

Week 29
7/10/12

James: It's a joy to come join you wherever you are. I've said, "-- in your home." And I've had people come and say, "I'm not watching at home. I'm out somewhere. I'm in a hotel." Or you may be in a bar, I don't know where you are but we're glad you're watching.

I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

We've got some close friends back, John and Lisa Bevere. They're very gifted communicators, a beautiful couple and wonderful parents and now grandparents, it is hard to believe because they seem like they're kids to us.

John has written a book. They've written many great books, both of them have. This one is called *Relentless: The Power You Need to Never Give Up*. Now John has told us in the book that he used to quit at everything. He would quit everything halfway through but something happened to him to make him relentless. He's been relentless ever since I've known him.

But we're also going to talk about how things come in our lives that really throw circumstances and catastrophic situations in our path or almost indescribable, sometimes difficult to define pressure that comes. Where does it come from? And how do we deal with it? He touches on that in so many very insightful ways in the book, *Relentless*.

Would you welcome John Bevere and his wife Lisa to *LIFE Today*?

We're really glad to have you back. Always glad to have you any time you want to come. I don't guess, Lisa, Betty and I knew you a whole lot when you were the quitter because you've always seemed to stick to it pretty good since we've known you. But was it like when you were a kid that your parents or somebody told you that you were a quitter or --?

John: No, I was a quitter.

Look, okay, I took piano lessons. This lady taught piano all of her life. I was the only student she ever had that she went to the parents and said, "Would you please let him quit?"

I tried guitar and I quit. I used to go out with girls, I feared that I would never be able to get married and stay married because I'd get tired of girls after two or three dates or they'd get tired of me way before. I would -- I played baseball, I quit. I played track and field and quit after a year. I could go on and on.

It was so bad that when I came home from college and I told my mom, "I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord, I am now a Christian."

My mom looked at me and she said, "Is this another one of your fads? Are you going to quit this too like everything else?" As a matter of fact, she didn't say it that nice. She said, "This is one of your fads. You'll quit this like everything else."

I said, "Mom, this is real. Watch."

And sure enough she is in the fad now 30 years later and she gives away my books.

But God changed me. Jesus is not a quitter. No human being has ever gone through the adversity that Jesus went through and he stayed with it. His nature has been imparted to us as believers so any believer that quits is going against his or her given nature. My nature was a quitter, I was a sinner, I was a failure but Jesus rescued us and he changed us from the inside out and this is the glorious news of the gospel!

James: And if you get serious about him, you will face adversity even from people. Many times have I been pressed upon and inspired to quote the scripture, "For consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself lest you be weary and faint in your minds." Contradiction of sinners; by the way, some of those sinners are church folks, Christians. Some of them are preachers. Have you ever had any Christians accuse you and attack you to where you had to stop and consider him lest you be weary because they say, have you ever known people say things about your husband or about yourself even coming sometimes from the unexpected circles of church settings? And you have to consider Jesus.

Lisa: Yeah. And it says, "Woe to you when all people speak well of you." So sometimes you just have to say that's just part of it. If you're going to be relentless for truth you're going to come up against things where people are going to be mad when you speak truth but you have to love and you have to relentless love response, which is what I love because at the end of day we're not supposed to disband. So you have to forgive and you have to just go, you know what? I'm not going to be offended because

they're attacking John. I'm not going to be upset because I feel misjudged. I'm going to go ahead and I'm going to press on with truth.

James: I'm doing this right now in some unusual settings because I've always been rather forceful and bold and outspoken. Do you agree?

John: Yes! Yes!

Lisa: I could describe you that way.

James: Kind of a right wing top gun, gun slinger and all that stuff and very forceful. Right now God is leading me to speak the truth to people that I would disagree with or that I believe are out of step with say the Word of God. But I've been called of God, compelled of God to speak it to them in love, which means I have to be seen with them or spend some time with them. And you know it's not safe to be seen. Ask Jesus. After all, he really made a big mistake when he went home and sat on the sofa of a Pharisee with a prostitute kneeling at his feet. This is not real good for your reputation around town.

John: And he went to mafia parties.

James: Absolutely! And he hung out with the Sadducees and he went and talked to the Samaritan woman alone when nobody else was around. For heaven's sake! What's he doing? My goodness!

Well, when you do these things, which I'm determined that I'm going to love people that some have said, "Well, they're enemies. They're even enemies of the truth. They're enemies of the faith." I'm going to love them and talk to them. I'm never going to compromise truth. I'm never going to waiver, I'm never going to bend and I'm not going to bend in love. I'm going to be relentless in love. Does that make sense? I'm going to relentlessly love everybody. I don't agree with them but I'm going to relentlessly love them. I'm not going to allow what I call now a spirit of divorce to cause me to divide from every person I find some point of disagreement with.

How many marriages would last if we divorced over every disagreement because we weren't committed to the one who called us to commitment in the first place? And one of the commitment calls is to love, so I want to be relentless to love. Does that actually even fit into the book anywhere, I wonder?

John: Yeah because God --

James: Because I'm going to be relentless about love whether you've got it in your book or not!

[Laughter]

John: Well, God says he commands his blessing where brethren dwell together in unity. And it seems to me that the church over the past 30 years of my ministry experience has found more reasons to divide than to unite. I kind of take up with you on that because I always look at what do we agree upon? Because if you look at Jesus, he said, "The glory you've given me I've begin them that they might be one." There's a glory reserved for when we become one.

If you look at the upper room, it's amazing. Jesus, he ministered to hundreds of thousands of people and he told 500 to go to the upper room but after 10 days there is only 120 and there is a reason for that. These guys were committed to be one.

Because Peter is left in charge and Peter is always sticking his foot in his mouth; we all know that, right? Every time he opens it. Well, he did it in the upper room. He came out of his morning devotions and said, "Guys, I read a scripture. Judas was going to betray Jesus. It says right here in the book of Psalms. Somebody is supposed to take his place." He said, "So find all the guys that have been with us ever since the beginning and let's draw lots and pray and see who God has chosen."

Now we all know God doesn't pick an apostle through a lottery system. You see the fruit of his choice, Matthias and Justus were chosen. Matthias wins the lottery. You never hear his name again the rest of the Bible.

[Laughter]

I mean Paul was the one that said, "I was born one of out of due time." Paul was God's choice to replace Judas but yet here is Peter out-of-sync making a completely out-of-sync decision, totally out of God's will. If that happened today in America we would have had a three-way church split. We would have had the anti-lottery apostle picking group split off. We would have had the apostles passed away when Jesus ascended to heaven split off. And we would have had the lottery apostle picking group stay.

[Laughter]

Okay? Yet you read the very next verse it says, "They were all with one accord." What happens? The glory of God comes and 3,000 people get saved without even an announced meeting. Because why? He commands his blessing where we're one.

This is what you're doing. James, you are a father in the faith. I look at you as a father. I respect you as a father. And you are speaking right now such wisdom. And people will come up and go, "You're crazy!" But Jesus ate with mafia; the tax collectors were the mafia. He went to their parties because Jesus loved people. If a person decides they're going to turn away from God, that's between them and God. Our job is to be ambassadors of God; we bring the love of God to them. If they reject it, that's between them and God.

But you made a statement when we were having dinner tonight, we don't lose our bearings in Christ; we become all things to all people so that we may win the more but we keep our bearings, our personal bearings in Christ. We don't compromise truth.

James: And we've got to understand that one of the greatest compromises of all is when you don't love all people and you won't love your enemies. For heaven's sake, there had to be some enemies that he knew would come in your path to love.

One day I was shaving, exactly -- I was standing in the bathroom looking at the mirror, and I wasn't seeing God. I was seeing me standing there and I'm saying, "Lord, I really love you. I really do love you Lord."

And he says, "How much?"

I said, "Well, I really love you."

He said, "More than the least of these?"

I said, "Well, sure."

Then he said, "And just who might you consider to be the least of these?"

And my mind began to race and you know what came? Religious people that I'd decided I didn't like. Religious people that had done something that offended me or I was really, really certain was out of step. They had become the least.

And the Lord said, "They're not least to me because I'm after every one of them just like I was after you when you were wrong; when you needed me while you were a defeated preacher, and in many ways deceived yourself, I was still after you. And I want you to go with me after the people who have failed, who are flawed, who have fleas," so to speak.

John: Well, that answers my question now why Jesus ate with that Pharisee. I'm sitting there going, why is he eating with that Pharisee? What's he giving that time for that religious person for? Has anybody ever thought that? But yet he didn't consider that Pharisee the least, even though that Pharisee considered that woman the least, Jesus didn't consider either of them.

James: And Jesus said, "When you've done it to the least of these, my brethren, you've done it unto me." And it is also, when he shows you some of the people we've overlooked all over the world, which is what we do when we go and feed the hungry, these people feel overlooked and forgotten. They feel like we're the least on planet earth. Nobody noticed us. And when you come in the name of the Lord and you notice people and you begin to help them, it is a real miracle. I want to thank both of you for going to the mission field with us. You know right now we're drilling water wells because our viewers love to give people more than a cup of water, they like to give them a well of water and that's a real joy to do that. We want to thank you because you've been a real blessing in that area too. Thanks to both of you.

Lisa: We're honored to be able to partner with you in that. We love that we have the opportunity to partner with someone we know is doing something. We've gotten to see it on hand and seen the impact of the village where -- really, one of the villages, they all just became Christians because they just said, "These must be angels that have brought us clean water." We don't even understand the impact from an American vantage of what that does over there in Cambodia but it has been an incredible privilege.

James: You know one the things, John, you and I were talking about when we were discussing *Relentless* and just looking at the need for people to understand that no matter what comes, they need to be relentless in it; that when you feel like you've been dealt a bad hand, you got a bad deal, something terrible happened, where did it come from? God, why did you do this? Or God, why did you let it happen? And what the Lord showed me to try to answer, the very serious question, when people asked Jesus questions, he would normally answer it or he would answer it with a question to them to try to show them where they were tracking.

But what the Lord showed me when very sincerely I went to him, and I actually went in behalf of others because I found myself yielded to the Lord and I'm able to take the shaping process, but I wanted to understand it better in order to answer better. But the Lord showed me is that if we are and the Old Testament prophets made it clear that we are clay in the potter's hand. Now you know clay in order to be shaped has to be yielded, has to be pliable, flexible, it has to be shapeable. If we're clay in God's hand then the pressure that comes on our life is either coming from the hand of God, from the fingers of God or it is being filtered through the fingers of God.

And in that adversity, we don't have to get lost in the source of pressure but the purpose of the pressure if we're relentlessly pursuing him and his will then the pressure will shape Christ-likeness in us, whether it is an assault of the enemy or the accuser or whether it is simply the shaping pressure of God to shape Christ into us.

John: That's so true because God will allow or actually place pressure on us with his hand. There are times, you can see it all through the Bible, but the thing -- I think the thing that helps everybody because you have people out there that they are bitter with God. I have met pastors that are bitter with God. There is a pastor resented God because his baby died and he opened up to me. He said, "John, I'm angry at God." And I'll never forget the brokenness.

And the dividing line of the whole Bible is John 10:10: The thief comes to kill, to steal, to destroy. I've come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. If the pressure involves killing, destruction, or stealing or death, it's not from God's hand. It is through. He didn't author it, because the Bible says, "God is impervious to evil and he will not put evil in anyone's way. Don't be deceived." That's what James said. But what happened was is God will allow things to come and God expects us to fight back. Because you look at Jesus, Jesus didn't let the storm just kill them. He spoke to the storm and said, "I rebuke you." Every good soldier in a war realizes who his enemy is. When he is in training camp, his officers are putting a lot of pressure on him. Why? -- Because they're trying to save him when he is out there in that battle. And there are times God will put pressure on us. He put pressure on Joseph because he wants to save us when we're out there in the real battle. I think that that's the way that helps me, I know, determine is this thing God putting pressure on me because my character needs some good shaping up? Or is this the enemy and do I flat out have to fight right now?

James: That's great. Do you appreciate what John is sharing? Do you appreciate his testimony?

The book, *Relentless* is in the bookstores. I want to put John and Lisa's web site up so you can find out where they will be speaking because both of them speak all over the world. Both of them write incredible material, great books. If you would like to have it for any gift, we'll be glad to send it to you too. You just ask. But do be praying for them.

I want to show you something I know is going to touch your hearts. I want to show you the scenes right now that we're addressing. We've targeted over 300 areas that the missionaries have brought to our attention where the need is desperate and where the love is there, they just need clean water. I want you to look, please, this is going to be probably in many ways one of the most inspirational scenes you're going to witness because it is very real but it is something that you can be the complete answer to. This is not like one of those issues, one of those challenges you wish you could do something about. You really can change this totally. I want you to watch closely.

In the studio:

James: Now Pich, I know you can't -- you can't see me and Betty. We'll drill your well, and we'll do it with joy unspeakable. I don't want another baby die in your arms. I don't want any babies to die in anybody's arms because they just need some clean water. All right, that's a well. But every time we've ever seen a mother, I feel like she is not only crying out for her child but for others and I think there are people watching that can drill a well for somebody else.

Betty: I know there are. That's one mother out of so many that are crying out, "Save my baby! I want my baby to live. I've seen one baby die, don't take my last baby. I need my baby." The solution -- the mother knows what's killing her babies but she doesn't have the source to help her baby but we do, we have to give our love, our care, and the drilling of the well. That's what she needs; she needs the fresh clean water.

James: Sometimes we get some really, really unkind e-mails that question what we're doing and why we're doing it. They question why I love people that I may disagree with or I'm convinced that are not right about a lot of things. I love them so much I want them to know the truth that can set us all free and I know love never fails.

But sometimes we've had people say, "Well, you can just turn on the tears." There was a day when I would want to punch you out. I'm past that but I'm not past weeping and I'm not past trying to do what I can no matter what somebody would say. I hear not

only that mother's cry, I hear the heart of God. I love the little children of the world and I touch them through people like you.

The viewers of our program, so many of you, you are the most beautiful examples of the love of God because you look and you hear and you say, "I can do that. I wish I could do more."

You know what? Some of you, I know if you had it to do you would do it, you would use it. I want everyone to know there's a level at which you can help. Betty and I, we're going to take care of that spot where Pich is praying and crying out and we do that so gratefully and joyfully. Would you drill a well where another mother's heart is crying out? Could you give the \$4800? That's what it costs now.

I don't know how long it will be at that level with the petroleum and energy costs rising but that's what it is now. But we've got 350 areas where the mothers are crying out like that where we will drill a well. Would you drill a portion of a well with a \$1200 or \$2400 gift and pray others will join you? But I want you -- please remember \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. That's basically the break down; \$144, 30 people water.

Don't you think because somebody can give a well and you can only give \$48, that may be the biggest gift given today -- given at this moment. That may be the biggest gift; that could be like the widow's mite. But you go to the phone. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. That's how you should always use it, write a check, and make it to *LIFE*.

Call us and tell us you're mailing it or go to lifetoday.org and you can make your gift right now online. Please, be an answer to that mother's cry. Be an answer to the will of God and expression of the heart of God. Reach out right now and touch someone with love. Would do you it please? If you get a busy, you be so determined and so persistent, I'm going to do my part in sharing the heart of God. I'm going to give a cup of water, a well of water in Jesus' name. I'm going to do it. Thank you for doing it!

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

On the mission field:

Lisa: I have spent my day traveling up and down this river. We have seen the graves of children that have died because they drank from this river. We want to do something about it.

Mission: Water for Life can drill wells but we need you to respond. This is a global problem. This isn't just isolated to this river. This river is a small picture of rivers worldwide. The need is desperate and urgent. Open your heart and give freely so these children won't die.

In the studio:

James: I just have so much gratitude for your help. We are sending you some beautiful gifts today. John and Lisa -- John Bever's book, *Relentless*; if you'd like to have it for any gift, we'll be glad to send it to you too. You just ask. John, we appreciate you. Lisa, we appreciate you.

John: James, can I say something? That story so touched everybody. I hope we can inspire but we want to drill a well. So I want to just say, maybe some people can call and join with Lisa and I and Messenger International, and maybe some businesses

could do that, maybe some families, but if they can't do a full well maybe a half a well but we want to do a well for the people of Cambodia.

James: Thank you! Would you just say thanks to... everybody, John, Lisa. Again, thanks to you, we applaud you and we thank you for your love. You have no idea what your love and your friendship and your prayers for me and Betty mean to us and the missionaries... and to those in need all over the world. Thank you!

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: Jesus is telling somebody listening or watching today to do something that you've already done.

Announcer: Beth Moore tomorrow!