

Week 46

11/8/12

James: What do you think, Betty... Welcome, by the way, to *LIFE Today*. Betty, what do you think about this Louie Giglio guy? Louie Giglio -- Giglio. What is that?

Louie: Imagine growing up your whole life with that as your last name. I've never gone to a restaurant or check in at an airlines where somebody -- I've never had this happen where somebody says, "Is it gigolo?"

[Laughter]

Has anyone ever called you Gigolo?" I say, "Well, not in the last 30 minutes or so. No. But thank you for that." Builds character.

James: Now you just do gigs.

Louie: That's what they call me in Australia. Everybody has got to have a nickname in Australia. So I'm Gigs down there.

James: Here he is. This is so amazing. I'm holding up a series. It's called the Essential Collection. And it's five full-length talks. By the way, about how long do you normally talk? I'm not going to try to scare anybody but...

Louie: Let's just say the words full-length is an adequate description for how long I usually speak.

[Laughter]

James: In other words, you're going to get the point across.

Louie: Yes, you're going to get your money's worth. That's the way I look at it.

James: That's the way it needs to be. But here's the thing now. He's got university students, college students, he's got young people -- but he's got everybody. Like I met the guy -- I've heard about him a lot but I really had not watched him. We kind of tracked in some of the same territory. You know you went to the seminary out here

and you probably watched some of my journey with either dismay or amazement one.

[Laughter]

But the point is that I had not really watched him and I saw Betty watching him, crying, and I mean, what was it -- what was getting you about this guy? It was obvious he was talking to a lot of young people and yet you're sitting in here like you're strapped to the seat but you're going crazy.

Betty: Well, it was anointed. It was the Spirit of God.

Wherever that is, that will draw me because that's what I look for. I want the Spirit of God to be wherever I am.

James: I love you! You know that? Well, Louie, you really got her attention so it got my attention. Then I kind of checked you out. I did a little bit of -- I called the F.B.I.

[Laughter]

Louie: Did you find out anything I should know?

[Laughter]

James: What I found is that you were really meeting people where they were. You might say "groping in darkness" to some degree, but really looking. It was kind of like the people that were looking for the light or like when they would come out, they'd heard that Jesus was there, the Messiah and they were curious and they came. It was like people were coming and they were being drawn and they were listening. And a lot of young people were coming. And then you were filling coliseums and then you've got a musician with you, Chris Tomlin, how did y'all get together by the way?

Louie: I met Chris Tomlin in Waco, Texas doing a F.C.A. event when I was a campus minister at Baylor and he was a college student at A&M and I'd never heard of him. But I loved to worship and I love worship leaders. I did back then, I led worship at that stage of my life as well as spoke. They said, "A guy named Chris Tomlin is going to lead worship tonight."

I'm like I don't know him so I'm going to get there for sound check because I want to check this guy out, see where he's coming from. I walk into the gymnasium at First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas -- this is the honest truth -- and I hear music, I hear an acoustic guitar. I look around the door and at the other end of the gym is a guy in a

black cowboy hat with a Garth Brooks headset/microphone on and a little like \$79 drum machine going boom boom, chic-aboom, chic-aboom, chic-aboom. And he is sound checking and I'm like, "Oh, my word! What?" I'm from Atlanta, Georgia -- "Where have a landed on planet earth?" And he led that night. I remember exactly what I spoke about. It was a great night.

I went home. My wife was working at the time. She was already in bed because she had an early morning and I came in super late. Got in bed. She kind of woke up and said, "How was it?"

I said, "It was great."

"How did that worship guy end up doing?"

I said to her, "He's in college at A&M." I said, "Shelly, there is an amazing anointing on this kid's life." I'm attracted to anointing on people's lives. I want to serve anointed people.

So our paths crossed. We did a camp, Super Summer Texas a couple months later and we instantly clicked. From that time on we've been living life together, doing ministry together. He and his whole band moved from Austin to Atlanta. We planted Passion City Church. Chris is the worship leader at our church. All pastors hate me for that. I'm sorry.

[Laughter]

If our church doesn't work, by the way, it is not going to be because of the worship, it's going to be because of the pastor.

So we've just shared life together. He's gotten married recently since he moved to Atlanta. They have a precious little girl.

We have a record label. We manage Chris and his band. We help him make music. But what we mainly do is serve the anointing that is on his life. And he is one of the most anointed hymn writers for this generation. People sing his songs everywhere I've ever been on planet earth. It is just a privilege to be around that kind of anointing and to give your life to helping carry that gifting and carry those songs. I love doing that.

James: Isn't it beautiful? And God's brought you together and you're touching people. And at the same time, Chris, you're teasing about, "Hey, a lot of people are

coming over because of Chris and I don't want pastors to be unhappy with me." What you really want, is you want the anointing that you all are seeing for every church and you want Chris to bless every church just like you want to bless, that's why you're doing the conferences.

I want to put the web site up. Here's the web site. If people want to know, where you all are going to be doing these conferences; what web site? And if we want to know, how do we get his music and how do we get like this DVD series and how do we get this great big book here that's got incredible pictures. This is really really super. How do we get all of this stuff?

Louie: Okay, 18-25 year olds have to be at Passion 2013. They cannot miss it. There will be 60,000 university students there from all 50 states in America and about 40 countries around the world for four days, January 1-4. That's Passion conferences. It is 268generation.com. They need to sign up.

Mom, Dad, they need to know, your kids need to be in Atlanta. Don't be freaked out that it is a big city or there's 60,000 kids there. God's presence is going to fill this place and transform their lives. They will come back looking different because God's glory and God's presence changes us -- everything about us. It shifts, rearranges, reorganizes, reconstitutes everything about us. This is not an event or a little concert. This is an encounter and I mean people's lives are absolutely flipped upside down and just wrecked by the power of God's spirit.

James: Do the sessions go through the day?

Louie: Its morning, main sessions. There are community groups, which are smaller. And then there are family groups where every student or 18-25 year old, at some point in the day, in the morning and evening is going to sit in a circle with seven other kids like them from all around the country and they're still going to be texting each other months later saying, "Hey I'm still praying for you about your mom." "I'm still praying for you about that struggle that you shared."

So there's main sessions, community groups, family groups. It's just an incredible experience.

So that's 268Generation.com. For Chris, they can go to ChrisTomlin.com because Chris tours all over the country and around the world. Chris and I will be doing a tour together in the spring where we'll be doing events in all the major cities of America

with his new album that's coming out next January called Burning Lights. We're excited about that.

So you can see us at a Chris Tomlin concert. You can see us at Passion. And we serve our community and worship together every Sunday at Passion City Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

James: Well, this is what Louie and Chris are showing people right now, is something that's very anointed, which means -- the anointing, by the way, is not just like you and Chris got it, which what God put on you spills out just like the anointing on Christ that comes down on him is supposed to spill over all of us. Right now you all are being an inspiration and that's your hope.

Now tell me about this praise because I think maybe some of our people might want to hear. What do you think it is that's kind of unique about the way Chris approaches it or the way people come into praise in the presence of the Lord?

Louie: Well, I'll tell you a couple of things because we've got a big audience listening today. We've got young people listening, we've got their mom and dads, maybe their grandparents listening and I think I've lived long enough and you've lived long enough to live through some eras of worship in the church.

I grew up in a wonderful church. We just sang hymns with an organ and a choir and an orchestra. And once in a while on a Sunday night we'd sing a chorus and it was Blessed Be the Tie that Binds, and we got to hold hands across the aisle.

That was a big night, by the way. You would always strategically sit across the aisle from the girl you were interested in, praying that one of those nights would happen and you could join hands across the aisle. And you were just, "Oh, just look here! We just happen to be across the aisle from each other." Right?

[Laughter]

So I've come through that to this thing called contemporary worship or modern worship and it literally is tearing churches apart. Music and the style of music is tearing churches apart.

James: And that's tragic.

Louie: It's tragic because worship is so much more than music. Worship is about a

whole life offered to God as a sacrifice. Everything I am, everything I think about, my business life, my brain, my strength, my money, my energy, my heart, soul, passion, emotion -- all of me as an offering in thanks to you for who you are and what you've done in my life. I found that when someone is switched on to Jesus, they really are not that concerned about the music style. We're going to sing Holy, Holy, Holy at Passion City Church Sunday. People don't know that yet but it's on the set list. I love it!

James: And you're going to see Holy, Holy, Holy because you're going to sense the holy presence.

Louie: Why would you leave a hymn like that just because it's old? But we're also going to sing a song that Chris wrote literally three weeks ago. And the point isn't was it a hymn or a chorus? The point is, did it exalt Jesus? Is it anointed by the spirit? Is it truthful? Does it match the Word of God? Does it build up the church? And does it give you voice to say to God the things that are in your heart to say. And if you're switched on to that, you don't care if it is a hymn or a chorus or if there's drums, or an organ, or a choir, or if it is people in jeans, you just want Jesus. And the church needs to awaken to that.

I implore all 54 year olds like me, lean back toward the generation that's coming. Don't put your heels down and dig in to the trenches and say, "It's got to be our way or no way." Because if you do that, your church, it's going to dwindle, your cemetery is going to be full of more people than the church is full of and we want the next generation to come.

The thing that is so amazing to me is that we try to so narrowly define worship. When you say "worship" people think, church, stained glass, Sunday morning. And worship is not a church thing, it is a human thing. Every human being worships. You go to Cowboy Stadium and they're playing the New York Giants on Sunday night football, you're watching worship happen and you see everything scripture asks for.

James: By the way, it's diminished a lot in Dallas.

[Laughter]

We just haven't had a whole lot to get all worked up about. But we could.

Louie: You see everything that you see in scripture. You see people shouting; people lifting their hands. And you see that at a Justin Bieber concert. You see it when people are at a birthday party. You see it when someone gets a raise. They go, "Whoo!"

And you go, "When did you become a Pentecostal?"

"I'm not a Pentecostal but I'm excited about my raise." And in our church, in my culture, when we grew up we could join hands across the aisle, we could even lift our hands as long as we were interlocked, and then --

James: Or voting.

Louie: And then we would do the pistol grip, so it's one way, interlocked hands. But if you let go of that person and moved four inches now you've become a Pentecostal. And it's like it was only four inches from here to here. And I think we've just missed that humans worship. It's not about a personality style; it's about what we put in front of our heart. And when something of value is put in front of the human heart, the human heart responds and the body typically follows.

So if Jesus is really all that great, if he is near as great as we all say he is in church and we see him, then our hearts are going to explode in responding to him. It doesn't matter. Worship styles -- they don't belong to any particular denomination. They belong to lovers of Jesus.

Betty: Some of my most wonderful times of worship with the Lord has been alone in my home just worshipping, him and me together. When it starts there, it's going to overflow.

Louie: Absolutely! You hear people saying, "We're leaving that church because they have drums and a band and the worship leader doesn't even wear shoes. We're out of there!"

[Laughter]

And I'm just like... so I just keep listening and I'm listening to see if they're talking about Jesus. We're in love with Jesus, we're in love with his mission, we're reaching out to the poor, we're reaching lost people, we're living on the edge. If they're doing those things, I promise you -- my mom passed away two years ago coming up next week and when she passed away she was 80. And she loved worship in our church, the louder the better.

And here's what she would tell me at the end of the deal. She would say, tonight, "Oh, I loved it tonight! I could just feel the spirit." That's what you want. You want

somebody who comes to church to meet God, not to evaluate the worship leader; someone who comes to church to interact with the God of All Creation, not who comes to critique the sermon. You want somebody coming through the door ready to give not just like okay, what do you have to give me? And the difference of the heart is what sets the worshippers apart -- the true worshippers.

Jesus said, "A time is coming and now is when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth." Not these pew fillers -- but the true worshippers. And they're going to worship the Father in spirit -- I think that means obviously Holy Spirit but it means like spirit. There is some spirit in it. And in truth, so we're not going to check our brains at the door. We're not just going to give me a Lord, you're wonderful, Lord, you're wonderful. Lord, you're wonderful. Lord, you're wonderful. I love you. I love you. I love you. And back to the chorus -- Lord, you're wonderful. Lord, you're wonderful. Lord, you're wonderful. No, give me some truth in my worship but I'm also going to have some spirit in my worship. And I've never met a true Jesus lover that didn't worship like that. And they love the hymns, they love the choruses but they love Jesus even more than all of it.

James: And see, it's such a sad thing to think now we've moved into contemporary, we've moved into the new choruses and we forget the great hymns. When I Survey the Wonder -- When I Survey -- The Old Rugged Cross -- all those things are still there powerful. We don't have to abandon one to another. They still -- but you know what makes them lose the punch? When the worship has gone out of it. No matter how nice the words or how true they are, once the worship, it's just humdrum, ho-hum.

Louie: Yeah, when the wind stops blowing, it doesn't matter what boat you're on. You can be on the hymn boat, you can be on the chorus boat, you can be on the cutting edge worship boat. When the wind stops blowing, you're not going anywhere. You can be in a church singing these powerful hymns and be like, "This ship ain't moving."

And then you can be in another church and they sing the same hymn and you literally feel like you do want to get down on your knees in the presence of almighty God or you can be alone in your closet and sing that hymn and want to get down on your knees in the presence of almighty God.

James: Do you appreciate Louie Giglio? Do you appreciate Chris Tomlin?

[Applause]

There's the web site again if you want to know where they're going to be. We're going

to send you this collection if you'd like to have it. It has the message that just captured Betty's heart and mine and just five of them that are just fabulous. We're sending that as a gift.

We'll also send you, *The God of All Creation*. The man you and I both respect so much, Ravi Zacharias, said it has been well said. As a matter of fact, I open the book with that. If you can't see God in everything, you're not likely to see him in anything. You can certainly see God in what he created. He said he revealed himself in what he created. Well, I talk about pets and wildlife, primarily about pets, and a whole lot about Princess, our little dog.

As a matter of fact, there's a picture in here of a dog. This is a fabulous story. This little dog in this little baby carriage is a blind dog that helped me see. This is a blind dog and it's an incredible story. As a matter of fact, I want to promise you something. When you read "The Blind Dog Helped Me See," you won't ever walk in another store that you won't realize, I'm in this store as a representative of another kingdom. That blind dog helped me see. This is an awesome book.

We're sending this and Louie Giglio's five message series to those of you who will help us save the lives of precious children by our actions. Watch closely.

On the mission field

A picture is worth a thousand words.

[Child crying]

Action speaks louder than words.

Mission feeding saves lives.

It's yours to give.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I'm going to -- I'm going to speak with actions and I'm going to speak effectively, with Betty, because of you, because we are limited and we joyfully do a lot because we ask God to enable us to do a lot. But it is so small compared to what we do together. It's like that shining city set on a hill when our lights join with other lights and we pierce the darkness and we illuminate the way. We literally, I'm telling you,

this is something God showed me that moved me about as deeply as anything I've ever sensed. It was like I -- it was like I heard Jesus telling the Father when he was watching something going on that I was doing when I was sharing God's love with some people. And it was like Jesus said to his Father, "I think we're going to get to put your arms around the world." That's what God wants to do, and he does it one life at a time, one person doing what God wants.

So what I want to ask you to do is I want you to speak loudly with your actions. I want you to reach out and I want you to dial that number that's always there if you have a broken heart or you want someone to pray with you for someone. Here's something you need to understand. Today we're asking you to help us save lives and 80% of the calls that come will be from someone with a broken heart. "Pray for my family." "Pray for my child." That's okay, we understand that. But I'm asking you, if you would, while people do call with a broken heart -- we're so glad they do -- would you call and say, "I want to heal a broken life. I want to give food." \$30, three children for the next several months; \$50, five children; \$100, ten children. Now where could you better spend \$100?

I don't apologize. If there is any way you could give \$100; if you could be an answer to ten mothers' prayers for their children and say, "We're going to feed your children," ten mothers' prayers answered, give \$100. If you could give \$1,000 and thank God, we've got people who have been blessed who say, "You know something? I can give several thousand." Well, do it and rejoice that you are able to do it. \$1,000 will feed 100 kids.

Now we're asking you, please go online to LifeToday.org or just dial that number, take your bankcard, use it like a check, that's how you should always use it, like a check. Please do it! Do it now. Go get the card. Make the call, make the gift. Let us know what God put on your heart.

We're going to send *The God of All Creation*. I promise you, it will put a smile on your face, put tears in your eyes. The last chapter: How do you say good-bye to a little pet?

By the way, we're going to touch on our pets in heaven. I've got some people you really respect going to join me in that discussion. You're going to like that.

And Sarah Young, a wonderful missionary has written a great devotional. This is probably one of the most beautiful Bibles I've ever seen that contains her devotions. Here's one on peace. You will like this.

We're asking you to make a gift to help us feed ten children and give 25 bowls. Make a gift of \$125. "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze, what a blessing it will be to you.

Have you moved to the phone? Online? If you get a busy you be determined, lives depend on it. You get through. Thank you for making the call.

Pre-taped video:

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing his last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help many like him face death as well. Today you can make a difference. You can help save a life.

Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 suffering children in remote areas of Africa. With previous food reserves gone and parts of Africa facing its worse food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift, we would like to send you James Robison newest book, *The God of All Creation*. Through his personal observations of animals and wildlife, James shares heartwarming stories and spiritual lessons of God's love and grace.

With your gift of \$125 to help feed ten children, you may request the new *Jesus Calling Devotional Bible* featuring 260 scripture insights from the author of the *Jesus Calling* devotional, Sarah Young.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 to help save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze sculpture. Call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

On the mission field

James: As I kneel here by these beautiful children, I want them to be healthy. You can look at this little girl's complexion right here, if she'll step out in the light. See, she's got

some of the beautiful glow but she still has a little bit of the red tint in her hair, which simply means we're bringing them up to a norm. And this is a very poor area and if we don't continue to feed these children they will just reverse and they will go back into serious trouble. We want to keep that going. We want these children to have an opportunity to get ahead in life. We don't want them to just survive. We want them to have a future and a hope because this is what God has for them.

But it won't happen without your love. So I pray you'll respond today. Make the largest gift you can. If you could put arms around -- see here's five children right here. You just put arms around these five or maybe you could extend your arms all the way back here and you just take ten children into your arms, would you help care of these ten children? Would you do that?

End of clip

In the studio

James: It's my earnest prayer that if you can possibly help at any level. There is no gift too small when you're giving something so big -- life! Whatever you can do. And we're sending The God of All Creation as a gift, and Louie Giglio's Essential Collection; this is fabulous! You're going to get blessed -- to just say thank you. Help us save the lives of these children. Would you do that?

And join me and Betty in saying thanks to Louie Giglio.

Louie: Thank you so much.

James: Give our regards to Chris Tomlin, all your church family. Thank you. The missionaries say you're the greatest Christians on earth because you enable them to do what they're called to do. Thank you for doing it!