

Week 27

7/3/12

**James:** Thank you so much. It is such a joy to come into your home or wherever you happen to be watching. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I've always had a little inclination to rock the boat, so to speak. I'm willing to tread sometimes where I'm told angels fear to tread. But I do it with great joy and peace because I know I'm following the leadership of God the father and the Lord Jesus in bringing people together to get to know one another so that we can all know the Father in heaven better, and really tear down walls that so often unnecessarily, and even to our own detriment divide us, or where we can't even hear and become more, not only sincere seekers of truth, but those who discover truth and apply it effectively in our lives. That's really my journey.

I wrote a book titled *Indivisible* with a Catholic Ph.D. from Princeton, and both the leading evangelicals, the leading Protestants and the leading Catholics and the leading thinkers in the country have embraced and endorsed it and encouraged people to read it. As you know it became a bestseller.

One of the most dynamic endorsements came to us actually before any by one who had read the entire book and it is a worthy read; it is not something you read through flippantly. And it was written by Father Jonathan Morris who is the FOX News let's say representative so often of the thoughts and things of God that he's just seen often. He wrote a fantastic endorsement concerning the book. It really meant a lot to me. And this man has inspired me tremendously.

I really want to go ahead and get into the issue of a protestant and a Catholic sitting down together and appearing to love God and love one another. Now where in the world would we ever hear such a command to love God and to love one another? How preposterous and extreme can you get? Well, that just happens to be the two great commandments from the Lord Jesus himself. I really have no problem obeying that because I love God with all my heart so I can love others. And I really do love Jonathan Morris. Would you welcome Jonathan Morris to *LIFE Today*?

**Jonathan:** James... Betty.

**James:** I asked you, I said when I had you here before I really caught the heat because I called you "Father Jonathan Morris."

**Jonathan:** Why don't you just call me Jonathan?

**James:** Well, you just call me James. We've agreed to that.

Will you please, Catholics, forgive me. I'm going to call him Jonathan, and evangelicals that were disturbed about it, we've got this settled. We really, really do sometimes start drawing the lines on various issues that really keep us from ever hearing one another's heart.

So let me just kind of cut to the chase with how I feel about you. I said when you were here before that every time I listened to you, I see Jesus and I hear Jesus. And I hear not from just a priest or a representative of a religious body, Catholics, and you have the clerical collar, and so it's obvious that you are quote "a man of the cloth" or "a man of God," at least that's what you're representing. Every time I listen to you, I really do hear from the Lord.

I don't think we as evangelicals, in the media, in the secular realm have any representative that even approaches your effectiveness in every setting where they call you in and ask you to address a situation. I've never heard anyone more true to the scriptures, more true to the Lord. So I've just go to ask you because I think I know a lot of Catholics and I know for a fact that I know a lot of Baptists and I know a whole lot of Protestants in all different groups that go to church and have a religious association or affiliation but they don't have a relationship with Jesus. They don't really know Jesus.

I've got to ask you as a Catholic and as a priest, are there any people in the Catholic church who have a religion and an association but maybe don't have a real relationship with Jesus?

**Jonathan:** I would say, we Catholics are especially good at doing that, which is not a good thing. In other words, sometimes we can get caught up in either obligation, get caught up in tradition, get caught up in ritual, without going to the core and to the center of what makes any of those things that are good, good, and that is the person of Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth.

James, I said this last time we were on the show together, I'm very happy to say and we Catholics, again, are not very good at this, but I'm so blessed to be able to say that I've accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and savior. We're not used to using that vocabulary in the Catholic Church sometimes but I think it would do us a lot of good to learn how to say that in one way or another. It's not just about, of course, as you know and you've preached for so many years, saying the words, it is about truly in our heart accepting God into our lives and then living it out by building a friendship and a relationship with a God who also is seeking -- like that great hound of heaven -- seeking to enter into relationship with us.

**James:** I had a very dysfunctional childhood, no father in the home and very poor circumstances. But occasionally, I would be taken to church. My mother, at a certain period in my life, somewhere when I was 10 or 11 and then at 12, I remember, she started taking me to church -- just decided we ought to go, and we went to an Episcopal church.

I'll be honest with you, we got on our knees and prayed a lot, all that... went through a lot of motions, had a lot of --. It didn't register a whole lot to a 10 year old from skid row and poverty; it didn't impress me. I was real impressed with the stained glass windows and I watched them and looked at them. I saw Jesus knocking at the door. I was a little ol' boy sitting there and I'm thinking, I bet he's knocking at the door of my heart. It seemed like somebody said something about that in the scripture.

Then I saw a picture of Jesus in the stained glass holding a little lamb. I felt like he would like to hold any little lost lamb. That impressed me but that's all it did. It made an impression. It was a very positive impression -- very positive. So you never know how art or something is giving a message.

At a certain point my mother said, "I think you need to join the church." So she set up a situation and I was christened. I don't even remember a lot about what went on but I know nothing happened inside of me. I watched an awful lot of people who become members or go through a ritual and they don't really know the Lord.

Well, later I came to know Christ. I was introduced to Jesus in a very dramatic way. Somebody just shared... kids... teenagers shared Christ and I gave my life to Christ, and I made a public confession to the fact that I wanted to give my life to Christ. I've said many times I put my hand in the hand of the pastor to publicly say I want Christ but I put my life in the hand of the master and he really changed my life. I ended up in that church and met this girl over here.

**Betty:** Who was a good little Baptist church girl!

[Laughter]

I was one of the ones described earlier that went to church, did all the things the church asked me to do... very obedient. There every time the doors were open.

**James:** The original first church lady. Here she is right here. The little girl church lady.

**Betty:** But I didn't know Jesus. And I had to come to that point, just as you described earlier of that personal relationship with him and realizing that I was a sinner and I needed Jesus to come and forgive me, to come into my heart. All the church activities I did would not do that for me. I had to make that commitment and ask him personally.

**Jonathan:** Maybe you're going to correct me on this, I'm not sure, I'm thinking as you're telling me your story, James, and Betty as well, that even when it didn't feel like anything was going on in that relationship with God, looking at the stained glass windows or being christened or trying to be obedient, I wonder and my guess is if God wasn't doing something unbelievable. Right? And kind of leading us along, help us take baby steps.

I think the same thing happens for a lot of Catholics. You brought up the example of being clerics. It doesn't matter what I wear, right? This is something, this is a man-made tradition. What does it symbolize?

**James:** When you play golf, do you wear that collar?

**Jonathan:** No, when I play golf I do not wear this.

[Laughter]

But it doesn't mean... For the record, James got out of playing golf with me today. I think he was afraid... But that's another issue.

**James:** I was afraid!

[Laughter]

**Jonathan:** But since you brought it up... But those things that are very human, very man-made, so to speak, can be great reminders. What does this mean in the Catholic tradition? Black means death to sin. White means life and purity. They can be great reminders to me. But if I turn those reminders or those symbols into God himself or if I turn ritual into faith, well then I've got a problem.

So we do that whether we're good Baptist girls or whether we're priests and Bishops and Popes even, if we turn those things that could be very good, symbols that help us, reminders that lead us toward the center and to the core, if we turn those to ends in and of themselves, then we go down one or another road that leads to the same place which is not happiness.

**James:** When I listen to you, I hear a man that says, I want everybody to know the Lord. And I want everybody to know that he's relevant and real. I hear that -- it just comes out of you. It's not something that is represented by the priestly garments, it is in your countenance, it is in your demeanor.

Now I want to ask you, why is it that Jesus is so special and so real to you and it's so obvious to everyone?

**Jonathan:** Well, first of all, I'm not without my flaws and sin, obviously, as human beings and as fallen creatures of God. But I am so grateful to God for first of all my parents who were shining examples to me, not of perfection but rather of a man and a woman who had their priorities set straight.

I remember one very simple example. My dad is a lawyer and I remember him telling me once. He used to have special time out with each of the children; my mother did as well. We could choose wherever we would go. I remember saying I wanted to go to McDonald's with my dad but it was his excuse to talk with us. And one time he explained to me his budget.

He said, "Jonathan, do you know that your mom and I have a budget?"

I said, "Budget? Yeah, I've heard you talk about it."

"Well, we've decided how much money we need, how much money is good for our family, and anything else that I make over that goes someplace else." It was as simple

as that. It was an example. Oh! My dad is not living for wealth. My dad and my mom are living together as a team with a purpose.

Those are little things that we can do as families, that we can do as individuals, whether it is a budget or whether it is how I use my free time, or how I speak or what I read, what television I watch and it has to do with setting priorities based on who I know myself to be, a creature of God that has sinned and has been redeemed and is being constantly brought to the well of grace by the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**James:** What do you want to see among the Catholics and the protestants -- let's just say Christians. Isn't it a shame we keep having to divide up when we're all saying we want to pursue the Lord. What's the longing in your heart right now that you want to see when you look on the greater scene nationally and in the world, what do you want to see happening?

**Jonathan:** Fearlessness: Getting rid of the lie from the devil that he has implanted in our souls that we somehow are best when we're safe; meaning in an area in which there is least likelihood of danger and danger means stepping out. It means being unafraid to speak. It means being unafraid to try new things.

The Pope and many others of recent years and both Catholic and protestant traditions have been talking about the new evangelization, the need that new challenges that are present in our society in the United States of America and beyond today in which secularism is trying to wipe out from the face of our public square and from our conscience the name and voice of God. We need new -- we have no challenges -- we need new ways of reaching every single human soul; in order for us to do that we have to be fearless.

Let's look at some great athletes right now that are out there. Tim Tebow, Jeremy Lin, Bubba Watson -- they're all talking about God! That's being fearless whether you're a preacher or whether you're an athlete, whether you're a housewife, fearless in living priorities in sharing the reasons for believing.

**James:** When you read the book and wrote the great endorsement for it, I think you saw what Jay and I were trying to do with the blessings of church leaders and that was, as we say, come together indivisible, there are certain things you can't separate; you can't separate the economic and the moral, the social and the physical. You can't downplay the importance and value of a single human life and the innocent. If you devalue that life then you've devalued everything pertaining to life and godliness.

And we're literally saying we want people to get the truth and put on body armor to win the culture war. And what we were calling people to do was to first fall on their face before God but then do just what you said, stand on our feet for God, become bold and fearless to be that shining city on a hill that pierces the darkness and really can change the direction of our nation and the very course of human history.

**Jonathan:** Right. But James, you said that church leaders on both sides came and came to support. But they came -- we came to its support not before you wrote it but after you wrote it. In other words, you stepped out and you did it with somebody whom... of a different theological bent and denomination and you said, "You know what? I'm going to get criticized for this, I'm going to get criticized for it." And you said, "I'm not going to... on the one hand trade in my beliefs in order to get along with everyone."

You didn't say, "Hey, you know what? It doesn't matter if you're Catholic or you're Baptist or evangelical, it doesn't matter what you believe." You didn't say that. But on the other hand you were unafraid, you were fearless in saying there are things we agree on and these things have unbelievable importance for the future of our country and of our society, for the type of kids and grandchildren that our kids and grandchildren will become. You stepped out.

But not everyone is called to write books. When I started writing this book, I said, "I have never written books before. Why am I doing this?" But opportunities presented themselves. Everyone has opportunities that are presenting themselves, whether it is getting along with a neighbor that you don't get along with, whether it's actually asking forgiveness for the first time from your spouse. Whether it's actually deciding that you're going to tell your son or your daughter I love you and it's not because of what you could become but rather because of who you are -- whatever it happens to be. But fearless in principle because we know that God loves us and that's where our value and that's where our strength comes from.

**James:** And then we ought to stand for those values on the national stage too and not just give our land to people who, as you said earlier, alluded to those who disregard God and basically want to trample the sacred under foot as though it doesn't matter. We can't allow that to happen.

Do you appreciate Jonathan Morris? Do you appreciate this incredible, incredible man of God? You know what I want you to look at now is something that... you're going to hear our son talking to all of us from Cambodia where he's seeing what the lack of clean water, lack of what we take for granted, that costs and what we can do about it. I

want you to listen and we're really glad our son loves God, his spouse, his four children and represents the Lord. Listen.

**On the mission field:**

**Randy:** I met a family yesterday, a father, a mother, a little girl. The woman's name is Ti and she explained how they used to have three children but their four-year-old son died, and then about a year later their three-year-old daughter died. She showed me photos of her two lost children. Ti told me how quickly the vomiting and diarrhea overtook her children. They became sick one day and the next day they were gone.

It sounded like the same story we've heard so many times. Waterborne diseases are taking the lives of children. So I asked her to show me their water source. The only water they have is killing them. It is contaminated, it is filthy, and yet they have no choice.

Right next to their water hole are two graves. Looking at those graves, they're relatively nice neat little mounds of dirt and it really hides the horrible, horrible death that these children died. I can't even imagine. I was at a loss for words. What do you tell parents that have lost their children that way? I didn't know what to do. I felt like I should just pray. I asked the Lord to comfort them and really to just watch over that little girl, their one remaining child. I just hope they don't have to wait very long to receive an answer to my prayer. I don't want them to have to add another grave.

**End of clip**

**In the studio:**

**James:** I feel like I heard more than just our son or a dad's heart, I feel like I heard God's heart and the hurt and I really heard a cry for help for that little girl and for a lot of others that she represents.

**Betty:** Those parents don't love those children any less than we love our own children, James. I look at that -- did you see how dirty and filthy that water was? Well, that's just on the surface. It is so contaminated. It doesn't take long for that contamination to get into their precious little bodies and start destroying and eating away at their life.

We can make the difference. I just think how blessed we are here in our country that we can just go to our kitchen sink, to the faucet and turn it on and we get clean enough water to drink so that it doesn't hurt us, James. I give our dog so much cleaner water than what you saw right there. I make sure of that, and that's a pet!

These children deserve a chance. Won't you please help us dig these wells, to put these wells in so that they can have plenty of water so that will not be the cause of their health in their family?

**James:** Obviously, there wasn't a thing we could do for those little children that were gone or that mother other than what Randy did and that's to care. But we can do something very real and significant and that's unquestionably effective. It is not like we have to do some kind of experiment to try to find the answer to that problem to stop that death cycle. We know exactly what it is. We need to drill a well.

We know the costs of drilling a well. We know the average costs. We have targeted 350 areas similar in many different countries of tremendous need. And we target them because the missionaries pointed them out to us because of the love of God in their hearts. They said, "These people have a need." And they planted their life there in the midst of the pain and said, "Could we just put a water source here?" Well, they asked us because they knew we would ask you. And they asked us because they knew we care and we would ask someone who obviously has proven they care.

So I'm asking you to do it again. I'm asking you to help us drill a well there. Randy found many areas with the missionaries where the circumstances are exactly the same. That little girl that's alive and those little children that died, they represent so many others that are saying and representing the need we can meet. So I'm asking you to do it. Would you please?

Would you say, "Here's my gift of love to help drill that well"? The average cost is \$4800. Could you give that? Everyone who does it says, "It is one of the greatest joys of my life." Would you make that gift? If you can give an entire well, perhaps you could give \$2400 and pray someone matches or \$1200 and pray three join you. Whatever you can do, do it but keep this in mind because here's where the majority of the money comes from: \$48 will give ten people water for the rest of their life. \$144 will give 30 people water the rest of their life. There is some level at which you can participate.

Father, I pray everyone right now would move to either go online to make a gift or to write a check or to use their bankcard and make a call. Lead them in their giving. In Jesus' name.

Please be an answer to the concern of that mother and others like her, to the prayer that our son prayed. Would you dial that number? Take your bankcard, use it like a

check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're sending. Lifetoday.org if you want to make the gift online. We have some special gifts to send you to be a blessing to you and to say thank you. Please go to the phone right now. Thank you for your gift!

**Begin video clip:**

**Announcer:** Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission: Water For Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything! With your gift today, we can establish and drill 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people. \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request *Arise*, a beautiful new daily devotional featuring words of encouragement from inspiring women who have shared their faith on *LIFE Today*. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the *Arise* audio visual devotional featuring 40 days of inspiration from *LIFE Today's* favorite women guests.

Please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

**End of clip**

**In the studio:**

**James:** I do want to remind you that in way of expressing just love and thanks to you, we want to send you the stories and testimonies and devotion of so many of the women that you've seen and respect right here on *LIFE Today*, whether it is Beth or Betty or Kathy Troccoli or Sheila Walsh or all the different ones that have such awesome stories.

You can also get the CD and DVD series. We're sending the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze for those of you who will make a gift of \$1200 or more toward the well or give the well.

I want to remind you that Father Jonathan Morris' book, *God Wants You Happy* is in the bookstores. You can go and get a copy. I promise you, you'll get a smile on your face because he knows the source of joy. He's going to join me again later in the week.

Would you just join me in saying thanks so much for being with us?

Thank you, Jonathan. Love you, buddy!

**Announcer:** Faith, family, and freedom are under attack. James Robison and Jay Richards encourage a divided America to stand together before it's too late. *Indivisible* -- now available in paperback and online and retail bookstores.

**Beth:** Any time you are in a net of shame, your enemy is laughing at you.

**Announcer:** Getting out of the net! Tomorrow!