

Week 20

5/11/12

James: I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. This is a very, very special program. When I tell you that whether people live or die and whether children have a chance to grow up is going to be determined by not only whether you watch or not but whether you respond to what you're about to see.

Let me try to say something in a personal way as though I could reach out and take your hand right now. We know that when you see a program oftentimes and it starts with a rather serious note, you may have a tendency to say, "Well, I want to go to something lighter. I want to go to something more pleasant.

By the way, I'm pretty well focused on areas of need and challenge in my own life." Let me share something with you that I think will really help you if you'll just hear me out. I have experienced a tremendous amount of challenges, and even you might say very difficult circumstances. We have carried you on some of those journeys whether it's a battle that one of our family members has with cancer or whether it was Betty's mother's battle with Alzheimer's. Many of the things that we've experienced whether it is personal defeat or times of distress when we've had to pull together -- and you've always been willing to hear us out and I appreciate that.

So what I'm saying to you is that I really do understand very clearly what it is to feel pressure and pain, but here's what I've discovered. The moment I am able to focus not only my attention on God, but focus my attention on what God is looking at with great love, and with firm conviction I say this, with great concern because God cares so much about every one of us. I wish you would understand how much he loves you, and could understand how important you are in fulfilling his purpose on this planet in this lifetime.

What we're going to show you, and Betty, I feel like I'm probably as blessed as anyone not only because I have a beautiful family that love God but because we have friends all over the world who have been willing to look beyond their challenges, their need, their pain, and see someone else's need and find incredible healing, relief, and joy in the fact that they say, "You know what? I can do something about that. I can literally, as we've said many times, become an answer to someone's prayer. I want my prayers answered. I can become an answer to someone else's prayer."

We've pointed our viewers for many months to Isaiah 58, where if you want God to answer quickly and it's such a powerful passage for this moment in everyone's life, when

we reach out and touch the hungry or the hurting or the suffering God says he answers us quickly. It's amazing! You know what? I don't even think about helping others because I'm thinking, well, if I do this, something really good's coming my way. I've moved beyond the motivation of just doing it with self interest to do what I do with God's interest in you, in me, but in others. I can express and release that love and that interest toward others if I'll just look, observe, and say, "God, what can I do?" I think our viewers are discovering this.

Betty: I do too, James. I know as for us, every time we do care about someone else and put our support behind their needs and what they have to have to survive, God always blesses us. It may not be in material ways but so much more important in spiritual ways that help us to grow in our relationship for him. So we always come away -- even when we've been on the mission field, James, we've come away saying we got the bigger blessing.

James: You know what happens when you see hard times come? We've had all across America devastation from tornadoes and horrific weather. And one of the things that we've seen that is so inspirational is the incredible joy expressed when someone goes home and finds that the person they were concerned about is all right or they're able to rescue someone.

Many times it's a pet. They find a pet -- they saved them or they were spared and there's joy. Hey, I'm not exaggerating. We experienced and our viewers -- people just like you tell us over and over -- "We experience indescribable joy when we know we've rescued someone and we've given them a chance. We've given them something they never thought they'd have."

Now think about this, every six seconds a child is dying. Not because of a storm, not because of horrific conditions in our weather or a natural disaster, but because they lack food. And do you know in the next matter of minutes we can change that for scores, hundreds and thousands of people and you can be a part of that. I want you to watch closely to see the reality of what I just said and how you really are -- you're not the answer we're looking for, you're the answer we have found. Watch.

James: Do you realize that during that presentation that you just saw, and what I've just said, 20 children died? Betty, it doesn't have to happen.

Betty: It doesn't, James. You just think about that -- every six seconds! That's astounding to me, but yet at the same time I know it's something that I can make a difference in, you can make a difference in, because we can give the support that's needed to get the food to them. It's a simple solution.

James: In the next few minutes, and we come on as you know for about a half hour with *LIFE Today*, when you watch "Wednesdays with Beth" which is really our very sincere and direct attempt to try to give you spiritual food and nourishment and yes, Water for Life, refreshing. It is a gift.

Every day when we come on and we share spiritual insights and really point to guests who have beautiful testimonies of God's grace working in their lives to inspire you to just see how big God wants to be in your life, every day during that time frame we have the chance to save literally, together, thousands of lives and that's what we've been doing. It has actually added up.

Now think about this, over the years it's actually added up to millions of lives that have been saved. And millions of lives, as a matter of fact, in nearly all the areas where we've been feeding, we've actually won as many people to Christ or more than whose lives have been saved because of the nourishment that we've given them.

In other words, when people see that someone really cares about them, they didn't just come in with some story of love or some Bible truth, they came in with a demonstration of that truth -- and the demonstration of that love. You know how much more effectively you would be able to witness if you first did something to show that person the love of God, and the love that you had for them. That's what we're doing in our feeding programs, and it really opens the hearts of people to listen and to respond.

If you'll dial that telephone number that's there and I remind you over and over, it's always there as a prayer line for you. You can call it right now and say, "I need prayer." There will be a caring, concerned person who likely identifies with you in some way of challenge and burden that they may have and they will take it to the Lord in prayer. You'll see prayers answered and you'll talk to someone who cares. So we care about you.

But what we're asking you to do today is to express your love, God's love in fact, and the fact that you care by dialing the number and saying, "I want to make a gift. I want to save as many lives as possible." We're seeing desperate situations -- as desperate as any we've ever seen -- in South Sudan where people are being pushed out, many of them because they believe in God, they're Christians and radical Islamists have been so cruel. Now

we're even seeing people who think only about money and natural resources and nothing about people who are pushing people off their land. And we're going in to rescue them.

Could you make a \$100 gift? Could you help us take care of children for the next months and save their lives? Think about this a moment. A gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will enable us to feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next months. We have some special gifts to send you to say thank you but you're giving the greatest gift. And even as you watch these next images and you're impacted in your thinking, as you see how desperate the need is, would you please be the answer to this desperation? -- The answer to this need? See what the missionaries feel and don't leave them empty-handed, and don't send children and people away without the food and nourishment they need. Thank you for responding.

On the mission field:

Clint: Normally, we have the kids in an orderly line and they stand patiently and wait for their meals. But these kids are just so desperate; they're so hungry that they just want food right now. They've gone days without food and they don't want to wait a minute longer.

[Child crying]

End of clip

In the studio:

James: We just watched together those bowls disappearing because basically, that's what happens when there is no more food to put in it or when we don't have the food to establish a new feeding center. I think most of you have watched *LIFE Today* long enough to know where these bowls came from.

By the way, I don't know if you can see in the bottom of it but it says "*LIFE*" in the bottom. That really is what's going down. If you could see even closer you'd see their lines that are portions that are given, sometimes based upon the missionaries' ability to determine how much they can give so that they don't run out while they're going through the feeding process; they can apportion it properly.

Then sometimes, Betty they do the portions based upon the nutritional need in an area and they actually design the food for that need.

Now let me tell you what's happening in places in South Sudan. They're actually moving into more of a barley look rather than a porridge look because they did research to find the specific needs for what was depleted and lacking nutritionally. This is how focused

the missionaries are. But if you didn't know the story behind these heat-resistant bowls, they came because people like you -- now think about it. It would be like you watching us and seeing these children bringing tin cans and dirty cans and just whatever they can get, and the missionaries trying to give them some food.

And our viewers said -- they watched them and their hands would burn on the tin cans. Sometimes they would drop their food because the food has to be prepared hot to be sanitary and clean and get any impurities out. So they do all that's necessary but the children couldn't hold them sometimes. We've even seen the food burn through a plastic bag or something like cellophane that the child would bring just trying to get food. And then when it falls on the ground they go down and start trying to dip it up. Well, viewers said give them heat-resistant bowls.

You know what the missionaries said? "We can't do that. We've got to give everything to feed these children. We can't give them bowls."

And our viewers said, "We'll pay for it. We want them to have it. We don't want them to waste anything."

Let me show you something that our missionaries brought back. Here's one of those bowls -- I almost started crying when I looked at it -- it's been out there in the field for a long time in the sun. It's lost its color, but it's still strong and durable and heat resistant. It's saved a lot of lives because it wasn't empty. Something was in this bowl. Something love put in it. Something the love of God put in it.

That's what we're asking you to do. Dial that number. I'll tell you what, I'm going to feed ten children. I am!

There are some of you and I thank God, and I know you do too, you could say, "I'm sending \$1,000. I'm going to feed 100. I'm going to save their lives. I'm going to give them food." They're not going to have an empty bowl period.

I want them to feed long enough until it looks like this but it's never empty. It's always got the food the missionaries need to give these precious children so they can witness to them and love them and show them how great our God is because that's what you've done.

Would you make that call right now? We have some special gifts to send to you to bless the children and family members that you love, or perhaps some neighbor children, perhaps grandchildren or children. We always want to bless you.

We have a beautiful Bible study, comparison parallel Bible. I'm telling you, it is a side by side look at the Word of God that will bless you. We want to bless you, but you're going to be blessing others and saving their lives.

You make that life-giving call or you can go online at *LifeToday.org* and make the gift. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment, a child is drawing his 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 him face death as well.

Today you can make a difference -- you can help save a life. Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now, ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 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 immediately! Your life-saving 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 the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. This beautifully illustrated book will help your children discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation, and at the center of their lives too!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request our New International Version and New King James side-by-side Bible with a two-column format for easy comparison.

Finally, 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 Lion and The Lamb bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: When you hear a child crying what goes on in your heart?

By the way, I know that the majority of the people who help us, and I know men are actively involved.

By the way, men, thank you! I know a lot of men have said to their wives, "Honey, whatever you're led to do, we're going to do it." But I know it. It is the sensitivity of many of our viewers who are women; they are mothers and grandmothers who hear those cries.

Betty: James, as a mother, a mother hears so many different sounds of cries and you learn to recognize them. What you just heard was a cry of hunger. They're starving. They're not just a little bit hungry, they're starving. They need food for their little bodies.

We can make that difference. We can offer them a solution that is simple but yet we've got to offer it. We've got to get it there.

The food for these precious children, and the mothers that so hurt inside themselves because they can't fill the need of their child, and they know why that child's hungry.

James: I thought what you said in your opening statement there about that being a cry of hunger, not many of us here in the United States or Canada, anywhere in North America, not many of you in Australia or the U.K. or wherever you happen to be watching, not many of us have ever heard our children really cry because of hunger. When Betty said that I just began to think, boy, I really would like to stop that hunger cry. I really would like to see if we couldn't bring it to an end in that area.

You think that mother doesn't wish that she could help? We've watched so many mothers over the years. Their milk dried up because of malnourishment themselves. And in Sudan, South Sudan, we're helping a lot of the mothers, being attacked because they were Christians. The accusers, extremists, religionists cut their breasts off, maimed them.

And I'm saying, "God, those people over there love you and they're praying." I'm telling you, it is like Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son told me, "James, I've never seen outside the book of Acts greater demonstrations and manifestations of love than I've seen in Sudan on the part of the Christians that were led to Christ, many of them, years ago by missionaries and they've been telling their children about Jesus. They're people of faith and they're being so persecuted." That's why we went with Franklin over there to begin rescuing them and begin working with Samaritan's Purse, working with any organization that we know does it effectively; and our missionaries are right there in the midst of the suffering and they're all over Southern Africa.

Would you make the best gift you can right now please? Go to the phone, take your bankcard, make the biggest gift you can. We want to send you the children's -- I was

looking down here a moment ago thinking about the Jesus Storybook Bible. Every story whispers his name.

I tell you what. Our feeding program shouts his name. We have the beautiful side-by-side Bible to bless you.

I don't know a single person watching us ever, Betty, that says I'm going to give to help those children because I want to get the Bible. No, no, no! We send you the Bible because we want to help you grow. We send you the children's Bible storybook because we love the children in your family and in your neighborhood. So we give to you to bless you. You're giving to save lives and to bless others and support those wonderful missionaries.

Please go to the phone and or go online and do make the largest gift you can.

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Announcer: At this very moment, a child is drawing his 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 him face death as well.

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End of clip

On the mission field:

Peter: These children should be running around playing, having fun. But that's been robbed from them because they are without food, they are without hope, they are struggling.

I ask if you can help us to give these children hope by giving them a bowl of food a day. It's amazing how that bowl of food every day adds hope to a child and changes their situation. We can make the difference. We can give them hope. We can give them a bowl of food. We need your help and we need it now.

In the studio:

James: I just remind you that this beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze is being sent to those of you who would help us care for 100 children or more and feed them by making a \$1,000 gift or more. It's a beautiful, beautiful collectible. I looked at it today over in our family room. And I said, "I'm so glad we do that." I'm so glad we have artists who give their great gifts to bless you.

Help us save the lives of as many children as possible; would you please? If you get a busy while you're calling, be determined. Get through or go online *LifeToday.org* and make that special gift.

Betty and I, in behalf of every mother that's been praying and every child whose life you save, and every missionary who is so anxious to be able to help, we say thank you for your support.