

Week 5
1/28/13

James: Thank all of you so much for being with us. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I are still -- and it's challenging, we're still Cowboy fans. You've always been the one that just --.

Betty: I'm a better fan than you are. I stick with them through thick and thin.

James: You don't give up. I like to cheer for good. And when it is not good, it breaks my heart. I don't necessarily give up, I just think, let's get it fixed. And you try to coach them, even though they can't hear you.

But we've got a former Dallas Cowboy middle line backer, Ken Hutcherson and his wife Pat with us. She is a tremendous blessing. And he also played -- let me tell you something, he played for Seattle, and he played for San Diego. And he pastors Antioch Bible Church east of Seattle. This man, I'm telling you, I respect, admire, and love as much as anybody I've met. Here is someone who is willing to really have a prophetic voice in a time of tremendous need to hear truth. He holds up a standard. I really appreciate him.

But the thing you need to know, that while he is on this journey and divine assignment to proclaim the Word of God and live it out, he's been fighting cancer for many years. And just in the last days, he found out his wife is now going to battle. I want you to welcome Ken and Pat Hutcherson to *LIFE Today*. Would you welcome them? Ken and Pat, I'm so glad to see you. You both have a holy glow. You do!

[Laughter]

You have a joy that is absolutely obvious. You and I just visited. We've had a meal together and talked, and I know the battle that you're in. I want you to help our viewers because there is not a person watching us in my opinion, Ken, that doesn't have -- you like to be called Hutch, there is not a person watching that doesn't either have a battle, a family member, or someone they really care about that's in this battle. Help our viewers understand how you walk through this valley of the shadow of cancer?

Hutch: The number one thing many people don't understand about me, and don't understand about us as we walk through this battle, 11 and a half years we've been

walking this battle with me and it just starting in the last week to walk with my wife. There are a lot of things you want to be one with your wife in but you don't want to be one in cancer with her. So they have looked at me and said, "You've been in this battle." No. It's really not a battle. "We're going to pray for your healing." No. If it is not going to make me more like Christ than this cancer is, don't pray for my healing.

I have learned that cancer is my pastor. It is my discipler. When you understand that God trusts you enough to allow you to go through something like this, knowing that you're still going to give him glory, that's the greatest honor in the world.

And even though I would never have chosen cancer, I know why I have been allowed to have it is because growing up as a little boy I saw many cases in my neighborhood, poor people that would get this disease. No one really knew what it was at times, and then we would find out and they would suffer. I was fearful, even as I became a Christian. I could walk through a fire with the worst bunch of gang members with a switch and not be afraid. I'm not afraid of any man or anything that walks on this earth. Because I fear my God so much, I don't have any room for any other fear.

But boy, that little thing that kept sticking his head out was cancer. I knew that I could never be like Christ if I didn't get rid of that fear. And God knew I needed to face that fear, and he allowed me to get cancer to get over that fear so I could be the man of God, to be like Christ, to be the husband and father of God that I needed to be.

So I tell folks, it is not a struggle. It's a molding process that God finds me worthy. It is what has molded me like nothing else could have because nothing bothered me. Life, trouble, people that hated me... and there's been many, if you know my life, it was like water on a duck's back. It didn't bother me. But that little thing of cancer kept me from being like Jesus. So I thank him every day for this blessing of cancer.

James: When you wrote the book, *Hope is Contagious*, what is it? You talk about trusting God in the face of any obstacle and obviously, it's a big obstacle, and now Pat is facing it too. But what do you want them to hear? What do you mean by *Hope is Contagious*? What's the message that they're going to get when they go through this incredible book?

Hutch: Well, the number one thing, I think, we would have to both say is the fact that if you truly believe in God and his Word, how can you truly believe that anything is bad? Because you've got the greatest hope. Our home is heaven, not here; we're just visiting. Am I right? And since we are visiting, there is going to be things that are

going to happen to us that is never going to happen to us in heaven. When I see Christ face to face, that is going to be a glorious day.

So what happens is, you've got this hope of glory that any day, if God desires, he can heal you -- any day, if he wants to. You've got the hope of understanding that there is nothing that is touching your life that God didn't orchestrate. Romans 8:28, 29, 30, do you believe that? That anything that comes to us has been filtered through his hands and if it is going to make you like Christ that's good -- what's bad is going to make you like Christ. There is nothing! And as Christians, we have cheated. My wife and I we cheated. We read the last chapter -- we win!

[Laughter]

Amen? We read the last chapter of the Bible, we win. Knowing that truth, knowing that hope, knowing that understanding, grabbing hold to Reverend Cancer, my discipler, may I tell you? We're ready to go. There is nothing like going to church being sick after chemotherapy and throwing up and having to make sure you've got to clean yourself up and then get up there with some good mouthwash -- right? And preach the Word of God until you get tired. You're like, "Okay, honey, just get me to the car." But I mean, man

[Laughter]

That's just being God.

[Laughter]

You've watched him these 11 years, Pat, and this is not a put on; is it? He's walking -- it's the real deal; isn't it? And you're watching God work?

Pat: A lot of people said we should keep it private. We should keep it to ourselves. We should walk through it privately and that's just not how we ever lived our life and it felt wrong because you can't -- people feel left out. They won't learn -- they're not learning anything with you as you walk along, and especially if you're the pastors of a church, you should bring people along with whatever the Lord is teaching you, you're the leaders, and they should be brought along in a way that is kind. And you start from the beginning, if you're kind, and you help them walk through it with you.

James: And that's what he is doing. People may say, "He just needs a miracle and

cancer be healed." But he's a living miracle because you're not -- your counts and levels were so high you're a miracle to be alive. Isn't it?

Hutch: My whole thing is they said four years ago, "We're going to call hospice." Right? That was after six years -- six and a half years of cancer. And then my numbers just exploded. A man's P.S.A. numbers is normally zero to four. And I was going out to feed the horses one morning and tripped, and fell down the stairs in snow. It put my body in shock. After six years or so, you're thinking, wow, man. I fell. I went through the bottom of the steps through the gate out on the snow. Let me tell you how much a man is prideful. You know the first thing that popped into my mind when I started rolling? I hope nobody saw that.

[Laughter]

And all of the sudden I start feeling different. In the next week I knew something was up. We need to go to the doctor. My P.S.A. had got up to 100. You get to triple digits you know the cancer has escaped and has metastasized somewhere. We went in and got checked with the number one doctor in the world for prostate cancer; went up to 400 -- went up to 800 -- went up to 1200 -- went up to 2000 -- went up to 2800 -- went up to 3200. I think it finally stopped at 4200? It was -- my P.S.A. has stopped at 4200. You're supposed to be dead when you get into the hundreds. And if you're not dead, you can't participate. You should be totally incapacitated.

The doctors are looking at me, the nurses are looking at us and I'm telling them, "Well, it's prayer. Nothing else is keeping me alive. I thank you that you guys got this medicine and we're working together on it but what's keeping me alive and functioning is prayer." Sure enough, it's been for the last four and a half years because they said, "Well, we need to call hospice in."

I said, "I never quit anything in my life and I've got hope. I walk with God." And as long as I got hope, I'm going to make sure other people can catch it. That is how we kept going. And that is why we're still going to this very day.

Betty: I would say both of you are a living demonstration of how big God wants to be in our lives. How big he is.

Hutch: If you've got big problems, you've got a small God. Admit it! There is no way in the world...

Pat: We had done high school ministry for 15 years before we even started the church and I taught myself to study the Bible. I didn't use anyone's Bible studies to do it, I just taught myself how to study like I had to teach it to someone. So you go through and say, "Well, in this, what would someone ask me? Would they ask me this question... that question?" And have an answer for it, and spend enough time to know how to actually put together your own -- your own lessons. So when you learn how to do that, you realize that God is great -- God is good -- God is good for it.

So when all of this is going on, you just run back to the thing you know which is to study the Bible. Study it like you need to either take a test on it or like you need to teach it to somebody. And what will they ask me? And I need to know the answer to that; so you need to find the answer. If you study the Bible like that you don't need anybody else's Bible study really, to do it. God will teach you what you need to know. I feel like with what's happened just in the last week, I really don't feel unprepared at all.

James: When you get to know the word, you get to know the God of the word. God's Word, get to know him, you have a relationship with him.

Pat: And you know that it is God's voice when you hear it there.

James: Let me ask you this, when you found out with what you've watched, all right, how are you processing it and what do you see? Just what he's talking about?

Pat: Yes. Actually, yes. Everything he is saying now makes complete sense to me, and I actually am not afraid. It's a matter now of walking like I've been walking. It's not any different except that it is me now. I'm not watching, I'm doing it. It's the same walk.

James: Have you seen Christ-likeness -- you know the Bible says, "All things work together for good to those who love him." I don't really think they work together for good to those who don't love him; it's pretty chaotic. If you love him, you're called according to his purpose but he wants to conform us into the image of his dear son. So do you see Christ being shaped in him even through what he is facing?

Hutch: Yes...

James: Say yes!

[Laughter]

You get a little coach Hutch. Coach Hutch over there is saying to say yes.

Pat: It has to be yes. You have to say yes. If you don't say yes to God, what are you doing? Really, what's the point? Then it's...

James: But do you see beautiful progress watching him? You've known him a long time. How long have y'all been married?

Pat: 28 years.

James: 28 years. So you actually see the clay being shaped. He's over here showing you how good he looks. But you're seeing the shaping of a character that would be far beyond Hutch. It's a God shaping in him.

Pat: He's a great pastor, right, and now he's fabulous really because you can't do what you're doing and not care about people.

James: Well, you do. And you know, Hutch, you and I share a real common concern. It's not just something we share. We share something I believe that is as much on the heart of God that was on the heart of our savior in that he prayed for and that is that there will be a spiritual unity. You and I would never for one moment think that ethnicity, race, nationality, anything would be reason to divide. We would not even think that a theological discussion or difference would cause us to become chaotic and divisive and have animosity toward one another. We believe God wants to heal the divide and bring the family of faith, bring his family together in holy harmony.

Hutch: See no one would ever believe that Pat and I would be married if you knew me when I was young. I was one of the most hateful people in the world when it came to white people. Hated you! Did not have any like for you at all. The only reason I went out for football was... I lettered in four sports every year in high school. I was so good at baseball I didn't have any practice, I just played in the games. But guess what sport I chose? Football... because in Alabama that's the only sport I could hurt white people in. That's why I excelled so greatly. My junior/senior year before I met Christ, they wouldn't even let me practice with pads, I usually had to wear sweats and a helmet because I was hurting too many of my teammates because I was full of hatred.

And then I ran into Jesus as -- if you don't want to change, don't run into Jesus. You know what I'm saying? I ran into Jesus and all of the sudden, I spent eight years not saying a word to my mother, and I'm an only child; not one voluntary conversation with my mother because I blamed her for my grandmother's death, for sending me away for the weekend -- and I mean hatred took over me.

When I met Jesus, you know the first thing Jesus said? He said, "I died for you, but I also died for white people, and you're going to have to love who I love." And the first phone call I made was to my mother. The second phone call was getting out and calling my coaches and other teammates that I had hurt. And I changed my life around, and I said that that is what God is calling -- I do not have to wait to get to heaven before I'm unified with all people of all nationalities.

When we walk into church on Sunday and everyone looks alike, whether it is black, whether it is brown, whether it is brown or yellow, whether it is turquoise, I don't care! And we all look alike, that's not the bride of Christ. This is my bride. My name is on the marriage certificate with this woman. No man, no one is going to walk in my house and tell me how my wife is going to dress, how she is going to act, how she is going to talk, how she is going to be; that's my responsibility as a leader and lover of this lady.

But you know what? Everybody thinks they have the right to walk into Christ's bride and tell Christ how his bride is going to act and look and be. God did not give us the freedom but that's why we've got so many denominations. And that's why we need to come back to the purpose of unity because in unity, we can't be stopped. It is no way we can be stopped if we can learn how to be unified. And man, have I got examples of how that works.

James: And I honestly believe that the bad example for not getting along, and not loving one another is oftentimes been set in the house of religious associations and relationships where we don't really think the prayer of Jesus that we be one is important. And it doesn't mean we compromise. We don't have to compromise one Word of God to be one family. We could even have healthy disagreements just like you all will have, Betty and I have, 50 years of marriage, we've had plenty of them -- we're still family. And we've got to learn to do that. And we've got to learn to do that as a nation or our nation is not going to get well.

Hutch: God came down in Genesis 11 and saw the people disobeying him, not spreading out, not going how God says and was building the tower to God, the Tower of Babel. This is the Word of God in Genesis 11. Read it because we as a church need to

understand and start living it. An unbelieving, disobedient people, God said I've got to give them different languages to separate them because as long as they have one mind, one thought, and its one people, there is absolutely nothing that can stop them. They can just imagine it and accomplish it because they're unified.

Can you imagine if we, who are Christ's bride can get unified -- just give me one thing to be unified in. What in the world could we accomplish because God is looking for people that truly believe that he wants to do great things through unity? That's why we've been losing all the fights in our society today and not being the salt of the earth like we're supposed to because we're running in 15 different directions with our own theology.

James: But here's the thing we need to understand. God is inviting us into the council and the circle of his wisdom. He said, "Just come to me and I'll make you one, I'll heal you, I'll direct your steps, I'll correct your thoughts, I will heal your land. I'll make things right where they're wrong." Hutch, you're a real blessing. Would you say thanks to Pat and to Hutch for being such a blessing to us? Listen, this book is in the bookstores, *Hope is Contagious*. Zondervan published the book. Do you have a web site if people want to know where you are and some of the things you've got to say and share?

Hutch: HutchPost.org.

James: Let me just say this to you too. We are going to send it to you today to say thank you, along with Beth Moore's book, *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*. You talk about great Bible insight. We want you to have them if you'll do one thing, and we're going to ask you to do something. We, of course want you to pray for the people you're about to see, but I'm asking you to be an answer to a heart cry and a prayer. I'm asking you to give a cup of water in Jesus' name. I think you're going to want to. Watch this.

On the mission field:

>> My name is Beta. I am 49 years old. This is my granddaughter, Julianne. I'm the only one to care for my granddaughter. My son died and my husband left us. My son died because he was drinking dirty water and it's the only water we have. This is where we wash ourselves, use the bathroom, and collect our water. I pray every day that Julianne could get clean water. I would even give my own life... so she wouldn't have to drink this dirty water anymore.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: It's absolutely incredible that she would say, "I would give my life" but she doesn't have to. We can give her clean water. Betty, we can give that community where she lives a freshwater well. You and I have already committed to drill a well in that area. There are areas right there of similar circumstances where we need wells.

Listen, we've committed to drill -- with your help and that's the only way we can do it, just like Betty and I can do something -- but to drill 500 water wells. That's how you solve the problem she's concerned about. We are the answer. We hold the answer to their future.

Betty: James, as I sit there, because we're grandparents, I'm a grandmother of 11 grandchildren. And she was praying the prayer that a grandmother would pray for her granddaughter, for her health, for her to have a long life and to be safe. But she doesn't have a choice in the water that she gives her granddaughter. So that's the problem. We can help solve that problem. She can't. That's why they're crying out for help. Let's do join together and drill these water wells so that we can be part of the answered prayer for that grandmother for her granddaughter.

James: We really are the answer and the hope for the whole community if we'll just do our part expressing God's heart. Now Betty and I said that we asked God years ago to give us the ability to give a well, and that was when we were drilling a well with an emphasis once a year.

Then we found the need was so great and the effect was so great we began to emphasize it twice a year, and began to drill more wells. And we said, "God, every time we have the call from the missionaries, we want to be an answer to the prayer." And God enabled us to do that. And we're asking God to enable everybody to do that that he puts it on their heart.

But here's what really works because if everybody will just do their part -- and this is the thing I want you to see because it is very significant -- \$48 of that \$4800, if you'll give \$48, that's going to give water to ten people because each well services at least 1,000 people. When you break that down, it's \$4.80 for every person. Now that's a very small amount but it's a huge, huge blessing!

Would you dial that number and say, "James, I can do something." \$144 -- 30 people water the rest of their life. \$1200 and say, "Lord, raise up three more to give \$1200."

Ask God to raise up others to join you, we've got a well. \$2400, somebody matches you.

But there is some of you as a couple, as an individual, as a small business, as a church group, prayer group, we have children who spend time to raise the funds to drill a well -- very young children. So when it is in your heart to do it, you can do it. And there is some of you right now saying, "God's blessed me. I can give a well."

I want to ask you to take your bankcard and use it like a check. Would you? -- That's how you use them. And make the gift God put on your heart. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but we need you to call and tell us you're putting it in the mail. We need to know it is coming. We can let the missionaries and those that are drilling the wells know, "You can count on us; we're going to be able to fund it."

Would you make that call? If you want to go online, LifeToday.org, you can go there and make the gift. We've got some blessed gifts for you to be an inspiration of blessing in your life. We want to send them to you to say thank you so much. Please go to the phone or go online and make that gift and thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution! Mission: Water for Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today, we can establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request Beth Moore's *"Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights,"* a beautiful new daily devotional to begin and end your day in God's presence.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Morning and Evening: I will Praise You*, a two CD collection of 20 instrumental hymns and the companion book that shares the stories behind each hymn.

Also, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well! And be sure to request the limited edition 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, *Living Water* by artist Robert Summers.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

In the studio:

James: This instrumental, praise and beautiful hymns is going to bless you. And then the book that gives you the stories, the inspiration, and how they hymns came to be written. Beth Moore's book, *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights* for any gift; we want to send it to you.

Then I want to mention that if you'd like to have this incredible *Hope is Contagious* by Dr. Ken Hutcherson, we will send it to you. What a journey he has been on and what an inspiration he will be to you. We'll gladly send it to you. And there's his web site if you just want to say, "What's he got to help me in my journey in addition to this?" Because I can promise you, he does. You heard him on our program last fall in a very important moment and a very important message.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Ken and Pat?

Thank you so much for being with us. We really appreciate both of you. God bless you in your journey.

Thank all of you. Again, we thank you so much for helping us share water all around the world.