody, you be as determined to get through as if you were desperate for help because I say, "I'm desperate, I'm determined to help somebody else. I will do it! I will do what I can!" And use your bankcard like a check.

Call the number. Go online LifeToday.org. You write that check, address it to *LIFE* and call us and say, "I'm mailing it today." And do it with excitement and with a prayer.

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: The telephone number is going to stay right there. I'm praying every single person watching will dial. I want to show you some of the images, some of the reality that only love can change. When I see those little stick figure arms, I know only love and food can give nourishment.

I watch this little child, I think I've never been moved any more by a little desperate child trying to cover up with an old piece of cloth that's totally inadequate. You see that little baby in the lap of an emaciated mother's arms? We can correct that. Look at me, listen to me -- love covers.

Did you see that child trying to cover up? I mean I'm just asking you please. Did you see that little child by themselves? Nobody to cover them! I want to -- I want to! Love covers. Love covers not only a multitude of sins, love covers pain -- indescribable pain. Love lifts people up out of a pit of despair and hopelessness and it will for you!

God, I pray with my friends who are watching are desperate, you'll hear their cry. God, I pray he'll send somebody to you.

And I'm praying you'll be the somebody that God sent to cover a child like that. Would you please, whatever it takes, go get your checkbook, write the largest check you can to do the greatest thing that love can do and that is give life, not just in word but in deed. Be doers of the word God says not just hearers, release the river of life. Be a light that will not be hid, be a city set on a hill. Reveal the love of God, don't just talk about it.

Would you go please, get your check, get your bankcard, it may be the best way you ever use it like a check and say, "Here it is. James, I'm going to help you and those missionaries rescue every child that they can get to and they won't get to them empty-handed. I'm going to give you the food; I'm going to give you the support. Here it is!"

Please, make the call. Go online LifeToday.org and give *LIFE Today*. Make the greatest gift you can, please! Maybe you're going to be stretched beyond the norm. You're not just going to do the easy. Say, "You know what? You talk about step out in faith, I'm writing a \$1,000 check. I'm going to rescue a -- I'm going to cover 100 kids like that for the next weeks and the next months. I'm going to put some healthy skin and muscles on that skeletal frame. I'm going to do it!" God help every person -- every person who can help them to do it right now. Thank you!

Begin video clip

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End of clip

In the studio:

James: My heart overflows not only with concern and compassion but with gratitude. I wish I could give you a hug. God, I wish I could hug everyone who has ever helped us cover a child, feed them.

Encourage a missionary, God, they're such wonderful people! And they say you're the most wonderful people.

We want to send you *The 90-Day Bible*; you can read the whole Bible in 90 days; Beth's book; the last time to be able to get the beautiful bronze "*Heart of the Father*." It will help us take care of 100 kids.

Thank you from the depth of our heart, thank you!