

Week 22

5/28/13

James: It is such a privilege to come into your home and share with you. I'm James Robison. I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Let me just remind you, sometimes as husbands and ministers perhaps -- especially ministers -- we're not as sensitive maybe to our wives as we need to be. And you know we still -- we're still dealing months later with the loss of our beautiful daughter, our baby girl, and God's given us such marvelous grace. But you know with me, and I think about that incredible indescribable loss that I wouldn't want anyone to experience and those who have, you understand, and others want to care and lift us and thank you because we're standing on your shoulders.

But Betty was pulled right in, right after that, right back into ministry and television and missions. And for me, I'm thinking about yes, our family but I'm thinking about children all over the world and the families of the world, and thinking about you and your need and I just keep pouring that out. I make no apology for that but sometimes we as preachers are not as sensitive to what our wives may be going through and I'm so sorry.

But Betty needed some time alone. Our daughter Rhonda, Robin's older sister called it "just me and Jesus time" -- "just me and Jesus; I need that." Betty says, "I need that too." So she's asked for me to carry this for a while and just let her have a few days to just be alone and we've done that. Thank you.

She was hoping that her absence wouldn't hinder the support of our mission outreaches and right now mission feeding. She thought, oh, my, because I know James, you want to feed those kids and help them and missionaries need our help, of course. And we believe that you will do that.

This also, not only is our 50th year of wedding and marriage, 50 year anniversary, but it is also the celebration of our 50 years of ministry, and 25 years in missions all over the world. When you're remembering some of the things that happened and we felt like a lot of our viewers and friends said, "James, would you bring back some of those days when you were preaching, and when God used you to help bring the body of Christ together, the different parts that were so divided, mainline churches with

charismatic or Pentecostal churches where they could at least talk together and seek God together and have a holy unity?"

Well, I delivered a message... there used to be an organization that was called the Full Gospel Businessmen. It was quite an effective organization. I preached this in one of the last world conventions that they had and there were many national world leaders there, even on the platform. Some of the President's cabinet was there, Mr. Reagan's -- President Reagan's cabinet. And I was preaching to leaders but I was talking about spiritual unity, and also talking about fruitfulness and how the enemy attacks the fruitfulness of God's garden and his will. But also, what it takes to bring people together so the fire of God can fall on his people.

I use an illustration about trying to start a charcoal fire because I was going to cook some steaks for me and Betty. Just listen to this. There were about 10,000 people there and the response at the end was totally miraculous. Let's join that message. You'll hear it this week. Here is part one on spiritual unity preached back in the early 80s.

Begin video clip:

James: I was with my wife for a couple of days -- well, really a day, a 24-hour period. We drove about two hours; have a little place where we can get away and pray and just be alone. We were going to eat that night and I was going to charcoal a steak for me and Betty and we had a little charcoaler.

I don't know how many of you have ever done this but I'll tell you what I would do if I were pastor of a church and you're not -- you shouldn't make your people do anything but I would encourage my people to do two things. I would encourage my people to build a charcoal fire until they were successful.

[Laughter]

Not with self-lighting charcoal, the kind you have to soak in light. And I would encourage every single member of my church from a child to junior age and up, and possibly even younger than that, I would encourage every member of my church to grow some kind of a garden, either a flower garden or a vegetable garden or some kind of garden because it is only then that you begin to understand what it means to be fruitful and to multiply.

I'm going to tell you something about a garden, I don't care if it is a flower garden or a vegetable garden or a field of hay or grain or wheat or corn, you can plant the very best but if you leave that field unattended, I can tell you what's going to take over. I'll

tell you something else, your flowers and your vegetables will not be in sin. They don't sin. But they will find themselves under the assault of a destroyer as surely as any holy person sitting in this room tonight for the fiery darts of the wicked come against every breathing, living being. There is a destroyer that will grow weeds and thorns and briars in your garden and the black spot and the spider mite and every other fungus known to man will attack plant life that doesn't sin.

And I can assure you that you and I are in a war with the spiritual powers of darkness, and if you leave God's field unattended to by the husbandman, by Jesus Christ the vine dresser, if you're not in Holy Spirit communion with holy God and allowing the sword of the Spirit to do work in your life, you too will be overgrown and your field will become a field that is sprouting poisonous weeds rather than good fruit to the glory of God. I'm telling you that most Christians right now have their lives so infested by the work of the enemy that it's an abomination to think about.

Well, I was building a charcoal fire and as I had the charcoals there on the grill, I remembered last winter a friend of mine went out to build a charcoal fire and he couldn't get it lit. I went out and I saw that the charcoal was scattered all over the grill, one little layer of charcoal. He was dousing it with the lighter fluid and putting the match to it and it would go like that and dead black charcoal. Well, I had remembered that. I'm fairly perceptive; I learn quickly.

[Laughter]

I'm not like some people in government, Mr. Watt, who never will learn no matter what they do.

[Laughter]

So what I'd done is that in order to get charcoal to light you've got to pile it up in a neat little pile. Now watch this -- I get the charcoal and I make a little pile and some of the little briquettes trickle off and roll down the side. And meticulously, I reach down and pick up the charcoal and I place it in. I have to lodge it; I have to prop it up with some more charcoal. I've got dirt all over my fingers and I'm piling up the charcoal. And it is as though the Lord himself is just chuckling at me. He does that a lot about me -- chuckles at me a lot. He thinks I'm pretty funny. He's just chuckling at me and he says, "Well, look at you. What are you doing?"

The Lord and I talk like this a lot. Excuse me, some people don't believe you can but I'm enjoying it and I'll go right on talking to him. He likes to talk to me and we

fellowship like this. It's really all right to fellowship with your father. He really likes to talk to you. Now he never will contradict his Word, that's the reason he gave you the word because the devil will masquerade as an angel of light. And his ministers will come as ministers of righteousness, and they'll deceive you. They don't come in and announce, "Behold, a false prophet!"

[Laughter]

They think they're right. But when you're deceived, you deceive.

Well, the Lord and I talk a lot and he's chuckling and he's saying, "What are you doing?"

And I'm saying, "I'm stacking this charcoal and it won't light unless you get it all together where all of it is touching each other. That's what I'm doing, Lord."

He said, "Isn't that something?" He said, "Why don't you preachers learn to do that with my people?"

[Laughter]

He said, "My people are scattered all over the earth, not even touching each other and you're running around trying to soak them in the oil of the Holy Spirit and in truth." He said, "You just soak them and soak them and soak them and soak them, and then you wonder why they don't get on fire."

[Laughter]

He said, "My son's already prayed it. That you may be one as we're one. A new commandment he gave you that you love one another even as we love one another. And by this the world will know you're my disciples, my disciples -- not full gospel, not Baptist, not Pentecostal, not Charismatic -- my disciples if you love one another -- really love one another!" And the Lord said, "You can soak them in truth, soak them in Holy Spirit emphasis but until my people agree to come together, until my people will seek, strive diligently to preserve the unity of the spirit into which they were born in Christ, in a bond of peace," he said, "You need not expect me to light the fire." He said, "Let my people come together with this purpose to seek me as they did at Pentecost waiting on me -- waiting on the promise of the father, waiting on me and I'll light their fire. That's what I want to see."

I'm committed to that. I'm committed to it. There isn't anybody I'll stop loving. I've been called the ugliest names I know any preacher have been called. I never knew a preacher could get called what I've been called in the last year.

[Laughter]

I don't know any other preacher here who has been called a cult, and a cult leader. That's been on the headlines of several papers with a very flattering picture of me like this.

[Laughter]

I want to tell you, I love those people. I'm not even a little bit mad at them. I mean I'm really not. I'm not even chapped. I'm not even hacked. I'll preach for them next week if they had the courage to let me come. I mean I'd just love to go and just preach to their people.

[Applause]

I'm not mad at them.

Let me tell you what we're doing. Listen folks! We're revealing the true nature of our system. We've got the nature of the accuser of the brethren. We're mean to each other. God's going to heal us, because we're going to agree to love one another. Someone says, "I'm not going to compromise." Well, I believe it may be the greatest compromise of all to refuse to love one another.

As a matter of fact, if you don't love one another, God says you don't even know him. I didn't say that, God said it. You can't hear God if you won't walk in love. How are you going to know the truth if you're committed to walk in darkness hating one another? God forgive us!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Let me just tell you point-blank, you won't know the truth if you commit to walk in darkness and you will never know the power of God in your life if you join with the accuser of the brethren and don't speak the truth in love. I know I've got a dynamic style of communication but don't tell me that wasn't just a truckload of love

flowing right there and it still is. That was in the early 80s, so that's what, 25 years ago? 30 years ago? 33-34 years ago? I was in my mid 30s and I still have that same blood.

Let me tell you what's happened. The very people who were trained not to even talk to each other much less like each other or love each other have now come together to love one another.

I praise God that right here on *LIFE Today*, you have seen people from every community of faith who know that there is God the father, the creator, who believe the Bible is his Word, who believe Jesus is his son and the savior, and the way the truth and the life, and the only way to the father have been seated here, and with a lot of difference in diversity they've come together in a holy harmony seeking God. And it's been miraculous to watch.

By the way, it is this coming together -- see, people think we're going to correct the nation by winning an election. No. We correct the nation's perilous course by winning hearts and minds to the truth that changes us from within, and then the way you live. The greatest expression of the life of God, the love of God, and his truth in us is the way we release that river of life toward others; that's what we have an opportunity to do.

You talk about an area that needs a river of life, they need water. And because of a drought, tens of thousands of precious people and little children are starving -- literally starving to death. And we can turn that around immediately. That's what mission feeding does.

Let me tell you this, when we come to you twice a year and we ask you to help us feed hundreds of thousands of children and their families that we have found who are desperate, we ask you to give to support us for those months by feeding the children.

As an example, \$100 -- boy, you don't find \$100 doing this anywhere else -- \$100 placed in the hands of those missionaries for mission feeding will feed ten children for the next months -- several months -- \$50 will feed five, \$30 will feed three. Now that's a miracle.

Let me give you another miracle. Because of God's love, we're able to do even more than that, and literally, this is a miracle. We're going to see whatever you give doubled. We have a \$500,000 -- boy, you talk about a miracle of love -- matching gift challenge right now, which means if you wanted to help us care for ten children who are desperate, in need of our love, and the missionaries help, you will see that number

immediately doubled. \$1,000 will feed 100 children. It will be doubled immediately to 200 -- \$100 immediately from 10 to 20; whatever you can do.

I want you to just look and listen and just see the reality of what's being placed right now in several areas of Southern Africa, especially in Angola right now, and we work in the hardest areas like the Sudan. Our mission workers are so faithful, so courageous, so loving, but empty-handed unless we put in their hands that which must be shared. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Announcer: After months of an exceptionally long dry season, a severe drought is threatening Angola's already modest food production. Rainfall has been so scarce that African officials are calling it the worst drought in years with nearly two million people affected by this natural disaster. These freshly dug graves are a grim reminder that children suffer the most when land that once produced food crops has turned barren.

Families struggle to grow food in their villages but sadly, it is a losing battle because the parched land cannot yield enough crops. Mothers will feed their children roots and leaves in a desperate attempt to keep them from starving to death. Over 500,000 children in the hardest hit areas are suffering from malnutrition with the situation growing worse by the day. As the drought lingers on rural clinics are filled with grieving mothers helplessly watching their children suffer and the reality is that while waiting for the rain to return, thousands of children may die.

The solution is simple, a daily bowl of food. Mission feeding is their only hope.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, you see the long lines waiting to get a bowl like that. Some of them already have the bowls because once they come to the feeding area we will give them the bowl and you can't believe how they treasure it and take care of it. I saw quite a few bowls stacked there too because that means more children were coming that day. That particular line you were watching is in an area where we already established the feeding center. There are more coming to those areas now because of the devastating effects of the drought so the numbers are being added. There are 400,000 in the already established centers where we're turning it around for those children, giving them a future.

You're going to see children that were dying, a year later you're going to see what they look like now -- even in the following days. You're going to see that. The miracle of what love does in mission feeding.

You see this beautiful bowl that was literally created and designed -- it is heat resistant, it has line in it to tell you how much you give in various areas based upon the need or the amount that will enable us to reach the end of the line and not run out. In the bottom it says: *LIFE*. That's what we're giving them. The bowl is useless without something in it. So when we come to you and ask you to give to mission feeding we're asking you to give the food, the wonderful porridge mix that is especially designed for the nutritional needs of an area. So you're giving us what we put in the bowl, what the missionaries give -- you're making it possible. You keep the mission workers in place and there are thousands of them in place.

And interestingly, and you'll even hear from our mission overseers how many of those who are now working in the mission outreaches were 20 years ago children who were dying. Now they've got a new future, a new life. They went to school where we established school feeding. That school feeding program has now gone all over the world with the world food bank, the example that was started by those missionaries of how you could get the kids to come to school in the impoverished areas -- you give them food there and they will show up more frequently and they'll get an education.

So missionaries are continually inspiring and teaching. They can't do it without the ability to do it. And the great works that transform lives are always found where there is a compassion connection where the missionary with a heart for what they're called to do is involved. You don't just throw money at a need, you get directly involved with it but you can't do it with empty hands or empty bowls.

Would you dial that number right now? Please? Whatever you're doing, move to the phone or go online, go to your computer or your laptop, LifeToday.org, make a gift or dial the number and say today, "I know you'd pray with me if I had a broken heart. I know that! You'd pray for me if I had a need. But today I'm calling because I want to make a gift of life."

If you can possibly give \$1,000, we're going to send you the beautiful 50th anniversary commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love," an older brother feeding his little brother, giving life. You'll give a gift of \$1,000 or more. It will be doubled immediately.

If you can possibly give a gift of \$100, it will be doubled from 10 children to 20 children -- it will be doubled to \$200 because of the matching gift. We'll send you *The Family Reading Bible* and the devotional.

For any gift we're sending you the devotional book, *A Good Word for a Great Day*. We send gifts to bless you, to say thank you for blessing others and giving them life.

Would you go to the phone or go online right now and make the gift God put on your heart? Please make the best gift you can and know it will be matched -- it will be doubled.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment children are drawing what could be their last breath, struggling to stay alive due to severe hunger. You can help stop the cycle of death. You can help save a child's life. In addition to the 400,000 children already in our feeding program throughout Africa, we must immediately provide for an additional 25,000 children in the hardest hit areas of drought.

As an answer to prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$500,000 matching challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact. \$30 to help feed three children can be doubled to impact six children! \$50 to help feed five children can be doubled to help save 10 children! And \$100 for 10 children can be doubled to help feed and introduce Jesus to 20 children!

As a thank you, we would like to send you *A Good Word for a Great Day*, a 365-day devotional providing a word of inspiration and promise for each new day.

With your double impact gift of \$100 to help save the lives of 20 children, you may request *The Family Reading Bible* to help engage your children and grandchildren in God's Word.

Finally, please consider a double impact gift of \$1,000 to help save the lives of 200 children, and you may also request the 50th anniversary commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love."

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

End of clip

On the mission field:

>> We went out to visit some schools where joy kind of overtakes you to begin with because you're out there and you see these kids get their food and they're singing songs and they're welcoming us, and it makes your heart leap with joy. So every bowl of food that we serve, it's also a reminder that there's probably a hundred times or a thousand times more kids that don't get that bowl of food and that breaks my heart.

And I pray, Father God, that as hundreds and thousands of people are watching today -- maybe millions -- Father God, that everyone will say, "I'll do one." If we would do that, then millions upon millions of "ones" would be saved from starvation. That's all it takes -- and it doesn't take much.

It is amazing what can happen if we just get one. So I'm asking you to go to your phone, pick it up, dial the number that's on your screen and help us in saving one more life.

In the studio

James: From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for helping!

I do want to give you the most personal invitation I can to come be with me and Betty for the 50th anniversary, Awaken Now conference. A lot of people are concerned about direction -- about the church, about the nation. Remember this, it's not about winning elections -- oh, boy, that's important.

I want to tell you something, if we don't win minds and hearts to truth, we're not going to know the truth that sets us free and keeps us free. We're just going to keep choosing mere men, and listening to men and not hearing truth. You've got to know the truth that can set you free.

You're going to hear some speakers that know the truth. Many of them worked with us through the years, and they've become national leaders and a continual source of inspiration. You're going to want to hear Beth. You're going to want to hear Andy Andrews, Robert Morris, our pastor. You'll want to hear what God's put on my heart. You will want to hear these speakers that you see.

Go online LifeToday.org. You must register. We would like you to eat with us but we need to know you're coming and everyone must preregister. So do it. We want to see you there.

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18th through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas featuring inspiring speakers such as author and neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson, international Bible teacher and author, Beth Moore, Pastor Robert Morris, author and speaker Christine Caine, and many more, including musical guests such as Phillips, Craig and Dean. Register today for this once-in-a-lifetime event celebrating 50 years of ministry with James and Betty Robison. Go to LifeToday.org.