

4/4/13

Week 14

James: Thank you so much! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to have this time with you. I've got one of our friends that we admire greatly, Dr. David Jeremiah. I have watched with amazement -- of course, a man that's been blessed at his incredible church, Shadow Mountain Church in California and then he has the Turning Point radio program, and then the television ministry.

But I've watched with amazement what I see as an anointed man, a gifted man, a devoted, dedicated man, a highly qualified and highly effective. I just watched what I would call... the Bible talked about fresh oil, stir up the gift that's in you. It's like a fresh anointing has come on him that... and as I've watched him, is he is literally, not only ministered true to the church but he has spoken to the nation.

He has warned us. He's functioned as a prophet, as a forth teller, as a truth teller and it's just been absolutely amazing. He has written several best-selling books, New York Times bestsellers, and here is his newest book, and I love the title of it, *God Loves You: He always has. He always will.*

I'm just so glad to have him here. I want to talk to him about this book but I cannot tell you effectively enough just how much I appreciate and admire him. Would you join Betty and me in welcoming Dr. David Jeremiah back to *LIFE Today*?

Dr. Jeremiah: Thank you.

James: Well, I've got to ask because we have an amazing God and we've experienced amazing grace, but are you just a little bit amazed at what God is doing when you speak and preach and what is happening on television? And are you thinking, what in the world?

Dr. Jeremiah: All my friends are retired.

[Laughter]

James: I know the feeling! But I'm not going to.

Dr. Jeremiah: No, sir, I can't find that in the Bible, James. I think you can resign but you can't retire.

James: That's right! I'm resigning and I'm with you. But do you see this -- do you sense a fresh move of God? I know you do in your own life and ministry, but do you sense it at all in the church as a whole here in our nation in particular?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, when we go and do these events around the country and the arenas, I stand on the platform and it just almost takes my breath away. It makes my heart stop to think that I'm allowed by almighty God to be a part of something like this at this stage of my life. I've been in the same church, James, for 31 years and before that, 12 years in another church so I've been doing this for four decades. My wife and I believe sometimes that God has saved the best until last. That's the way it feels to us.

James: That's what I'm seeing. You know that I'm not trying to be just patronizing and just trying to be gracious for some ulterior motive. When I tell you that I watch this fresh anointing, it is like I'm really seeing a statesman -- a spiritual statesman. Do you agree you sense this with Dr. Jeremiah when you watch and listen to him? And the truth comes out, I want to thank you -- I want to thank you also for addressing issues that far too often the church has seemed to ignore or are oblivious too. Thank you for doing that.

Now I want to know about this book because you're already seeing some phenomenal things, not only from the book and boy, when you talk about God's love a lot of people don't realize, God has his focus on them. Now he wants us to focus on him but people need to understand that he's already focused on them, and he's focused on them with love. So you not only have a book, which I want to know how you came to write it but you're already seeing some phenomenal things happen as a result of just sharing, for heaven's sake, the title of the book.

Dr. Jeremiah: Yeah. James, one of the things that happens to us as Christians when we start to think about God and how he loves us, if we're not careful, we use the model of human love in order to understand it. We think God loves us like our father loves us or our wife loves us or our children love us. And the problem with that is God's love is unconditional. One of the chapters in there has a point that God's love is uncaused. There is not anything you can do to cause God to love you because he loves you already. And God loves you now as much as he ever will. He will never love you any

more than he does now and he loves you as much as now as he ever has because God's love is eternal, it is immutable, it is everything God is. The Bible says, "God is love."

And when you try to explain that to people, especially people who don't have an experience of receiving love, maybe even from their own human fathers, they're missing it -- they're missing it. I wanted to tell that story as best I could to people I knew needed to know God really loves them, and there are so many folks out there like that.

James: I'm sitting here thinking -- let me just make this point. We all want to hear from you. I'm thinking I know I love but I'm not love. I can see a whole lot about me is not love. But God never can be anything but love. In love, he corrects. In love, he will bring judgment appropriately so. Some people say, "Why is it so long?" And then some will say, "Thank God it is so long." But I've got love but boy, I'm not love, he is.

Dr. Jeremiah: And James, the thing that you need to really put in this equation is that -- and I remember saying this for the first time and it even startled me, there's not anything you can do to make God love you more than he does and there is not anything you can do to make him love you less. He loves you because it is his nature to love you. It's really not about you, it's about him. And that's the most incredible thing about this message.

Betty: What I was sitting here, the word that came to my mind in description of his love is his love is constant. I mean we can be as far away from him as you can get or as close. Like you said, it is -- it is constant in our hearts. It's right there when we need him the most. It is right there when we're rejecting him. It's always there.

Dr. Jeremiah: Betty, the story that pictures that in the Bible is the story of the prodigal son, which is really the story of the prodigal father. I finally figured that one out. It's not about the son, it's about the father. And I remember writing the chapter about that; that God is pictured by the father in the prodigal story. And God loves us when we're wounding his heart as the boy did his father. He loves us when we're walking away. He loves us when we're wasting our life. He loves us when we're wallowing in sin. He loves us when we're trying to work our way back home. He loves us when we're wrapped in his arms. His love is just constant. We just need that message in our culture today. We need to know.

I remember -- you said something, "Why did I start to write this book?" I had this picture in my head one day. I was going home someplace on a commercial flight, walking through the airport and seeing all the books that were face out in the

bookstores and I thought to myself, I wish I could write a book that said, God Loves You: He always has and he always will and see that book face out. And I saw it one day when I was in an airport and I thought, all the other messages people are getting in the airport, they need to get this one.

James: Yeah, and you've put it on billboards.

Dr. Jeremiah: We did! We did!

James: And you didn't put anything about the church, you didn't put an address, you didn't put a phone number. Don't expect me not to put a phone number up. And don't even think that David is going to rub off on me enough that I'm not going to ask you to love somebody, because he really wants me to do that. He likes the fact that we do that. So you think when I mentioned him not having a number. I was really making the point though, you just put that message up there and what was the response?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well James, we tried to buy some billboards when we ran this program at Shadow Mountain. And if anybody knows anything about the west coast and especially southern California, the billboards are owned by the casinos. They own all of them. We had to fight like crazy and we found one billboard on the way down from Alpine to El Cajon where our church is and we bought it. And all it said on the billboard was "God loves you: He always has and he always will."

We got a letter from a lady who lives in Alpine and drives to work every day and she was losing our family. She had some major problems with her kids. Her job was in jeopardy. And she said, "One day I came up over the rise and there was some fog." And she said, "I came out of the mist and there was this billboard that said, 'God loves you: He always has and he always will.'" She said, "I didn't really believe it was real. I had to wait until the next day when I came back to work again to make sure it was still there." And she said, "Pastor Jeremiah, every day when I go to work, I look for that message among all the other messages that we're getting and it's kept me going. Thank you so much for the message, God loves you." And that's been a real blessing.

James: Why do you think so many people feel desperate and lost and like nobody loves them?

Dr. Jeremiah: You know what? When we say God doesn't love like humans love, the other side of that story is that humans ought to love like God loves. And when fathers don't love their children the way they should, they're sending a strong message to

their children because children understand the word father. How do they understand that word? -- On the basis of the father that they know and they see. And if they're not careful, they think their heavenly Father is like their earthly father.

You know what? In the Old Testament there is a story that teaches this in a most unbelievable way in the book of Hosea, of all places. Hosea, the prophet, was told by almighty God to go and love a woman who was going to be unfaithful to him. God said, "I want you to love this woman who is going to be unfaithful to you so that you will understand my love for Israel who has been so unfaithful to me." And Hosea actually lived out that drama. He loved a woman who betrayed him over and over and the story is captivating.

At the end of the book, there is this whole scene where God is looking at Israel and he wants to reject them because they have been so wicked and unfaithful. And then you hear him cry out in the 14th chapter and he says, "But I will not -- I will not -- I will not let you go." And that's a picture of God's love for us no matter who we are, or what's going on in our lives. God's love is a sticky thing. He can't let go of us because it's not in his nature to do it.

James: Do you feel like... and I know people are asking the question, I know you've had it asked of you because I've had to me, has God-given up on America? Is there hope for America? How do you answer that?

Dr. Jeremiah: James, I did a little video for you this summer that you used in one of your issues and I think I said something like this that the question isn't has God given up on America? The question is has America given up on God? That one I can answer pretty quickly that in many respects we have, but I don't believe God is finished with this nation. I believe God still has a plan for this country but it won't be realized in the political world, it's going to be realized in the spiritual realm. I don't think there is hope for us if we put all our eggs in the political basket. We've proven that over and over again. But I...

James: But it doesn't mean we shouldn't be praying for leaders. It doesn't mean we shouldn't be encouraging them to be faithful to principles. In other words, we don't just decide well, they're going to dogs and then we stay home. That's not what it implies at all. It's just that that's not our hope.

Dr. Jeremiah: And James, a political leader who's right with God without a church that's right with God is like a horse without a carriage. He doesn't have anybody to work with. And the church needs to get right and that's where I think -- I don't have a

lot of impact on the political world but I can have an impact on the world where people are seeking after God and hoping -- I believe God, I think there is another revival left in America. I do believe I'm going to live to see that.

James: And that's my hope. We have a conference this summer and we call it *Awaken Now* and that's not just like an announcement. There is an awakening now; it is a charge. We need to awaken out of sleep. We need to put on the armor of light. We need to stand up and be the city set on a hill that cannot, will not, must not be hidden. I think this is the hour for it. Are you finding the people who get the book are being overwhelmed by the love of God, just when they look at it in the beauty and simplicity in which you present it?

Dr. Jeremiah: They probably have the same response I had when I got in the middle of this project. I remember one day I was sitting in my study and I was trying to get my arms around this concept. And I remembered the song that George Beverly Shea used to sing at all the Billy Graham crusades about the love of God, and it goes something like this: If the whole sky were a scroll and every stalk was a pen, and the whole ocean was full of ink, to write the love of God would be impossible.

I thought, what am I doing trying to write a book about this? And I think a lot of people look at God's love like that. It's so overwhelming because it is so outside of our comfort zone -- outside of the box in which we live. God's love is overwhelming but if you can just get a hold of a little bit of it, just understand it and we -- I was telling you earlier, we made these little bracelets that say, "God loves you."

Actually, it came from our junior high young people; they're the ones that came up with this idea. They have all the great ideas. And they said, "We're going to give these out." I said, "No, you're not. I'm going to give these out in the church." And we got them and we produced thousands of those things.

James: Saying God loves you, always has, always will on the little bracelet.

Dr. Jeremiah: We challenged our people when we were doing this, find somebody this week who needs the love of God -- you can just tell. The first day after we did this, this gal who works for us at Turning Point called me up and she said, "Pastor, I tried it. Let me tell you what happened." She said, "I was standing at McDonald's this morning and this girl was in there and she picked up her phone and she is shouting in this phone and she is shouting hatred. She's saying, 'I don't want you to call me again. You've ruined my life.' And she is screaming. And then all of the sudden she realizes everybody is watching her. So she walks outside McDonald's." And this girl who is --

you have to know her -- she doesn't have a stranger in her life. She walks outside and she says, "I overheard you talking on your phone." Well, the whole world overheard her talking on her phone. You know?

[Laughter]

And she said to her, "I just want to tell you something. I don't know where you are today, but I just want you know this. Honey, God loves you. He always has and he always will." And she said the lady just started to cry. And she said, "You know what? I know that. I'm a Christian." But she said, "But I'm so far away from God."

So Linda talked to her and told her where she could get some help and put her in touch with a counselor and she was getting ready to leave and the girl grabbed her arm and said, "Who are you?" I think she thought she'd been visited by an angel, like Touched by an Angel. But it was the message of God's love that changed that day for that girl. And we've seen that happen over and over and over again.

James: The book is in the bookstores and the truth is forever.

Would you say thanks to Dr. Jeremiah? God Loves You: Always has, always will. And I'll tell you what, we'll send you a copy of the book if you'd like to have it.

Here's what I want to ask you to do. There are two things I want you to hear as directly as we can say it to you. God really does love you. You didn't earn it. You can't do anything to keep him from loving you. You can do a lot to keep from receiving and experiencing the love that he not only wants to pour out toward you and upon you but through you. He wants to release a river of life in you and through you to others and that's a river of love.

You know how you start that river flowing? You receive it and to get it flowing, you release it. That really is the process. The nature of a river is what it receives it releases and everywhere it flows life springs up. That's the nature. And that's the nature and power of the love of God, release it.

Let me show you something. Right now because of people just like you, and because of wonderful missionaries, we are putting God's arms of love around people who have been abused beyond imagination and God is rescuing them with love. I want you to watch -- it's tough to watch but don't turn away because listen to me, you're about to release that love that God wants to pour out upon you and through you, and you're going to want to do it. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

>> I know I once was a child.

Some still say that I am.

But what I remember of it has been smothered by the darkness I know now.

Look at me! Not past me!

My life is not mine.

I'm owned yet I'm disowned.

I can hardly breathe.

My mind is shattered into a thousand pieces -- shattered!

There have been times, eight times a day at the hands of strangers -- over 2500 times this year -- at the hands of sick strangers.

Please... someone rescue me!

Put me back together.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'm not sure, Betty, I could stand to look at that if I didn't know we could do something about it. Even when I saw that report come back, my first question was, "Were we able to rescue her?" And the answer was "yes." And we're only able to do that because someone says, "I'll help you."

When we saw this need, it is horrible. When we brought it to you, you helped us build the largest center, *LIFE* Center in the sex capital of the world, Thailand, to rescue these children. It's beautiful! I mean it's a showplace in the sense that it is so beautiful. But the real beauty is these little children that we got out of the trafficking or got them before the trafficker got them; when they came in and told the parents lies about how they will take their children, take them into the city and educate them, and give them a future, and they can send money back -- which is all a lie.

So we're able to head off the enemy and get these children, and get them in a good setting, and then get those girls out of it, which is very dangerous -- very dangerous. It is a great risk. So the people who are willing to go in and risk it and plant their life there, for us to undergird them, that's what gives them the encouragement and the strength.

Betty, doesn't it give you joy -- that's horrible to watch. As a matter of fact, I remember you said, "I don't know if our viewers will tolerate that." We didn't know and it was a risk, but our viewers not only tolerate it they said, "We've got to help them." So our viewers have been doing it. But when you see those children set free and full of life, doesn't it just cause your heart to leap with hope?

Betty: It really does, James! It would be impossible for me to sit there and watch that if I didn't know that we had the opportunity to help them, to give them hope, to help them be set free from all this captivity and the struggle. And I guess, James, the thing that got me, she said, "Please rescue me and help put me back together." That just tore my heart out! Because she feels like, probably, a piece of trash that's just used over and over again and then just discarded until they get ready to use her again. She wants to feel like a person again. She wants to feel like somebody that has hope in their heart -- and we can do that.

James: That's what the love of God does. You don't just talk about the love of God, you demonstrate it. So here's what I want to ask you to do: Help us rescue them. The missionaries have broken it down. It takes \$128 per person. We're trying to raise right now, to do what the missionaries have said, this is what we can accomplish -- a million dollars. In that we need \$275,000 to restore one of the *LIFE* Centers that had a terrible fire; and there are no more dedicated workers on the planet than this missionary couple. We not only want to rebuild, we want to expand it because the work is that important.

So I want to ask you to help us with that \$275,000 need. Could you give \$1,000 or a few thousand toward it? Would you do that please? But then think about this, this is critical because this is the key; the key to rescuing them is to cover that cost, \$128. If you can give all of that to rescue one, do it. If you can give part of it, know somebody else will join you because it takes every one of us doing our part in God's heart to share his heart and to put his hands and arms around broken lives. Dial the number. Take your bankcard, use it, and make the best gift you can. Go online, LifeToday.org. Many people do that now. Thank God! Would you make that gift? Write a check to *LIFE* but call us and toll us you're mailing it. It is really important we hear from you.

We have some special gifts to send you to bless you in your spiritual journey because we want to be a blessing to you.

Thank you for helping us rescue those precious girls and precious children.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's hard to believe it's happening but at this very moment innocent boys and girls, many very young are being forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable and someone must save them.

Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can help reach, rescue, and restore thousands of children from the horrors of the sex trade in Thailand, Cambodia, India, Ukraine, and many other nations. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help reach, rescue, and restore one more child from the horrors of their kidnappers.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Free to Be Me*, Betty Robison's updated account of how she moved from fear and insecurity to true freedom. You'll also receive the companion journal for your quiet time and daily reflections.

With your gift of \$128 or more to help rescue a child, be sure to request your copy of the *Life Application Study Bible*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help rebuild the *LIFE* Center in Ukraine destroyed by fire or \$1280 to help rescue 10 children, and you may request the limited edition bronze sculpture titled Christian.

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

End of clip

On the mission field:

Lisa: Human trafficking is a sin against humanity. They are saying that two million young girls will go missing this year. And I actually had a hard time believing that until I came here and I heard consistently the stories of girls that nobody had records

of. As painful as the image and the scenes you have seen today, they were actually filtered. I want you to be generous. I want you to go to your phones, go online; I want you to give. We can't do it without you. We can't do it without your commitment, we can't do it without your prayers. Thank you for partnering with rescue life.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I just want to say thanks so much. Her book, *Free to Be Me*; it's great. This is her story, and of course I'm part of it and she tells about our dating, you'll even see some pictures of us when we were young, and I looked nice and she always has. But you'll see why she might have liked me. I was kind of cute she said.

Betty: You are still cute!

James: Thank you, honey, that makes me feel loved. Listen, we'll send that to you along with the journal. But also today, *God Loves You*: He always has. He always will. A wonderful friend, a great spiritual statesman, and preacher and teacher, Dr. David Jeremiah's book.

Would you join us in saying thanks to David?

Thank you, my friend! God bless you.

Thank all of you for watching. Thank you so much for revealing God's love to people who so desperately need to know he loves them and he loves you. He loves you!

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18 through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas! Featuring inspiring speakers such as Governor Mike Huckabee, Pastor Tony Evans, International Bible teacher and author Beth Moore, New York Times best-selling author and speaker Andy Andrews and many more, including musical guest such as Big Daddy Weave.

Register today for this once in a lifetime event, celebrating fifty years of ministry with James and Betty Robison. Go to lifetoday.org.

Announcer: If you're in the Dallas/Fort Worth area come be a part of the *Life Today* studio audience. Call or E-mail today to reserve your tickets. You'll be inspired and entertained!