

7/4/13

Week 27

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

James: We're glad to have Sammy Rodriguez back with us. He is over an association of Hispanic evangelical churches that is just an incredible organization of 41,000 churches. And when you think about the impact that these believers can make on our nation and on the world, it excites me. It inspires me to just pray for the power of almighty God to rest on them.

And Sammy has been a great inspirational leader. He has written a book titled, *The Lamb's Agenda*. Now the first time I heard this title, *The Lamb's Agenda*, was at a conference that I hosted that was aired all over the world. It was under the idea of being indivisible and not separating things from one another that shouldn't be separated, like truth from love, and compassion from character, from principles, from preference and substituting real principles for just your own preference or somebody's personality or personal agenda.

And when we heard *The Lamb's Agenda*, Sammy actually wasn't feeling well. I didn't know that. When he got up and downloaded on the whole world, *The Lamb's Agenda*, I thought, my God! And we've actually played that. You can get it on YouTube and just watch it. It is just about six minutes of heavenly dynamite.

Well, Sammy understood that agenda and he's put it in a book. Let's talk to Sammy Rodriguez about it. Would you welcome Sammy back to *LIFE Today*?

Sammy?

Sammy: Thank you, James. Good to see you, Betty.

James: All right. I had never heard you use that reference. I knew from the time you and I met, we began to pray together with national leaders, including Catholic leaders. You remember I brought Catholic leaders and evangelical leaders? I brought Dallas Theological Seminary board members and people from all over the country -- Southern Baptist leaders and brought them all together with charismatic and Pentecostal leaders and Catholic leaders. We all came together and we all lived to tell

it!

Sammy: We did! We survived!

James: It was a gathering in the presence of God; wasn't it?

Sammy: It was!

James: And we were trying to find out what God wants us to do together as a church, as a family of faith. Then all of the sudden, you were sitting in those and then you get up on the platform with all these other leaders, preachers -- great preachers and you download *The Lamb's Agenda*. I want you to just elaborate a little bit on what you mean because I'm convinced that when Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done," and I really try to get people to hear this, that is a prayer for now -- not the kingdom to come. That's "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" right here on planet earth right now with fierce opposition, many valleys and many mountains in the necessary armor of God to fight against a formidable foe and win -- not as sheep to the slaughter but as sheep under the oversight of the shepherd, and in the shadow of the Almighty. Am I tracking with you? That's what we're here for.

Sammy: Absolutely!

James: So *The Lamb's Agenda* is for right now. It's not for by-and-by in the future. He's got an agenda!

Sammy: I'm convinced the next great movement in America will not be the Occupy Wall Street movement or the Tea Party movement but it will be a Christ-centered, Bible-based righteousness and justice movement. It has to be! We live in very difficult times.

James: By the way, that doesn't mean that people who are upset about too much taxes, that they're not thinking straight. They're thinking straight. It is just that's not what's going to get people's mind straight. They're saying, "We've got a problem" and they are right. And we ought to be disturbed about it because it is lousy management of the people's money. So it's right to be disturbed but they can't fix it by being disturbed.

Sammy: It has to come via the conduit primarily of the vertical first. And *The Lamb's Agenda* basically says the only agenda that can save America is not the agenda of the donkey or the elephant.

James: Or any other person or animal.

Sammy: Or any other person or ideology -- or political ideology. It is The Agenda of the Lamb. What does that mean? We live in times of great moral relativism, cultural decadence and spiritual apathy but the number one problem in America is a lukewarm church. It is an ecclesiastical lukewarm-ness. And we're selling truth... we're sacrificing truth on the altar of political expediency.

Look, via the conduit of biblical illusions and metaphors, the spirit of Pharaoh is still alive in America in 2013 -- still alive! He's holding people in bondage in the Egypt of bondage and fear. The spirit of Goliath is mocking and intimidating the children of God. The spirit of Absalom is dividing homes, communities and relationships. The spirit of Jezebel is prompting men and women to hide in caves via the conduit of perversions and sexual manipulation. The spirit of Herod is killing babies, infants to young, in the womb and out of the womb -- sex trafficking, abortion -- poverty!

But we have to shout out at the greatest spirit today -- even today, in the 21st century, the most powerful spirit is not the spirit of Pharaoh or the spirit of Absalom, or the spirit of Herod or Nebuchadnezzar or Jezebel. The most powerful spirit alive today is none other than the Holy Spirit of almighty God! The Spirit of God is still moving. The Spirit of God -- God is still on the throne! There's still hope!

The Lamb's Agenda, the purpose of it is to reconcile the vertical and horizontal plains of the cross. Can we reconcile Billy Graham's message of salvation through Christ with Dr. King's march? Can we reconcile the message with the march? Can we reconcile the words of salvation through Christ with prophetic activism? As a church, are we committed to engaging the culture or reforming the culture?

The Lamb's Agenda is a manifesto for cultural reformation in the 21st century via the conduit of a kingdom agenda that goes beyond any sort of political ideology. It prompts us to wake up in the morning and to say what I see first and foremost is not that I'm black, white, yellow, or brown, Hispanic, charismatic or automatic!

[Laughter]

What I'm first and foremost is a child of the living God! I am a follower of Jesus. I'm born again by the precious blood of the lamb. And those are the optics that should guide me in my daily living. Those optics prompt me to want to reconcile righteousness with justice. So that means that I am staunchly... I'm committed to

seeing the imago dei, the image of God in every single human being -- that's why I'm so staunchly pro-life. But we also have to go beyond just being pro-life and looking at poverty alleviation and ending sex trafficking and human trafficking, and looking at those around us that are marginalized and speaking for those that can't speak on behalf of themselves. Matthew 25, quenching that thirst and feeding that hunger and clothing the naked, doing the Good Samaritan -- living out true religion, that's the mandate. Listen.

Our community and the Hispanic American community, we look at the 20th century and we said we see a -- sorry for this -- but to a great degree a bi-polar church. We see a church either committed to the vertical or the other one committed to the horizontal. White evangelicals and white Christians for that matter focus exclusively on the vertical. Great meetings, salvation through Christ, which is the most important thing, let's get saved and let's get out of here. Let's get saved and he's coming, let's get out of here. And I do believe he is coming.

James: That's a distortion of truth. That's a misrepresentation of truth. Let's get active expressing the life of God. There you go.

Sammy: And then the horizontal came along and many in the ethnic communities for reasons that are definitely valid, looked at issues of racism and equality and justice and education and so many issues --

James: And rightly so!

Sammy: Rightly so! But then it's a new day and why do we have to be either/or? Why can't we reconcile Billy Graham with Dr. King? This generation must reconcile righteousness with justice. We have to lift our hands up in worship and we have to stretch our hands out in compassion. It is conviction and compassion.

James: And it is biblical justice. It is not what the left wing or the political liberal has taken as social justice to justify all manner of evil in the name of doing good because it's actually hurt the poor, it's made them quote, "dependent upon Pharaoh" where they don't even have straw or anything to make bricks with.

Sammy: Justice is not the purpose of big government. Justice is the passion of a big God. Justice does not belong to the left or to the right; justice belongs to the high for the purpose of lifting up the low. Justice is not a pathetic term -- a political term to be exploited. It is a prophetic action to be lived out -- that's Biblical justice. This is a call to

do justice in the name of Jesus -- not republican justice, not democratic justice but justice in the name of Jesus.

James: And it is a joy to do it. When you release the love of God -- why do you think viewers -- our viewers love what we do because we do something -- we don't just talk about it. You know how we operate here? We operate from a kingdom principle. The body of Christ is the expression of Christ's body. It fits together with each member joined to one another in holy submission to one another for divine purpose. The upper arm to the lower arm, the hand can function properly if they're all submitted to the head. So we submit to the head. We put the arms of God around a broken world. Our viewers love to see this. And here's how we operate. We find a compassion expression and we complete a compassion connection.

And what the government does, what Pharaoh does, is talks about compassion but there's no compassion connection, talks about need that they say the government or some system of man can meet without the compassion connection.

We find divine enabling, we find the heart of God, the will of God being expressed and we undergird it by connecting and our viewers love it. That's the same way the church can inspire people to operate. It is actually the way our government could function if they would find divinely enabled people with a heart to do the job and then we the people -- we all the people -- not some of the people -- we, all the people undergird because we have a heart to do it.

Sammy: The most compassionate institution on the planet should be none other than the church of Jesus Christ! We are anointed!

James: The inspiration to be compassionate expressions of God's love.

Sammy: But we are anointed -- the spirit of the Lord have anointed -- Jesus, Luke four, have anointed me to bring good news. The church of Jesus Christ is anointed in the name of Jesus to bring good news. We are! And why do we stand marginalized? Why is the voice more and more silent? Why do we acquiesce? Why do we surrender? Because again, we can speak truth with love. We can reconcile conviction with compassion. We need to reconcile the optics of redemption with the metrics of reconciliation.

I'm looking at a new Christian movement in the 21st century. It is fresh. It is multiethnic. This is going to hurt -- this is a bit controversial and it's going to get people upset but it's not like Jesus is coming back for a black church or a white church

or a Latino church; he's coming back for his church -- a glorious church. And we, as -- my children want to see a church that is reflective of the wonderful mosaic, the tapestry of God's creation, multiethnic, kingdom culture expression; they have to be Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph -- it has to be multigenerational. But again, it has to be loving and compassionate without sacrificing truth.

James: Much of the biblical truth, biblical morality, biblical principles, even marriage, even sexuality, even moral practices has now been dragged in the political arena so that we're now being told, if you're a Christian, you're in church, you can't even address those subjects or you'll be violating something from a national political level. Stay out of it. But I don't believe the church is ever supposed to let the light be hidden or covered because of pressures being put on them. We've got to pierce and penetrate the darkness. We're compromising if we don't. We still have got to stand up.

Sammy: Silence is not an option -- silence is not an option! Let's go back to the Pharaoh. For every Pharaoh there must be a Moses. For every Goliath, there must be a David. For every Jezebel there must be an Elijah. For every Nebuchadnezzar, there must be a Daniel. For every Herod there must be a Jesus. And for every devil that rises up against us, there is a mightier God that will rise up for us.

James: Absolutely! And the gates of hell will not prevail against what? The church that is hearing the Word of God and living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, we can storm the gates of hell. We don't have to let the gates of hell overpower the people of faith.

Sammy: That requires a church to walk in holiness and with humility. The word holiness has been somehow diluted, extracted, extrapolated from the Christian lexicon. It is no longer part because it is not cool to preach against sin. We're so obsessed with making sure we fill in the seats with occupants rather than transformed lives. And it has to be a holy church and it's a church that walks in humility. Again, not an angry church, not a church that puts down but a church that lifts up.

Betty: We really, really have to get back to the basics of what Christ has done in each one of us. You're talking about -- when you say the church, you're talking about every Christian, every born-again Christian needs to feel that charge from God that we have a responsibility to do what God's called us all to do. My part is as important as your part, his part, everybody's part; it all has to fit together to be complete because that's what the body is.

James: That's how we become the shining city on a hill.

Betty: So I think we need, in our hearts, to revisit that time when we came to know Jesus. Because when I came to know Jesus, he put that compassion in me, he put that charge in me. I wanted to shout it from the rooftops, what God had done in me, just when I received him.

Sammy: You know the most powerful person on the planet is? The most powerful person on the planet is not the one with riches, the ones with guns, the ones with fame, the ones with armor, the most powerful person on the planet is a person set free by the blood of the lamb. There is nothing more powerful than a life that's been set free by Jesus Christ.

James: And then when that's set on the lampstand to reveal his light, his life, and his truth, fearlessly, faithfully in love, unwavering -- and people really need to understand that if we allow that light to be hidden by compromise or seeking comfort or not wanting somebody to misunderstand us or speak ill of us, and we become accommodating to evil, the last verses in Romans one, which talks about when you knew God and you didn't magnify him as God, you then were given over to vile affections and appetites, even to things that weren't even natural, they were against nature and you would begin to worship what God created rather than the creator, and you begin to worship these things.

Then he says you will be depraved in your thinking, like the prophet said, where you call good evil, evil good, night day, all of that. But the last part -- the last verses in Romans one is you will give consent to those who are doing these things -- even though you may not be participating, you are giving consent, you are approving. This is what silence does. This is when the church refuses to be the church, refuses to stand up like a mighty army to be the light piercing the darkness. This is what happens, and it is not pleasing to God. An awakening, and a return to God and *The Lamb's Agenda* is for us to get on being who he said we are in him and in the power of his spirit.

Sammy: The quintessential oxymoron, oxymoronic phrase, "comfortable Christianity." There is no such thing. There is no such thing as comfortable Christianity.

I saw a little special on the National Geographic's channel and it moved my life. It shook me. It's in this book, I wrote about it. There was this lion; this lion who had captured more for his children, his little cubs were right here, his little children were right here. He was wounded. The narrator even said, initially, "He is mortally wounded." The lion was so wounded that he couldn't lift up his head, according to the

narrator and he was bleeding profusely. Couldn't open up his eyes or his paws -- couldn't do anything. He was just there. His babies were right here; the next generation was right here. His enemies approached. This time they assumed he was dead. They came for them.

At the very last moment when they were about to touch and destroy his babies, the lion had one thing left -- just one thing, he had a roar. It was a broken roar, it wasn't perfect but it was a roar nonetheless. The lion roared. Without exception, every single one of the enemies left, vacated. They left, they did not touch what belonged to him.

The narrator said this, "The enemies of a lion know very well that as long as he can roar they cannot take away what belongs to him." Silence is not an option. The lamb is also the lion -- the lamb is also the lion. If we live out *The Lamb's Agenda*, we will activate that lion's roar anointing to make a sound of righteousness and justice that will change this world upside up for the glory of Christ.

James: It is our hope! It is our hope!

Do you appreciate Sammy Rodriguez?

From the bottom of my heart, Sammy, I love you! And I thank you.

And if you would like to have *The Lamb's Agenda*, you can get it in the bookstores. You can go online to any of the Internet web sites and get it. But I'll tell you what, if you'd like to have it -- when I wrote with Jay Richards, a Catholic philosopher, and we joined with the blessing of the Catholics and the Protestant leadership and said, "You write this" and we've given you a textbook. Here's another one pushing us along in the right direction, *The Lamb's Agenda*.

If you help us give people water right now because it is our goal to drill 500 freshwater wells, we'll gladly send you this book along with other gifts to bless you. I want you to look in right now on the situation we face to change lives and save lives and we have to do it together. This is the horizontal outreach.

On the mission field

Announcer: When you're poverty stricken and don't have access to clean water, each day that passes takes a toll on you and your children because of having to drink contaminated water. Death is no stranger to this village. As several families have lost children to waterborne illnesses, people like Fernando, Filana, and Flores, they have all

suffered the heartache of losing loved ones simply because they had no other choice but to drink contaminated water.

Janine, a mother of three, takes this journey each day to collect water from one of the very same sources that have taken the lives of people in her village. Janine lives in fear that one of her children may become the next victim of a waterborne disease.

If we act now, we can change that reality for Janine and her children and thousands of other mothers by providing them with clean water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I'm believing that we're going to be an answer to her need and her family and that village. Betty, we have set the largest -- the largest goal we've ever set to drill water wells of 500 wells this year. Some people could say when economic times are hard and people are hard-pressed, how could you reach out even more? Because I think sometimes our most challenging times that's when we can step up with the strength and enabling of the Lord, and really pour out the greatest expression of God's love possible.

We know the areas that the missionaries have identified. I think it is very important for you to understand that these areas have been pointed out to us by missionaries who were sent by God to the people in these areas to deliver the message of God's love. They know as we do, that it is so much more important to deliver it and demonstrate it, not just in word but in deed, in action -- to really reach out. These people need water. Would you help us drill 500 wells?

Betty and I committed a long time ago to drill a well every time our ministry says, "Now's the time; we need to do it." We asked God to enable us to and it was a stretch. And then the cost of wells increased and we continued to trust God and he's enabled us to do it. And I believe he enables us to do it because we wanted to do it. And God said, "If you give a cup of water." What about a well of water? We can tell you beyond reservation he has blessed us and he will bless every person who blesses others.

Would you reach out today and touch someone with love? Will you dial that number? It's a lifeline. Would you dial that number and say, "I want to help you drill a well." They cost \$4800. Betty and I have been able to drill a well every time we've had that opportunity.

We have many people who say, "I'm going to do it." And then we have others who say, "Oh, I wish I could. I'm going to pray I can." I'm asking all our viewers to pray you can drill a well before the year's out. But some people say, "Well, I can drill part of one." \$1200, pray three others join you. \$2400, pray another person joins you.

But here's the thing I want you to keep in mind because Betty, this is really the key, this is what makes it work. \$48, ten people water the rest of their life. You talk about, don't you wish you could have a water bill like that? Don't you wish that you could find something that worked like that? Well, hey! It might not work for you but it will work in those impoverished villages and areas of the world. A billion people don't have access to clean water. We start ten people at a time. \$144 gift: 30 people Water for Life.

Would you simply reach out and touch someone with love? We've got some beautiful gifts we want to send you: *Majesty*, The names of God revealed in scripture and what they mean. You'll be blessed -- you will be greatly blessed! The beautiful *Names of God* pens, the *Fruit of the Spirit* pens, they will be a blessing.

We give you these gifts to say thank you but also to bless you. They become witnessing opportunities as well as growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Would you make that call? Use your bankcard like a check or go online LifeToday.org and make the gift God put on your heart. Please do it. You're going to make all the difference in someone's life.

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 *Majesty*, an inspirational new, fully illustrated book that will help you discover the promises behind the many names of God.

With your gift of \$100 or more, be sure to also request “The Names of God” pen set custom crafted with the various names of God and the gifts of the spirit.

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*.”

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: You're going to love this book, Majesty and the names of our wonderful God. And if you'd like to have *The Lamb's Agenda*, because we're going to get on with the lamb's agenda and you help us drill these water wells with whatever gift God puts on your heart, if you'd like to have it, ask for it.

Join with Betty and me, and all of you, to just say thanks to Sammy. Love you, buddy! We're yoked up together! And let's all yoke up member to member submitted to the head. God bless you. Let's get on with the lamb's agenda. Thanks so much for your help!

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 governor Mike Huckabee, international author and speaker Christine Caine, Reverend Samuel Rodriguez, speaker and best-selling author Lisa Bevere, 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.