

8/14/12

Week 34

James: Oh, boy! Thank you so much. I go all over the world looking for the glory of God to be manifest. I'm James Robison; my wife, Betty and I we really count it an honor to be sharing this time with you. You're going to meet one of the most anointed people I've seen.

Now, Billy Graham is a real close friend, all your famous preachers; you can't name one of them I don't have a good relationship with. I don't know if I've ever met anybody more anointed than the guy you're going to hear. But we're going to start out with a little humor because he's funny. As a matter of fact, John Gray has a DVD called, *Laughter in Black and White*. Here's John Gray.

Begin video clip:

>> That's just how black women do it. I'm just trying to help my white sisters out because y'all so nice to your kids. Y'all be giving them "time out". What is "time out"? We got knocked out!

[Laughter]

Two black women right there, former abused women.

[Laughter]

Beaten by their mothers -- next Oprah. I'm telling you, white people, white women, you would live three years longer if you stopped trying to argue with them kids.

I love y'all so much. I'm praying, I saw a mother in the store and she's just talking to the little boy like he's on her level. She's like, "Tucker, Tuck -- Tuck, buddy -- Tuck -- Tucker, I need you to listen. I need you to simmer. Tucker! Tuck, I need you to simmer. Simmer!"

Tucker is like, "No! I want to play with the Lego's. I want to be the king of Legoland."

"Tucker, can your brother be?"

"No! He was king of Legoland last week. I want to be king by myself!"

That poor mother! She said, "Tucker, mother is having an aneurysm right now. Could you stop it? Momma is having a heat stroke. Could you simmer down?"

"No, you have an aneurysm later! I want some ice cream."

[Laughter]

Because Tucker used to touch everything in the store. Black kids know, don't you touch nothing that you can't pay for. Black women, all they've got to do is make three sounds and the kids know what it is. I remember sitting in the store reaching for the Star Wars action figure. My mother wasn't even turned near me and she had radar. And she just, Shha - whoo - hah!

[Applause]

"Are you touching?"

[Laughter]

"Are you touching something in this store? You can't pay for nothing on that shelf. I wish you would touch it. Please touch it! Where's my Vaseline? I will bust you up."

[Sobbing]

[Laughter]

[Wailing]

End of clip

In the studio:

James: John Gray.

John, I love you, buddy.

John: I love you too, sir.

James: You did a great job at our Gateway where we hosted the art conference and

had all these incredible pastors and church leaders. I walked over to you; I had to go clear across the church, the front, mingle through all the people to get to you and I came to you and I'll just tell everybody what I said, "You're as anointed as anybody I've ever seen." You have a gift that is matchless and it is a gift from God, and understand the treasure that you have because I really believe you're funny and your timing is impeccable, it is supernatural. But I really believe you're a spokesman to our nation; ultimately, I really believe that.

I honestly believe because I have such a great love for the black people. We don't just love them because they're in Africa and we help them, I just love them everywhere. I grew up where it was only 10% white where I lived and I never understood why people had a problem with the ethnic diversity and so forth; I didn't understand it. I just love people but I really believe that black people, a lot of times have because we did mistreat them -- whites did mistreat them.

I think we're on kind of a guilt trip, and as a result, I think we're overreacting in some ways and a lot of things are being maybe handed out in ways that the strengths of the black community is not necessarily being seen. It's more like the hurt black community demanding payment and not really realizing how great they are as a people and how great fathers can be and how great families can be and I believe you can speak to that.

So do you bear witness with the concern?

John: I think it's absolutely critical. The fatherless pandemic in the African American community, I think is the greatest attack the devil has in our community. The statistics are clear. Children that are raised in fatherless homes, the percentages are disproportionately higher that they are going to be incarcerated, they won't graduate, that they will be in some form of halfway house or correctional facility or in the justice system, not have access to education, shorter life span. They'll have more issues with abuse. They will be unsuccessful proportionately without a father in their marriage, they won't be there for their own children. Not having a father and how fatherlessness has impacted the community that I came from cannot be overstated.

I believe... and in the church, I believe that the church needs to get out in front and be proactive about building bridges beyond culture and beyond race because we have this fallacy that says, "Well, God doesn't see color." Yes, he does. He created us. He likes diversity, he likes the color and there are things that we can learn from each other and grow and develop.

And I believe in personal accountability. I believe in personal responsibility. I believe in it so much that I'm faithful in my marriage and I'm raising my son. So I don't just talk it, I live it. When I talk to my son, he's only five weeks old and I rock him and I say, "You're going to be a man of God and you're going to serve the Lord. You're going to live holy. You don't have a choice, boy. And you better act right."

[Laughter]

I believe that our community needs to take responsibility and to take responsibility for the family. There have been cases that have been highlighted in the media where we look at one aspect of the spectrum and say race played a factor but then when it is black on black crime, you don't hear those same voices screaming as loud when we've done far more recently than any other group has done to us. I think we need to look at the history and look at the brokenness but look at ways to heal without offending those who weren't directly involved.

The reality is this, there are many people that grew up in different areas and everybody comes to the table with their own fears, insecurities and prejudices but by the power of Jesus he is able to reconnect us and realign us with his original intent for creation. We're able to draw together. The only color that should matter is red; it's the blood of Jesus. That's what unifies us and that's what we need to get back to. We've got to be intentional about diversity.

Jesus, when he went to the Samaritan woman, he went to that well out of the way of where he was going. He went that way purposefully to create dialogue with a woman that was outside of the community that he was supposed to talk to. They were not comfortable and he asks her for water, which is a great part of your heart. Give me some water at this well.

She said, "You know good and well, we don't have anything to do with each other."

He said, "You know, if you knew who I was, you would ask me for some water and you'd never thirst again."

She said, "Well, tell me all about it."

He says, "Why don't you get your husband and we'll talk."

She said, "Well, I'm not married."

He says, "No, you've been married five times and the man you're with right now you're shacking up."

She's like, "Uh-oh, something tells me you're a prophet."

I'm like, "Very discerning of you."

[Laughter]

But when you see how Jesus related to her, he didn't judge her, he didn't beat her up. He didn't walk in saying, "I'm better than you." What he did was he walked in, met her where she was, he engaged her on a personal level and then he gave her spiritual truth to heal her from her broken past. That's what we need to do when it comes to race and reconciliation in the power of forgiveness and not using the brokenness of the past as an excuse to have a crutch today.

James: You know she was so covered and so freed that she went into town and she said, "Come meet a man that told me everything I ever did but he is not telling you because he covered it. I'm a new person." That's how forgiven we are. That's how completely he will change us so that we can have a whole new, not only relationship with him, but a meaningful relationship with one another. In the white community, how do you see us best really encouraging the black community?

John: I think, honestly, two things have to happen. We have to have honest dialogue from a foundational perspective about the past, the history of our country. It is a painful history. American chattel slavery was unprecedented in its brutality. We know that and we have not properly addressed it at its root which is why the wound keeps festering and showing up.

Everybody has a voice on the Internet now and if you read any blog about issues with justice, politics, religion or race, you will see so much hate and vitriol on both sides, and you'll find it from anonymous sources because most people have these hidden places because it's never been dealt with. I think the church needs to be proactive and get out in front of the reconciliation movement and have honest dialogue.

Dr. King said years ago, that the most segregated hour in this country is Sunday morning. And we have to get deliberately diverse, not talk about preference in our worship style, not talk about preference in the type of music we like but say, "Let's get diverse. Let's get deliberately diverse."

What would happen if a black Pentecostal church just got up one Sunday morning and went across to the white Southern Baptist church and said, "We're going to worship together, And we're going to -- it's the same Jesus --."

James: And I'm going to say amen!

John: That's right! Whether it's Baptist or Pentecostal, it's one Jesus, it's one Lord, one faith, one baptism. We've got to fight to love each other beyond our differences, beyond the things that we don't understand.

Every time I get on a plane I hear, "Well, what team do you play for?"

I'm like, "I play for the Judah Lions. That's who I play for. I play for the king of kings and the Lord of Lords."

I think sometimes we have our own preconceived ideas based on media, based on culture, based on upbringing. We've got to learn to look at each person as an individual and say that no one is a monolith. All black people are not the same, all Indians are not the same, all white people are not the same; we need to take people for what they are as individuals. But as kingdom people, we need to look at the heart and discern from the heart the spirit of a man.

James: You experienced a miracle, your mother. At the end of the program, we've about five minutes but you can tell the story because I heard you tell it. Your mother got a terrible diagnosis; I mean it was a hopeless deal. Tell us about it because I want everybody out here that believes there's no hope, and you're facing something that just seemed -- I want you to listen to this and then we're going to agree for the God of miracles to touch you in the area of your need. What happened?

John: And if I can add to this story the caveat that my mother was a mother and father to me because my mom and dad divorced when I was very young. My father was not a strong part of my life. My mother was a woman of God, is a woman of God.

James: So we met The Father, because I had the same situation.

John: That's right! My mother lived a holy life, remained pure until marriage, which is a part of my testimony. She told me at 13, "Boy, you're going to be a virgin when you get married."

I said, "Okay, mom."

I'm thinking I'm getting married in my 20s. I was 37 -- I was like, "Hurry up, Jesus! I've been living holy. I need you to speed it along."

So my mother has lived a holy life and honored God. And on June 23rd of 2011, I went home and went to the doctor with her. He said, "I hate giving good people bad news but, Mrs. Gray, you have pancreatic cancer and it is at stage four."

She had been showing some symptoms that we didn't know. They thought it was jaundice or something going on with the liver. By the time they caught it, it was stage four. When we went to the oncologist that afternoon and he said, "It is confirmed. It is metastatic stage four pancreatic cancer spread to your liver, your spleen, your duodenum, your bile duct. There are lesions on your liver and scratches on your liver as if something was trying to scratch it. There is no medicine, no radiation, no chemo for this. We can offer you palliative care, just pain medicine but there is no cure for this. You have months to live."

As I began to cry, she began to smile. I said, "Maybe she's lost her mind."

I feel the Holy Ghost for somebody watching this program right now. You need to call somebody and get them on the phone so they can hear what I'm about to say next.

But my mother said, "Well, how many months do I have?"

He said, "There's only one who knows."

She said, "Oh, I know that."

And so he left the room and my aunt and I were there. She said, "I know y'all are going to think I'm crazy." She said, "But I'm so glad he said there is no hope because now I know he won't get credit when God heals me."

We left that room and she walks over to the nurses' station and she says, "God's going to heal me," and walks out.

We have a family meeting that night. I said, "My mom has lost her mind. I understand she got a terrible diagnosis." The whole family is there. Everyone else is weeping. She is consoling them.

She said, "I don't want anybody in here praying for my healing. Instead, I want you to take your faith where mine is and thank him for what he's already done." She said, "God made me a promise and he cannot break a promise. And a promise from God is as sure as a fulfillment. He told me, 'I'm going to heal you because you have no one else.'" She referred me to Isaiah 53:4 and 5.

You see, the Bible is not just a book of stories or a collection of 66 different authors, it is a contract. It is the new covenant in the blood of Jesus; it is a contract. And that contract states in Isaiah 53, subsection four and five, that he bore our griefs and carried our iniquities. And the word *griefs* in the Hebrew is sin, sickness, malady or ailment and he carried our iniquities. And by his stripes we are healed. You know the rest of it. He was wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities.

My mother declared that that scripture was what she was hanging her hat on. She said, "I'm not going in no surgery. God has already told me that I will live and not die. That's it, that's all." That was June 23rd of 2011, about 7:30 at night. I feel the Holy Ghost.

By June 27th, when she went in to have biopsies of all those tumors that we still have the CAT scan for, we still have the tests; they went in for three hours and searched and could not find one single cell of cancer in her body -- not one!

[Applause]

Not one! Not a tumor, not a growth. The scratches on her liver were gone.

James: Father, I want to thank you. Father, I thank you. When I heard this, I knew and I didn't have to have him tell me what a mighty God you are but I heard a great testimony. And so in behalf of everybody listening right now, I'm asking you to show them you're the miracle-working God.

And to every one of you all over the world who watch say, "I've got a loved one... I've got something in my body, something is going on." He is healer. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What you heard was an affirmation of faith. We have seen this in our own family. We have seen what God will do when you say, "I win" because he wins -- he's won! He is healer still.

Father, I pray that you will heal every person and I really think it is perfectly appropriate for you to just reach up and say, "Lord, I know who you are. I want you to be in me who you are and who you were to John's mother, I'm asking you to heal. I'm

asking you to restore. You are healer. I receive you as who you are. I receive your healing power and release it toward my loved one, my child, my family member, my parent, my friend, my neighbor. I receive and I thank you and I praise you and I rest in it. Father, you just flood everyone watching this with the peace that passes understanding. Not something you work up, something he blows in you like a river, peace be still, trust and rest. I pray that for you. We love you.

We believe this is a miracle. Don't you thank God for a gifted man? Do you appreciate what John has said? Just what you've heard coming out of his heart and his love?

John, you're anointed. If people wanted you to come to their area to speak, what address or what web site could I put up?

John: JohnGrayWorld.com.

James: And if they wanted to get the comedy you could get it. As a matter of fact, could we -- if people will help us drill a water well today, on this, this is our last week, could we send them this as a gift? We'll get them from you; okay? But could we send it to say thank you?

John: Absolutely.

James: Let me ask you to do this. I want you to watch, help us drill 350 wells. This is the last week. Do what you -- if you can drill a well, please do it. If you can drill part of a well please do it. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Pich: My son, Chaktra, is sick because he drank dirty water. I am so very afraid he will die like his sister Meum. When Meum turned three, she drank dirty water and got sick. She suffered a lot of stomach pain and diarrhea until she died.

I am asking every mother to help save my baby. Please help give us clean water.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I love that little baby and I love that mother. I don't know -- I don't know of many things that ever moved me any more.

The first time I saw that, you remember what I said to you?

Betty: Yeah, you said, "we're going to drill a well for that mother."

James: I actually looked out at Pich, her name is Pich and there are no televisions. I just wanted her to know; I said, "Pich, we're going to drill you a well."

I could just tell you, my heart just overflows with a burden that God put there to give everybody a fresh drink of water; seemed like a pretty simple request. Jesus said, "You just give a cup in my name, you won't lose your reward." Just giving the cup is enough reward for me to see that mother's prayers answered.

But if you say, "Boy, that's nice, James, that you've got that burden because I can tell it's real. I can tell it's real." If you think it's real here, you think how real it is to the father who says you -- you, us, you're my hands, you're my body, you're the ones that give the water, you're the ones that bestow the blessings, you're the ones that take the brokenhearted world in your arms. So it's my arms -- he really has no arms but ours. Yeah, he can fling everything around. But he said, "This is how I've chosen it because I've given you the choice of letting me be father and trust me or rebel against me but if you want to be my family and express what I'm like, give a cup of water, meet a need, touch a broken heart.

All right, I believe you want to do it. I don't even know if you profess to be a Christian. I think if you're just breathing and grateful you can breathe, you say, "I want to help somebody." Okay, do it.

This is our last week. Twice a year, we ask you to help us drill water wells. We're asking you to help us drill 350 now that the missionaries showed us. This is a place, right here, we've got somebody here to minister to them and show you a need. Would you do it? Would you drill a well?

Betty and I, we gave a well to Pich's village. They're drilling it. I'm relatively sure they're drilling it while I'm talking to you; they're going to have water. But what about all she represents? What about all those hundreds of other villages?

Could you drill a well? Could you drill part of a well? \$4800 is a well. Could you do that? Go online, *LifeToday.org* and say, "Here's my gift." Use your bankcard like a check. Write a check and make it to *LIFE* but here it is. Could you give \$1200 or \$2400 and say, "I pray three people join me" or "another person joins me and we've got a well?" Whatever you can do, it's huge to God, it's huge to mothers like that. \$48, ten

people water -- not just a cup, water basically for the rest of their life. \$48 -- could you do that? Surely there is a level you can come in. \$144, 30 people water.

Father, help everybody do what they can. In Jesus' name, for their sake, answer to those prayers.

Would you go to the phone, please? If you get a busy, be determined. This is the last week so if you happen to get a busy, say, "I'm not quitting until I get through. I am going to be an answer to that prayer and that heart cry. I'm going to help somebody's child. I'm determined to do it, nothing will stop me. I will express the love of God today." Would you make the call? You write a check, call us and tell us you're mailing it.

We've got some gifts to send you to bless you because we love you. We like to invest in you. As you're giving life to others, we want to strengthen your life. Thank you for making the call. 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."

This is the last week. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I think that it's really important for you to know that the countdown you might say, last week, we really need to hear from all of you.

Betty, I think we're going to do more.

You may have already made a gift. You may want to make another. Remember if you would like to have, we have the beautiful gifts that we've told you about, and remember online, you can get the Christian vote pins and Indivisible is now in paperback.

John Gray, we'll send you -- this is great entertainment but it is also communication of truth and we'll send it to say thanks if you'd like to have it today. There on *LifeToday.org* you can find out again his contact information.

Join Betty and me again saying thanks to John.

John, love you, John! Appreciate you!

Thank all of you so much for your friendship. Thank you for watching *LIFE Today* and helping us share life.