

Week 47  
11/14/12

**James:** Oh, boy! Hey, thank you! I'm sitting here by myself. Do you know that I almost -- literally, almost brought my little dachshund, Princess?

I'm James Robison, by the way. Betty is away. We have a family member that has had some physical challenges and needed some help. Betty, actually, her brother who had been a pastor for a long time and now retired and doing some itinerant work, he'd had a heart attack. Another family member had a problem. One of our children needed mom to help at this time because of some physical challenges and she's the best one to help. So I nearly brought this little black dachshund on the cover of this book that everyone tells me will be the best-selling thing I've ever had anything to do with.

This is *The God of All Creation* and its simple short stories; like one of them, "The Blind Dog that Taught Me to See." Really? Really! And all the lessons our little dachshund has taught us. I almost had her come and sit here. The only problem with Princess sitting here is she would want to go give everybody sugar out here in the whole audience. And although she is a dachshund, a German dog, she's a French kisser so you would have really been a mess. But she would have given you love.

Well, I want you to get the book. We're going to give it to you if you'll help us give a child a chance. I want you to listen to what Beth Moore is teaching about begging for something. Here's Beth Moore.

**Begin video clip:**

**Beth:** In verse six, Peter said after he was expecting him to give him money, "I have no silver and gold but what I do have I give you."

I want you to pause at that silver and gold for a moment because we know the obvious of what it means and we're getting back to it in a moment. But remember when I told you the Beautiful Gate, they suspect may be what they call the Nicanor Gate because it was made of different material than the other nine gates that came into this part of the temple complex. Now they don't know it for sure but they suspect it because why is one gate called the Beautiful Gate when there were ten gates? Well, it's got to be the one that was unique from the rest of them. All the rest of them -- stay with me here -- all the rest of them were overlaid with silver and gold. Only this one gate was made of

Corinthian bronze. They said the cost of it far exceeded the ones that had been covered over with silver and gold.

That's hard for us to imagine, but it was the exceeding gate. So heavy that it said it took over 20 men to just close it in the evening when the temple complex was being closed up until morning. So imagine that with me.

So when Peter and John say this, there are so many plays on words in the scriptures and I just love them. They're at the gate where there is no silver or gold. So in their mind, they could be thinking on all sorts of levels there. They're at the one gate that doesn't have it and they certainly don't have it. "I don't have any silver or gold," but they say something that I want to suggest to you are nine words that could totally change the course of our lives -- totally take a life that perhaps you've been despairing over. Maybe you've just despised your life. I can show you in scripture nine words that could turn your complete perspective all the way into a 180 and make your life worth living and it is these words: but what I do have I give to you. But what I do have I give to you. I don't have this... but I have this... and what I have I give to you.

In our begging, in our fathomless need, we think it's what we've got to have, what we've got to have, what we've got to have... and we do have so many needs and they're legitimate -- they're legitimate. We're a people that are loved by God. We need to sense it. We need it to be shed abroad in our hearts as the book to the Romans says. We need it in the worst way. We need compassion. We need mercy. But if we only understood that our life would take on a whole new meaning if we took what we already had and we gave it and we shared it and we poured out of the offering from what God had given us.

I want you, if you're able to grab a pen, I'm going to ask these to do it here in this immediate audience but I wish you could do the same thing. I wish you would write down these three words: I have no... and then I just want you to draw a line for a blank and then a ... I have no ... What? What?

I wish so much you could tell me. I wish I could hear how you would complete that sentence. What is something that you just don't have? I wonder what something... Tell me... tell me because I think it would benefit them. Make sure you say something that the rest of your loved ones know, we don't want this to be like Jerry Springer and...

[Laughter]

You're telling something and the rest of your family goes, "Oh!" But, just tell me some things; just what do you not have? College degree. Thank you! Thank you! Good self-esteem. Time for myself. Come on! Now I wish I could hear you. I hope you're saying some. Somebody else? Security. What else? You can't give it to somebody because you don't have it. What? Money. I was so hoping somebody would say that. I don't have silver and gold. You're just exactly like Peter and John, "I don't have it. I'd give it to you if I had it. I don't have it." What else? Good boundaries. Did someone say, "Good hair?"

[Laughter]

I'm so happy right now. That was just the perfect answer! Anybody else? Anybody else? I don't have it.

You know what is beautiful about this at the Beautiful Gate? You're not expected to give anybody anything you do not have. And sometimes we're trying to muster that up. We're trying our hardest to give something to somebody that you're going, "I don't have it myself. I don't have it myself. I'm trying to tell you answers I don't have! I'm trying to give you something I don't have."

When one of our sisters said, "security," sometimes we're trying to give our children security and we're going, "I don't have any myself." There are things I cannot give you. But I ask you today, what do you have? Yes! And with him, what else do you have? I ask you today, what do you have? While you're making that list I do not have blank but I do have what all? Because you've got a list of things that God has entrusted to you. Those things you can give.

I know I have shared this at some point in our journey together on our Wednesdays with our Bibles wide open but I've really felt this. This scripture stood out to me a number of years ago because I just plugged into it. It answered something in my heart for my relationship with my children.

When you are raising girls, as I did, and you want so much for them to be secure and for them to make good choices and for them to see themselves as valuable and not to give themselves away cheaply as if they are of no expense, all of these things you want for them but the strange thing was I could not give them that example. I had not done it right. I could not give my children my great track record. This is your heritage. We wait until marriage to have sex. We are disciplined in this area. We are people that

make good sound decisions and we prioritize Christ above all else. If I could have told them that this was the history that I had it would have been a beautiful thing but it is not the history that I had. I had a history of failure. I had a history of foolishness. So I don't have that. I don't have that.

We couldn't -- Keith and I could not give them the ultimate in stability that we wished we could have. We had a lot of problems.

We also had a lot of blessings. We are happy together but we've had some difficult times. We couldn't give them everything that we wished we could because we did not have it. But we did have some other things. It took me years to figure it out. It took me years to figure out that what I could give my children was a fiery passion for scripture because your mother did not get to live in the gray zone. I would have totally imploded if I'd been left on my own. I have to live on the truth of scripture because my mind is so given to torment and deceit.

I have not had the privilege, the luxury that some people may have out there of just get into it when you can and you're going to live victoriously and you haven't been in a pit in a solid 10 years, just messing with the scriptures. I have to live in the scriptures. But because I have, let me tell you something, I've gotten to know the Lord Jesus Christ; not near as well as I want to know him. I've not attained anything near what I want but I can tell you this, I know that scripture has totally transformed my life through the work of the Holy Spirit within me. That I know. I can say that to my children.

I don't have all those things to give you but I can give you this, I can give you a heritage of love and passion for the Lord Jesus Christ who is your redeemer and your very one and only savior. I can give you that. I can give you much love for Jesus because I've been forgiven much. I can give you that.

I can give you the broken alabaster box that I pour out of my life on the feet of Jesus because he has forgiven me for so much sin.

I cannot give you a clean track record, silver and gold, have I none but that which I have, I will give you! I will give you! I can give you this. I can give you what I learned the hard way. I can give you that. I didn't learn many things the easy way. I usually got hurt in the midst of it and most of my upward growth I have fallen forward. Anybody get that with me?

[Laughter]

But that which I have, I give you.

What do you have to give? Even your failures become something that you can turn around into a testimony and give. What can you give someone else? Because it's in giving our lives away that we find them. It's in hanging on to them that we lose them. What do we have to give? That will change everything to us.

What if we lived the same? Maybe you're watching early on in the day. What if you live this day not based on what you get from people, like a beggar holding a cup, would someone, "Alms! Alms! Can someone put in something that would make me feel better about who I am?"

What if instead you gave? What if you gave? What if you slowed down at the desk of that woman who looks like she has lost her dog and ask her if there is anything you could do? What can we do?

I want you to write down number four and we'll conclude. We're rich when we offer what we have in Christ's name. We are rich when we offer what we do have in Christ's name. I want to read two last scriptures with you. Acts 3:11 and 12 say this: while he clung to Peter and John all the people utterly astounded ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's and when Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "Men of Israel why do you wonder at this? Why do you stare at us as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"

And he goes on to say, if you'll look at verse 16, "And his name, and by faith in his name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know and the faith that is through Jesus has given this man perfect health in the presence of you all." He says, "Why are you looking at me as if we did it?" We didn't do it! We didn't do it. It was through the power of Jesus' name.

I want to say to you as we conclude this series, there is simply no estimating what God can do in a life that just simply gives him all the credit. There is no estimating. I cannot tell you what would happen in our lives if we just went, "Lord, for every little thing, if you would release your power in me to be able to truly minister to people, to be able to truly share your word, to be able to truly worship you in a way that serves your kingdom, if you would entrust that to me, Lord, I will live the rest of my life giving you credit and you alone." If we just had enough humility to give him all his glory,

there is no telling what he would use us to do. No telling! No bigger lie. We think it would make us feel better but we realize that there is no bigger lie that the enemy could tell us than that, "Aren't you something? You did that all by yourself!"

Remember the story about what the cat dragged in? We are what the Lion of the tribe of Judah dragged in -- totally indistinguishable. Nobody even knew what we were! The Old Testament says, "I found you there just lying there in your own blood, just a pitiful, pathetic sight, and I took you up and I loved you and I made you fruitful."

And that is us, just dragged in by him. That he nurtures, heals, in his own hands until we grow into a person that can say, "My God and my God alone has raised me from the dead."

**End of clip**

**In the studio:**

**James:** We see need. We want needs met. I think that's not just an American tradition, let's say something typical of us. I think it is a human tendency. Of course, there are exceptions to that because there is just gross evil and we see it revealed in terrorist manifestations, even religious atrocities where there is just no compassion.

But most of us are compassionate. We want to see people get well. This is what God wants for you. That's what we're sharing. That's why we've been talking this week about your health. That's why we're going to be talking about your health spiritually as well as physically because all matters.

When you look at children that need health... Bruce Jacobson is our executive producer. He served at President Reagan's side for eight years as an encourager around the world, really wanted to help people. But here he is as our executive producer but he is in the mission field with starving children and with a little boy that really got his attention. His dad's a medical doctor. I don't think he ever thought that as a doctor's son he would be sitting and looking at some like this.

Watch. Watch Bruce on the mission field.

**On the mission field:**

**Bruce:** James, I'm sitting here with this little boy. And when I came in, I noticed he was sitting here and he's eating dirt. I've never seen a child eat dirt. He's trying to fill his little stomach. There is an emptiness and a pain that malnutrition brings and he's trying to somehow fill that... fill that hurt in his little tummy. All he knows to do is he knows he's hungry and he knows that maybe if I put something in my mouth it will somehow take that hunger away. It won't. I've just never seen anything like it.

[Emotional] But we can do something about it. We can give this precious little boy food.

So please, James, as I sit here brokenhearted, let's help people really understand how severe this situation is. Let's give this child some real food he can put into his stomach and take away that pain.

I love you! I love you! We're going to bring you some food. Okay? We're going to bring you some food.

**End of video clip**

**In the studio:**

**James:** That little boy didn't understand a word of English. But that little boy, I know, knew he was looking into the face of love. I know that!

Bruce's little boy is about 6'4", maybe 6'5"; he's a college student. But he loved that little boy. And the children around that you saw sitting there, they had come to the feeding center. And probably that little fella had been eating dirt a long time, but now we're going to be feeding them.

I say "now we," the "we" includes you. We've got, I think, currently 3,000 mission workers in Africa set in place to feed nearly a half million children that came because they heard they can find something other than dirt because of love. And many of the children have found their last hope. Many of the mothers have brought them because they heard somebody would help their babies; the babies that don't even have the milk in their breasts to nurse because the mother's malnourished. It's got to be one of the saddest sights to see a mother with no milk try to feed a little baby. Betty and I've

watched it for nearly 25 years now and we've been saving with your help millions of children's lives, just like that little guy.

Sudan right now is tough. It's just really, really tough. It's a situation where it's risky, it's dangerous, but the missionaries, boy, they march in where angels fear to tread. They just don't want to go empty-handed. They want to go in with bowls like this that you bought. The missionaries never asked for heat-resistant bowls.

Our viewers watched them bringing the tin cans and the hot soup would burn their hands while they held the can and our viewers said, "Give them some bowls!" The missionaries said, "We can't afford bowls. We've got to save their lives." But our viewers said, "We'll give them bowls." You may not be able to see it but in the bottom of every one of these bowls it says *LIFE* because that's what we put in it, live, and it's life and love that puts it in there. We want you to help us feed these children.

I'm asking you to run to the telephone or run to the computer, LifeToday.org, just punch it in, and I want you to make the largest gift you can. Take your bankcard, use it like a check, that's how you should always use it, like a check, and if you can help us feed ten children by making a gift of \$100 for the next months, we'll be feeding them for months in all these hard-hit areas, the missionaries won't be empty-handed. They'll be able to put something in the bowls.

We're asking many of you to give \$100 and add another \$25 so we can buy another 25 bowls; they're about \$1 each, and give them to the children. Would you do that?

We're sending the beautiful Sarah Young devotional Bible. This is one of the most beautiful Bibles I've ever seen. It has the devotionals written by a wonderful missionary. It's beautiful.

Help us feed ten children. If you can give \$1,000, we'll send you "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze to say thanks for feeding those 100 children. We'll gladly send you the book, *The God of All Creation* that I wrote to help you understand the life lessons you can learn from all God's creation, including your little pets -- like we learned from our dachshund. You're going to love this book! You're going to love God more and others more. I want to send it to you to say thanks.

And we're just asking you please, please dial that number or go online. Make the biggest gift you can. You're giving the greatest gift, you're giving someone a chance at life. Thank you for making that 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**

**In the studio**

**James:** I feel what was being expressed when you saw Bruce talking about the dirt and the child, I feel that. I know we can correct that. I pray you've already dialed the number. If your heart was broken, you needed prayer, it's paid for by love. It's an 800-number -- it's a love number.

I pray you call it today to love somebody. I hope you called and said, "I want to help 100 children. I want to give \$1,000 or more. I want to feed 100 children for the next months." We want to send you "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze. Only God can make the lion lie down with the lamb and only the lamb of the tribe of Judah can shepherd the sheep of his pasture. This is an incredible art piece. We want to say thank you. Artists want to say thank you. But help us feed as many children as possible.

I'm sending *The God of All Creation* for any gift. I promise you, you'll learn from our little pet dachshund incredible life lessons -- I promise you that! It is a simple inspiring read. You'll read it to your children and your grandchildren. They'll read it and pass it on.

The *Jesus calling Bible* for those of you who will help us care for 10 children for the next months and give bowls, thank you! Thank you for your help.

I want to say thanks to all of you for being here in the audience. God bless you!