

Week 49
11/27/12

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And we've got Perry Noble with us. We had him the other day. Did he make you laugh?

Betty: Oh, yes!

James: He's crazy. He's got a book called, *Unleashed*.

Perry Noble, he is from Anderson, South Carolina. I conducted a crusade there years ago; never forgot it. Love the people there; you were so responsive. It is obvious this guy seems to be free. He talks about breaking free from just the normal routine and really, he talks a whole lot about breaking free from old dead dull religion.

Craig Groeschel who has been one of our guests a number of times and pastors Life TV church, he says, "If you're tired of doing things halfway and you're ready to experience God's power in a new way, you're ready for *Unleashed*."

I want you to welcome the pastor of the New Spring -- it's New Spring: right?

Perry: Yes, sir.

James: New Spring Church in Anderson, South Carolina. Perry Noble. Would you say welcome?

Good to see you, Perry! Good to see you again. Glad you're here.

I really hope the people that missed your show the other day where you talked about several things interesting but I've got to be honest with you, the parting the hair deal was worth going back. Let's flash around. Go back on LifeToday.org, go back over and see it. You've got to hear about this boy in school... just go listen to it!

[Laughter]

Perry: It was awful!

James: It was awful -- it was really funny, but it was awful!

[Laughter]

I don't know if I'm over it yet.

Perry: I still hurt for that girl.

James: It's true! And ten years of hurt and you still knew it was there.

Perry: Many, many years.

James: Do you think she is okay with you now?

Perry: I have no idea.

James: Well, she at least spoke to you.

Perry: She did speak to me at the ten year reunion. She did.

But like somebody asked me in the book, they said, "Did you make up that name?"

I said, "No, that's really her name."

And they said, "Did she..."

James: What was it?

Perry: Tara Ann. I didn't use her last name but I was like -- I did not make up the name. That story is as real as it gets. God help us all!

James: In the book you talk about how we can get stuck in unforgiveness. I try to point out to people whenever I can, if I have the opportunity, that the only part of the model prayer, we call it The Lord's Prayer, in Matthew six is where you can find the Sermon on the Mount, and the: Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name... and so forth. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. The only part, the moment he concludes

the prayer he comes back and references again because he says if you don't then you're stuck because something has happened between you and the Father. So is that kind of what you address about you getting stuck in your past if you don't forgive?

Perry: Yes, sir. In the book, people always want to try to take that last part of the Lord's prayer and I actually write that in the book and they say, "Well, what did Jesus mean in that last part where he said if you don't forgive people you're not forgiven?"

And I said, "I think Jesus meant if you don't forgive people you're not forgiven because forgiven people forgive people -- period!" It's not easy.

But some people say, "Well, I'm going to wait until I feel like forgiving." But if you wait until you feel like forgiving somebody that hurt you, you'll never forgive.

James: It builds.

Perry: It does and you hold on to that anger, that bitterness, the animosity toward that person. And being mad at somebody else and expecting it to hurt them is like me drinking poison and expecting to kill someone else. When I refuse to forgive someone, I'm drinking poison and hurting myself.

James: I like the emphasis that you made there.

Perry: Well, the push back I get when I teach this is they say, "Well, they need to pay for what they did." I'm like, "We need to pay for what we did but Jesus paid for that sin on the cross. So because he paid, we don't have to pay."

Listen, if there needs to be justice, God will take care of justice but he'll take care of it in his time, not ours. We've got to trust the Father to handle what we can't understand and what we can't see. I use a story in the book... or I allude to it in the fourth grade, or I'm sorry, when I was in K-4. Again, I was a hyperactive kid and I got locked in the bathroom at school and I couldn't get out. And I started screaming and --

James: Did somebody do it on purpose?

Perry: I have no idea what happened. I just remember getting out of the bathroom and my K-4 teacher, it was a private school, slapping me in the face -- open-handed slapped me in the face. So I went home and my dad had come in and he sat down at the table. And he had probably had a beer or 12 --

[Laughter]

and we started talking about what happened at school. I said, "Miss Moore slapped me in the face."

He said, "She did what?"

I said, "Miss Moore slapped me in the face."

He said, "All right."

And my father and my mother went to the school the next day. I have no idea what happened. I just know that my father handled the situation and it was taken care of. All I had to do was tell my father what happened, he took care of it in his time and I was okay. "Well, God that hurt." You know what? You tell God, "This hurt me." He is the perfect Father. He will make everything right in his time.

We need to trust him instead of going, "No, I'm going to make that person hurt. I'm going to make that person pay." We just have to trust the Father. He's going to take care of us, he will take care of the situation.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:11: He makes everything beautiful in his time. I think it is just a major barrier that holds most people back from really taking another step forward in their walk with Christ because they can't forgive.

James: When you write a book like this, it normally, because I've written quite a few books and I know back when I was doing the crusades a lot of them would come from my sermons, my messages. I know our Pastor Robert Morris, the books that he writes normally come from messages and so forth and I'm sure this probably came from some of the things you were sharing at the church.

So when you're looking at the total impact of what came to be the content here and you're looking at your church congregation, you're watching them, and then you know we've got viewers all over the world who are watching right now, what's in your heart as a pastor, as somebody who just cares, what do you hope will happen inside the person that goes through the various areas and issues that you deal with? What is your hope for them?

Perry: I really hope that -- my desire for everybody on the planet is that we could live in the freedom that God created us to live in. I was talking with a friend several years

ago, because all of this is very fresh for me. And we were talking about my struggles at the time. I was struggling with depression and fear and anxiety and worry. This was about two years ago and it was an intense battle.

James: And this is as a Christian and as a pastor.

Perry: As a Christian, as a pastor of a growing church.

James: And a big misrepresentation To tell people who come to Christ or who go to church faithfully, like they don't have any challenges or like they don't have any problems. I really believe and I know this is the truth, the greatest fierce assault of the enemy, Satan, the father of lies, the destroyer of life, the fury of the enemy is focused on the believer. He's already got the others in his hand. So he does fight us. And he does set us back some; he knocks us back.

Perry: Well, he had a major -- and here's the reason, I misunderstood the Lord, and I teach the Bible for a living and I misunderstood the Lord. So I'm talking to a friend and I'll never forget this conversation. And he was like, "Well, we've got to -- what do you do for fun?"

I said, "I don't know. I don't think I do anything for fun. I don't hunt. I don't fish. I don't camp. I don't work all my life to go pretend like I'm homeless for a week. So I don't go camp."

[Laughter]

Like my idea of hunting is bring me my steak medium rare. That's about as close as I get. So I'm like, "I don't know."

And he said, "Let me ask you this question." He said, "What brings you joy?" He said, "It just -- I'm talking about from the inside every cell in your body just wants to explode because you're so happy."

I looked at him and I said, "Honestly, hearing my little girl laugh." And I'm not talking about the fake laugh; I'm talking about when your kid gives you that belly laugh that you know it's as real as it comes. I said, "That right there brings me joy."

He said, "Stop." He said, "You're an imperfect father. You know that, don't you? Jesus said in Matthew seven that we're imperfect fathers. So if you're an imperfect father and

that brings you joy, why wouldn't you think that your heavenly Father gets joy from hearing you belly laugh? From seeing joy in you?"

And it was like a light bulb -- I was like God is not after my begrudging submission, he is after my joy. It was life-changing for me.

James: I'll be honest with you, I get up praising the Lord, I go to bed praising the Lord, I praise the Lord all day long. It doesn't mean I don't have challenges, it doesn't mean I don't weep. I weep over the needs of others. Weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice. I'm able to -- but I have praise filling me. I don't have to go have something to have joy. Joy lives inside me.

I was so proud of our son Randy who wrote a book on *God Wants You Happy* but he immediately makes it clear that that's the joy that's within, it's not just pleasures around you, it's what's on the inside.

Perry: Well, the other thing that stands out to me is because people go, "Well, if God is after my joy, why am I in pain? Why am I struggling?" And it's because most of the time we understand him.

For example, the other day I walked in to our kitchen and Charisse was on the floor playing with something. And I didn't pay attention to it and I walked by. And I came back by and I looked; I stopped and looked and she was playing with a scorpion that was in the floor. I removed her from the situation, killed the scorpion.

I think God gave Satan two chances to create something. The first thing he created was scorpions, the second thing was cats.

[Laughter]

So we don't have a cat but the scorpion -- I mean that has to be what Satan looks like. So I killed this thing. Like I came down on it with my foot with everything I had. And she's weeping because in her mind, I just ruined her fun. But as her father, I just removed her from a painful situation.

And at the end of the day, I think we won't do what God wants until we understood who he is. And when we understand that he really is a loving father that wants us to be filled with joy, it's a lot easier to submit to him rather than the cosmic cop who has a whistle in his mouth that's always trying to call a foul on every time we seem to be having a good time.

James: Didn't you live with a lot of misery, Betty, because you kind of felt like God was like some kind of a policeman or something like that?

Betty: Oh, I thought if I didn't do everything just so so so so, he was going to get me.

Perry: Dot the i's, cross the t's.

Betty: Yeah, everything perfectly until I realized it was about a relationship with him; that it wasn't about just doing all the right things, do do do do. But it was that relationship with him. And when I was happy, he was happy. When I was sad, he was sad. When I learned that, that God is in all of my situations in life, that it made a big difference.

Perry: I remember, I held Charisse one time, she was just really, really young, seven or eight months old and I was putting her to bed and I was rocking her and just talking to her. And little babies, they're looking all around and they're just kind of whatever. I never will forget this night. It was one of the most impactful moments of my life because her eyes locked with mine. They just locked. And it was that moment that a parent experiences with a child that you just can't put it -- they just locked. I looked at her and she looked at me and I was captivated and I just -- I put her in -- it lasted, it seemed like forever but I put her in her crib and I left.

And as soon as I walked out the room God spoke to me and he said, "That's what I want from you. I want your eyes locked on me because when you get your eyes locked on me, your problems, your pain, your circumstances, your situations, they just get a lot smaller, if you'll just lock your eyes on me."

James: You know one of the things you share in *Unleashed* is you talk about something that happened when you were very young and I'm sorry to have to acknowledge it happens to a lot of boys and girls, when a molestation took place. How do you deal with something like that?

Perry: One of the things that I've had to come to understand is God can use everything for his glory. One in three girls and one in six boys are sexually molested before they're 18 years old. It's a hard pill to swallow. But God can take tragedy and turn it into triumph -- and only he can do that. Because at the end of the day he took a blood-stained cross and turned it into an empty tomb. And I've got to trust that the God that can take the cross and turn it into a tomb can take what happened to me, be it

tragic, be it horrible and turn it into triumph. Because if I don't believe that, James I spend the rest of my life as a victim.

When I read God's Word he calls us to be a lot of things but he never calls us to be a victim of what happened to us. He calls us to move on and not allow our tragedy to define us but him to define us.

James: And to be more than conquerors in this life, not just in the life to come. I really think so many people get caught up in the by-and-by, they really don't experience the fullness of the Lord in the here-and-now. He really prayed for the will of God to be done now in the midst of the darkness, in the midst of the conflict.

I love what Christine Caine shared when she was with us just a few weeks back about her little girl, three years old, buying a flashlight in Wal-Mart. But she shined it all over Wal-Mart and couldn't see it because of all the fluorescent lights. They were checking out -- this is a great story -- and her little girl who was holding that light while she was waiting to pay for her things that she bought, her little girl said, "Mommy, can we hurry up and go find the darkness so we can shine the light?"

That's the way Christians ought to live and we can live victorious revealing the way out of the pain, out of the past, out of what could be a tragedy into the triumph of his presence. That's exactly what Lazarus experienced. There was the tragedy of his absence. "If you had been here, Lord, it wouldn't have happened." But you see, he was there, and he wept because they were weeping. But he raised him from the grave, the triumph of his presence.

So no matter what has happened in the past, God has got a future for you that is as bright as the fullness of his presence in your life and you just invite him in. He will deal with your pain if you'll yield it to him and enable him to do what he's here to do.

The book, *Unleashed* by Perry Noble, it's in the bookstores.

By the way, there's his web site if you want to know more about the church there in Anderson, South Carolina, you can find out and more about what you can get. I suggest you get the book.

Join Betty and me in just saying thanks to Perry.

You're a real blessing! And I pray God blesses New Spring Church and all the people there.

I want to show you something, pastor, that's going to bless you. I want to show you a lady that -- I've got to be honest -- I think she is typical. She is what the missionaries refer to as the greatest Christians because I often have told our missionaries all over the world, "You're the greatest Christians in the world." But no, they all correct me, "The people that keep us here and enable us to be the hands of Jesus, put arms of love around broken people, they're the greatest."

You're going to see one of the people that I think represent many of you and could represent every one of you. Watch this closely.

On the mission field

>> I can see those kids in my mind's eye but most of all I want to please the Father. I want him to say that when you saw me hungry, you did something about it.

Announcer: Sylvia Turner, she's feeding hundreds of thankful children in remote villages in Africa, all without leaving her home in Texas. That's because she's a long time supporter of *LIFE* Outreach.

>> I can't go personally but I'm going when I help them to go do it. The big gift is not the most important but the important thing is that you have a heart to give. If you love Christ you can't help but want to reach out and do something.

Announcer: Sylvia lost her beloved husband Clarence in 2005. Their 54-year marriage produced five children, and many grandchildren. She's traveled the world but has discovered her greatest joy in the simple act of helping others.

>> I think that I would be a person most miserable if I did not do what I'm doing. It's fun. It's joyful, and the joy is really unexplainable. When I see these big old cans of food and the kids running up to get their portion, it makes you very tearful but also very grateful that somebody is doing the work. Someone who would never know who Jesus was, but through the act of obedience of Betty and James and the people that are helping them. And one thing they'll know about him is that he is a God of love, because its love that will do what they're doing.

In the studio

James: How do you like that, Betty?

Betty: I think that's just wonderful! That sweet lady is truly one of those that provides and helps bring joy to children's lives, and to the mothers of these children that are dying if we don't help them and give them some food.

James, you know every time we've ever been on the mission field, you and I, when we get back home, we say we were the ones blessed because we were an instrument -- God used us to be a blessing to them and to take these children some food just to survive.

James: Even as I was listening to her and realizing that she is talking about those children running up to get the food. Well, of course, they can only run up to get the food if it is there. That's what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to enable us to keep giving them the bowls and putting something in the bowls. They'll bring a tin can because it's what they bring. They will bring whatever they can. Our viewers said, "Give them a bowl." Years ago, this happened a lot, and it wouldn't have been a plastic bag as neat as this one. But they would bring some kind of plastic bag and these little kids were so hungry and we would pour the hot soup in it and it would burn through.

And I can remember several times, it was one of the most gut-wrenching scenes of my life, when it would go through the bag and hit the ground. The little child would drop down into the dirt and try to get the soup and the food up off the dirt. It makes me want to start crying right now.

But you see, people like that precious lady said let's don't just give them food, let's give them nice plastic bowls that are heat-resistant and that's what we've done. And it says "life" in the bottom of it and that's what we're putting in it.

Here's what I want you to know. We have to have your help to keep doing it. We're making, with her help and your help, possible for us to have right now 3,000 mission workers just in the mission feeding areas -- 3,000 workers that are there -- you keep them there, and then you give them the food. We've got another miracle, miracle one is to do what she is doing: The \$30, the \$50, the \$100 feeds three, five, or ten children for the next several months.

All right, that gift today keeps giving. But we've had a miracle answer to prayer. We've got a \$3.8 million gift offer of a food grant that if we can just get the transportation and the personnel in place to deliver it to all these remote hard-hit areas, crisis areas, this is an incredible miracle, if we can just get that, we will get all that \$3.8 million, that's in addition to what we're doing to feed in these areas. It all goes

together to make it possible to reach the goals that God has set before us through the eyes of the missionaries -- really through the eyes of the Lord. That means -- think about it -- \$640,000 needed now to deliver \$3.8 million in food grants -- now that's multiplying your gift six times. That means if you would dial that number, take your bankcard and give \$100; go to LifeToday.org, say, "Here's my \$100 gift," it becomes \$600.

I really would like you to consider this because we're going to need the transport. We're going to need the way to do it; could you give \$1,000? It will be multiplied to \$6,000. Everything you give right now will be multiplied by six to enable us to put those food grants to work. Would you dial that number please? Experience the joy that you just heard expressed. Some of you know that joy. Some of you are going to step and say, "You know what? I'm going to start doing it and I'm starting today."

Those of you who have helped, we need your help today. Please make the call. Make the gift God put on your heart. We've got some gifts to send to you to bless you.

Pre-taped video:

Announcer: At this very moment children are drawing what could be their last breath, struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Today you can stop the cycle of death. 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. And now we have a miracle opportunity, a 3.8 million dollar food grant has been offered to us for our mission and relief efforts. All we have to do is guarantee we can deliver the food at a cost of \$640,000. This means your gift today can now have six times the impact. \$30 to help feed three children can have a \$180 impact. \$50 for five children can have a \$300 impact. And \$100 to help feed ten children can have a \$600 impact for feeding.

With your gift you can receive James Robison's newest book, *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 or more to help save the lives of 100 children, which today can have a \$6,000 impact, and you may also request "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I do want to say thank you for your gift. I want to tell you this, this is a gift for Christmas for special occasions. Anybody that loves pets, anybody that loves God's creation and wants to see how it speaks, consider the birds, consider the ants, what about the pets? Boy, did I learn a lot from our little black dachshund. Haven't we together, Betty?

Betty: We have!

James: Everybody has loved the inspiration. People are buying it for all their friends; everybody has got a pet. Oh, here's Princess, our little dachshund, driving our pickup truck.

[Laughter]

That's quite classy. She does that. She's looking. You say, "What is she looking for?" She's looking for rabbits because she's doing what she was made to do. She is hunting. And I said when I saw how excited she is, I said, "God, I want to live excited to do what you created me to do; to be who you created me to be." I'm excited to send you that. Thank you so much for helping us.

Would you say thanks to Perry Noble and get the book, *Unleashed*? It is absolutely great! Express your thanks to Perry.

Bless you and the church, buddy. Love and appreciate you!

Thank all of you for being such a special blessing. Thanks for being a friend for life!