

Week 39

9/20/11

James: Thank you! Thank all of you! It is a joy to come into your home or wherever you happen to be watching. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I are thrilled to have Margaret Feinberg with us. She has written a book. She is actually quite an author and a speaker, just a truly gifted communicator, and a source of inspiration.

And frankly, I have found that she has a real appreciation for the ministry that Betty and I are called to together, and our television and mission outreach. This book, *Hungry for God*, I'm real excited to talk to her about it. I want you to welcome Margaret Feinberg to *LIFE Today*. Would you?

Margaret, we're just glad to see you. You look beautiful. We're glad you're here. I'm curious to know something and I'd probably like for our viewers to know why the interest. But we have Tweets on our twitter page. I don't even know if I'm calling it right? I'm a Tweeter.

[Laughter]

I Tweet. I have JamesRobison.net where I Tweet and we have Facebook and all of that, and there is where you can see it. If you look on the screen there you can see what it kind of looks like, that's JamesRobison.net. You can find me. I write a commentary every week. Usually I address current issues or issues of concern that we should pray about.

But then you have the LifeToday.org and you can see all the outreaches of life and so forth. But one of the things we've noted because we've gotten to where we can kind of track what's going on. You Tweet, reTweet as frequently if not more than anyone who takes our Tweets and passes them on. Tell me why? I'm really curious about it.

Margaret: Honestly, James and Betty, it is because we love what you do! You are such an expression of what so much of this generation is hungering and aching for; a desire to put our faith into action in a practical way; in a way that meaningful, that helps make sure people are fed, they are clothed, they have shoes on their feet. And how could you not proclaim the goodness of God and what God is doing through you and

ministries around the world? So it is a privilege to reTweet what you all are Tweeting.

James: Why do you think that's effective and what do you see that doing because I think one of the things I've been praying about and really, I'm not a high tech person. Betty and I are truly grandparents with grandchildren that are old enough pretty soon for all of them to be parents so we'll be great grandparents before you know it. But the thing is, we're not high tech people but we really recognize that in the social networking there is the ability to communicate a truth or truths to the ends of the earth.

I mean networks tend to distort or ignore relevant truth. We can actually communicate meaningful truth in so many different ways in whatever area of influence we have. Is that how you see it?

Margaret: Absolutely! Did you know that historically radio took about 38 years to reach 50 million people. Television did it in about 12 or 13. Facebook did it in four. I believe the latest points out that twitter did it in two. So the capacity to reach people is unbelievable to share the good news of what Jesus is doing, to reach people, to touch people.

But I think one of the reasons that we all, as believers, need to be involved in social media, whether that is twitter or whether that is Facebook or other outlets is because ultimately there is a conversation that is taking place and if we as believers are not engaging in that conversation and are not shaping that conversation, then other people will be. Quite honestly, I don't always like what they have to say or what they have to promote. Why not leverage that to build God's kingdom, to glorify God with that space?

James: We can actually take truths and really salt the earth with truth. And I really appreciate you inspiring us and encouraging us by the fact that you're doing it. I encourage our viewers to become a part of that and access the opportunity because we do have the opportunity. I want you to tell us about what inspired the *Hungry for God* title and really touch on some of the areas of let's say interest and concern that you focus on and that really are in your heart right now for all of us as believers.

Margaret: I don't know if you like food at all. Any at all -- when somebody starts to talk about some good Texas barbecue or some fabulous Tex Mex or it's that hot sunny day and you're talking about some sorbet or some of that chocolate ice cream, all of the sudden we start talking about that and there is this hunger level that increases. Don't you want to go out for ice cream now?

James: Sure! I'm ready to go! I may leave in a minute.

[Laughter]

Margaret: If that happens when we talk about food, how much more should that be happening when we talk about God? When we start sharing about the things that God is doing in our lives, both in a personal way and in a community, we start to get hungry. We raise the appetite level for God. And when we do that, we raise the holy expectation that God is going to move, that God is going to speak.

God is known as the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the last letter of the Greek alphabet. It is interesting because when the Jewish people translated that into their own language, they translated the Alef and the Tav, the first and the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. But they also said God is the Mem -- he is the middle most letter. We serve a God who is not just back then and yet to come, but right now desiring that intimate engaging personal relationship with us. I know that you live in that holy conversational space with God where he speaks and it is such a beautiful thing.

James: Well, he talks to me because he knows I love to hear him. That really is true. That's what she is talking about, a hunger. I do have a hunger for God. But I have a hunger for intimacy and relationship with him. But he also has that desire for fellowship with us. And it was as though he communicated to me once when I was asking him about why do you talk to me so much? He said, "Because you love to hear me." He actually communicated one time that I actually chase after you to talk to you.

You really see Jesus out looking for the sheep that's outside the fold. If the Lord would chase after someone that strayed outside the security, he will also chase after someone that he is anxious to talk to because he knows they love to hear him.

I feel like a lot of people, Margaret, have either cultivated or understand they can have this kind of relationship with God. It isn't like out loud. I say it is louder than out loud. It is an impression on my mind, my spirit, my total being, but it is really living in a continuous flow. I don't think that's some farfetched hopeless desire. I think it is really the desire of God's heart for those who have a hunger for God. I think it can be really a normal part of the Christian life.

Margaret: I'd even take it one more step further and that is the idea that we were designed for this. We were all created for this.

A while back I spent time with a shepherdess up in Oregon. I walked alongside of her as we climbed this little muddy trail. We got to the top of the field and looked out across this expanse and there were all these sheep. I looked at her and all of the sudden she starts whispering at me. I'm looking at her going, "Why are we whispering?"

She says, "Because at the very first sound of my voice they will all come running." With that she simply said, "Sheep, sheep, sheep." And the entire flock bolted toward her. And in that moment I recognized that John chapter ten is not just a word picture or a metaphor, this idea that God is our shepherd and we're like sheep but we really are wired and designed and created to respond to God's voice -- that's what we're meant for.

Betty: The sad thing is, a lot of times, as Christians don't really know that that is available to us. I know as a younger Christian, I thought it was reserved for those in special -- in ministry or those preachers or those God had really called for something special to do. But he allowed us through our relationship with him, for all of us to be available to us and through his word he can -- I saw that hunger grow as I got into his word and I allowed him to say, these are my love letters to you; not just words on a page but they're for me. And as I began to open myself up and allow him to speak to me through his word, then that communication started. He's ready and willing and anxious if we'll just ask him.

Margaret: Absolutely! I think the Bible is the foundation and the filter for everything that we hear from God. If it doesn't line up with God's word, then absolutely, we chuck it. But as we spend time studying the scripture, it is like he expands the library with which the Holy Spirit can use to draw and to speak into our lives, that he will bring those passages and those moments to life.

I remember a while back I was living in that busyness, that state of just total overdrive. The way I know I'm too busy is I check the backseat of the car, and if there is more than three Chipotle wrappers back there, I know I've been doing too much. So I rushed home and I decided I was going to cook up a meal and I didn't have any food. Like I had the Top Ramen, and the can of cream corn and I'm thinking, oh, no! So I run to the grocery store. Throw everything in the car as fast as I can. I have that spiritual gift

where when I get to the checkout, I pick that slowest lane. Does anybody -- you know that one?

James: I'm anointed for that.

Margaret: Yeah, don't pray for me. I got out of that store more harried than when I walked in. And yet, I remember I walked to my car and I'm just opening the trunk and I'm throwing in those groceries and as I do I have a thought pop into my mind so loud and so clear and it simply says, "I miss you."

It was so loud I looked around that parking lot and there was no one there. I realized that in that moment the spirit of God had spoken to me. With those big hot wet tears rolling down my cheeks I only had one response, I miss you too!

God is so persistent to invade our everyday lives, even when we're too busy -- even when we're not listening, in his love to speak to us.

James: I think it is real important, Margaret and for all of you who are listening to really grasp something that she just referenced that is really important. She said, "If it doesn't line up with the word you chuck it."

The real fact of the matter is that we don't hear well if we're strangers to the word. If you really don't have a hunger for the word, not only Jesus the living word and a relationship, but the hunger for the love that's in the love letters that he has written us in his word. And the faith, which is necessary to please God, faith comes by hearing, hearing comes by the Word of God. It is the Word of God that tunes our ears to hear channel Jesus clearly.

Also to be able to discern based upon scriptural truth the sounds in the spirit world. I think you do an incredible job talking about these different aspects, just like you, in passing, made such a very important statement, if it doesn't line up with the word, we chuck it, we discern it, does it come from the realm of deception or darkness?

One of the things Betty did that was very meaningful to her when she had been convinced that she couldn't hear like others could hear, or couldn't understand the Bible, which the enemy had deceived her, when she began to hear or see in the word something, she had a comfort level to pass that by me and ask me. And that's really, if Christians would first get in relationship with God, develop a meaningful relationship with other believers, we can pass things by one another so that they can test the spirit so to speak; see if this is in line in case that person is simply growing.

We'll find some people get into an immediate conversational dialogue that actually begin to hear things from God that they will then see in the word and that has happened to me very frequently. Even though I've read the Bible, it didn't necessarily lodge in a particular statement until I heard it, went back and then saw it. So I realized, I'm really moving into a real beautiful relationship with God and I think that comes from a hunger for God.

Margaret: I think you're right. I know that's happened for me in my own spiritual journey, in just my life.

I remember a while back I was just in a real financially difficult situation; I was praying for provision. And while I was praying the phone actually rang and it was a company calling and offering just an incredible opportunity. I thought this must be God.

But before I said "yes" I remember the words of my dad. He said, "If you're ever given an opportunity always pray about it." So I said, "Well, can I have a week to pray and think?"

They said, "We'll give you three days."

I said, "Okay." So I hung up the phone and I just prayed, Jesus, thank you, thank you, thank you! This is awesome! But if for some reason this isn't you, let me know. Amen. -
- Because sometimes that's how we pray.

I remember the next day I was downstairs cleaning and as I'm cleaning I had a thought pop into my mind and it was simply do you want bronze?

I'm thinking, I don't decorate with bronze, the Hoover is not bronze. God, if you are speaking, I'm a C student and I need you to spell this out.

[Laughter]

The next day I was spending some time in prayer and as I was praying the thought flashed out in my mind, do you want bronze or are you willing to wait for gold? I realized what God was saying. So when that company called me back, they said, "Are you going to take the job?"

I said, "I would love to but I've got to pass. I don't feel like this is God's best for me now."

I would love to tell you that the next week another company called with an even better offer but that didn't happen. I remember I was just questioning and I was starting to doubt in my heart and I was spending time just like what you are describing in God's word and I'm going through and I'm reading in Isaiah when I came on this passage in chapter 60, verse 16 and 17. It says: Then you will know that I the Lord am your savior and you're redeemer, the mighty one of Jacob instead of bronze, I will bring gold. When I saw that in God's word it confirmed what God's spirit has been saying.

So if we want to hear from God, if we want to walk in the confidence of that relationship, this as you have said, this is the key, it is the foundation, it is the filter.

James: And you don't play Bible roulette. You just don't pick it up and say here. It is possible God would say pick the word up, I want to show you something. You might just open to the page. That has happened to me frequently. That doesn't become the automatic way in which I seek the will of God.

The Lord oftentimes will direct me to go pick up a book that's been laying on a shelf for years or there will be one that is in a stack of books that I'm trying to read through and he'll impress me to pick one up. Invariably I'll open to a particular page or just open it to wherever I just last read and the very next paragraph or the very next page God speaks to me very clearly. I have really learned to respond to that still small voice. I don't have to wait for a lightning bolt to get my attention; it is a gentle nudge, like the Lord directs my attention somewhere.

Sometimes I talk to someone, pray for me. I think if we live in that responsive mode where the gentle breeze, we set our sail to catch the breeze in the wind of the spirit; we don't have to wait for a storm to get our attention. It is amazing how quickly, how frequently, how often, and how clearly he talks to us.

Margaret: And I think the word that you're kind of hinting at there is that word promptness, that says there is no delay. When we delay, I believe responding to God's whispers and those nudges and those inklings from him, that there becomes -- it only grows. But when we're quick to respond, that also only grows as well. And so we need to be prompt in responding to those moments, to not miss those windows in time, to not read a passage or feel that sense that I need to say "no" to the job and then say, "Well, but I'm just going to wait and see how long I can stretch this out for." Because that's a lot of times when the doubt and the confusion comes in. But when we respond

quickly there is that clarity and there is that confidence and there is that sense of knowing that grows and develops, like a muscle inside of us.

Betty: And always remember he does want his very best for us. He gave his very best for us. So why should we expect any less? So don't get in a hurry to settle for less than that.

James: It's really, when we are living sacrifices, yielded, that we can hear and know the good acceptable and perfect will of God. We can know the difference in the bronze, silver or gold... and God's best. Rick Joiner said to me years ago, "God spoke this to me for you, James, nevertheless -- nevertheless --." He had to come back the next day when neither one of us really understood a word of what he was saying. He said, "I prayed nearly all night." I said, "I did too!" He said, "God showed me what he wanted you to hear. James, nevertheless -- never, never, nevertheless! Don't ever settle for less than God's perfect will." That's a word for everybody, isn't it, Margaret? That's God's word.

Margaret: And that truth that you're highlighting, that when God speaks, it is not so much for information, it is not a matter of checking something off of a list or saying, "Okay, I heard from God today, I can move on with my day." But that when God speaks it is for transformation. God spoke creation into existence with mere words and the words that God speaks to us have that same potency and power that they change us, they shape us, they live inside of us. And even when you tell a story like that, the hunger in my heart, to hear from God, to feed on his word grows, it is truly contagious.

James: Absolutely! Would you join us in saying thanks to Margaret? Isn't it just wonderful! The book, hunger for God is in the bookstores. By the way, there is her web site if you want to know how to communicate with her or where she is speaking or to see if she could possibly communicate to your church or your community; you can communicate through the web site.

Margaret, we are right now getting shoes like this, little all-weather shoes for children and we call it shoes and then we're doing surgeries: Shoes and smiles for Christmas. I want you to just look at some beautiful feet. Those of us who are shod with the gospel of the preparation of peace because it is in our heart, we want to help others. I want you to look at these little feet... these beautiful, beautiful, beautiful children!

On the mission field:

James: Got the socks, just need the shoes.

Kathy: I'm not even here for five minutes and I'm crying. You are concerned about their bellies and their health and the water being contaminated but you don't think of the disease that comes through the precious little bottoms of their feet, that enters their bodies and can steal life from them.

Betty: You look at these beautiful children and you know God did a good thing. He loves the little children of the world -- all of them! And we love them and we want to be able to give them some shoes for their precious feet so when they walk, the disease doesn't contaminate their feet and then get in their blood system. Blank.

James: You know what Jesus said? Suffer the little children to come into me and forbid them not! You know what? We are the representatives of Christ, we're his body, we're his family! We can share his love. Blank.

Kathy: What a privilege it is for me this day to be surrounded by these precious little ones. I'm going to ask you right now to give them something that sounds so simple that we take for granted, and that is to put shoes on these little feet. Your gift will not only provide shoes for these precious children but it will also provide smiles -- new smiles for the children who need cleft palate surgery. Oh, you'll be blessed as you put shoes and smiles on the faces and feet of children around the world. Thank you so much!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't know what impressions you get when you look at the children. I was looking at their feet, of course, because we're talking about giving them shoes for Christmas, to keep them from getting the parasites and the infectious bacteria and even the hookworms that can actually kill them. We want to give them that but I've got to be honest with you, when I was looking at those children I saw so much more than feet, I saw precious beautiful little children. I saw children that God wants to love and hold.

And, Betty, without exaggerating, when you express the love of God, you actually are putting his arms around them and that's what I want to ask you to do.

This is our last week and I pray this, I prayed it before we came on the air, every person watching please help us help those children. We have targeted, with the missionaries help, areas where we've got 200,000 children. Some of them are going to have tiny little feet like this, just learning to walk. Others will be older children and we have a Velcro strap that they can adjust it to where -- and this shoe will last. It is all-weather. It is really resistant to rotting or to the terrible conditions they live in and they can adjust the strap. This is something they can wear for an extended period of time.

Would you help us this week by dialing that number? If you could give \$1,000 or \$144 as an example will give 40 children shoes. If you could do that, \$36 will give ten children shoes.

I don't think there is anyone watching that can't at some level reach out and say, "I'm going to touch those ten children." Then I want you to really pray about this -- this is a fantastic gift!

Children that have deformities in their face, cleft palate, some other facial deformity, we want to do the surgeries that is corrective. It averages \$500. Could you give a surgery or maybe two or several? We're sending the "Heart of the Father" bronze to say thank you if you'll make that special gift. You may want to make a sizable gift and say, "Use this to give shoes and smiles. I want to do what I can."

I'm asking that you help us. Please do not think \$36 is not much. No, it is real big to those ten children. I'm asking you please, make that call. If you want to go to LifeToday.org feel free to do that or you can simply dial that number. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail because we depend upon you.

We're sending the Jesus Calling devotional book for any gift. This is absolutely fabulous! This will help you come into the presence of God. Make that call. Thank you for making that gift. Thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Begin clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

LIFE Outreach International has developed a durable all-terrain shoe especially made for the harshest conditions in children of all ages. By responding today you can help life immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays!

Your gift of \$36 will help provide 10 pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift be sure to request the bestselling inspirational devotional by Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request the heart of father bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I do want to remind you again, this is our last week and we're asking you to help us. We need the resources now so we can deliver the shoes, smiles by Christmas.

If you'd like to have Margaret Feinberg's book *Hungry for God* because you do have a hunger for God, I think she'll help you -- help tune your ears too.

Betty and I just want to say thanks to Margaret for really being a blessing. Check out her website too and see if you can pass some Tweets along.

Do you want to say thanks to Margaret?

Margaret, you're a real blessing. Thank you!

Thanks for helping people here, so many things God's put on your heart. We really appreciate it! All of us can spread the word. Thanks so much for your help and your friendship.

Beth: ...In that gray zone where you and I have the biggest capacity to get sideswiped!

Announcer: Developing spiritual discernment -- tomorrow!