

10/15/13

Week 42

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us! I'm so excited because we're going to get to hear Sammy Rodriguez again.

James: Well, we're going to hear the conclusion of his message. I'm James Robison, Betty and I are thrilled to literally welcome you into the Awaken conference.

By the way, those messages we made available in the very near future, the entire conference, all the speakers but I honestly think as Sammy delivered the last message, I closed; I had some closing remarks and the Lord obviously blessed that time. But I don't know that I ever heard anyone lay it on the line any more clearly than Sammy did, and the boldness. This illustration of where he took us when he was invited to a great big event in Washington and where he led us, all the people, and all the listeners and all the nation.

This message is something I wish that you would ask your pastor and your church leaders to play. It's only about a 20 minute message in total and you're going to hear the last part of it. Just play it to the whole church on the big screen. Play it in your Bible studies. You'll be able to get this very, very soon. You can watch it online, tell others to go online and see it. But you are going to be mightily blessed as Sammy Rodriguez who is literally over more than 40,000 Hispanic churches who are in love with Jesus and they are a blessing to us. This is a voice from God to the church and to America today. Here's the conclusion of Sammy Rodriguez's message from the Awaken Now conference.

Begin video clip

Sammy: The agenda of the lamb awakens the message of the cross, for hung on a tree, Galatians 3:13, became a curse for us. No other symbol incorporates passion and promise like the cross. A simple symbol depicting two pieces of wood, one vertical and the other horizontal, successfully branded the eternal hope of glory to all mankind. And Madison avenue and multimillion dollar campaigns have not been able to reproduce the loyalty, commitment, and even to a great degree, multigenerational allegiance to a message conveyed beyond a humble conduit of a brand, not written on

the wood, but incarnated in the spirit of what it represents, grace and eternal life. That universal Christian symbol vociferously and with unbridled persuasion not only conveys a message of what is to come but of a life that truly is -- life is a cross.

As Lisa so eloquently referenced that the cross is both vertical and horizontal. Life is both vertical and horizontal. Vertically we stand connected to God, his kingdom, eternal life, spiritual truths, divine principles and glory. Horizontally, to our left and to our right -- [smiling] –

[Laughter]

-- we exist around it and reveal through community, relationships, family, culture, and society. Simply stated the cross is both vertical and horizontal; it is both redemption and relationship, holiness and humility, covenant and community, kingdom and society, righteousness and justice, salvation and transformation, ethos and pathos, John 3:16 and Matthew 25, orthodoxy and orthopraxy, Billy Graham and Dr. King, faith and policy, prayer and activism, sanctification and service, the Imago Dei and the habits of Christ, missions and the marketplace, the new Jerusalem and Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

[Cheers & applause]

And for too long people have lived either vertically or horizontally, but a few, even in Christian leadership have succeeded in living, speaking, equipping ministry from where the vertical and the horizontal plains of the cross intersect, the nexus of Christianity. It is the place where conviction marries compassion, where the fishes intersect with the bread and truth joins hands with mercy. It is the place where we reconcile the optics of redemption with the metrics of reconciliation.

The Imago Dei with the Habitus Christus, the prophetic with the practical, faith with action. The Lamb's agenda stands committed to both the vertical and the horizontal. We need a church committed to saving the lost and transforming our communities, to addressing sin and confronting injustice, to protecting life, and alleviating poverty, to reaching the sinner and reforming the culture. It is not either/or it's both/and; it's the

lamb's agenda. We need to reconcile Billy Graham's message of salvation through Christ.

By the way, this may be completely politically incorrect, and it may get people upset in the year 2013 but there are not five ways to get to heaven, four ways to get to heaven, three ways to get to heaven, two ways to get to heaven -- and this is even more politically incorrect and may appear sometime in the newspaper tomorrow but it is okay. Mohammed cannot take you to heaven. Buddha cannot take you to heaven. Other ways cannot take you to heaven. There is only one way to heaven and his name is Jesus Christ. There is no other way but Jesus. No other way but Christ! No other way! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

[Cheers & applause]

Behold the lamb!

Let this be the generation that will reconcile Billy Graham's message with Dr. King's march. Let this be the generation that will sing there is room at the cross and we shall overcome one day. And about to finish the agenda of the lamb awakens with the new song, silence is not an option. That I saw a lamb, (revelation chapter five,) looking as it had been slain standing at the center of the throne encircled by four living creatures and they sang a new song.

We cannot permit the pathetic noise to silence the prophetic voice. Silence is not an option when so many -- so many are slaughtered in and out the womb. Silence is not an option. When men abandon their roles as fathers and our children are slaughtered, when pornography marries technology, God is mocked, pushers are more admired than preachers, school grounds look like battlegrounds, and our neighbors sit paralyzed by the gate called beautiful begging for change. It is time to sing a new song.

I was at -- we can't be quiet. I was invited to make a prayer for this event in Washington, D.C. it was a large event -- mucho, mucho people.

[Laughter]

And I do mean mucho. And I was invited to pray. And the organizer is a television personality who you recognize, not a believer, but he invited me. He's a friend. He said, "Rodriguez, I want you to come in and I want you to pray for the United States."

"It is a secular event; it has nothing to do with Christianity. Why would you want me to pray?"

"I just want you to pray."

"You want me to come and pray for an event that has absolutely no spiritual content?"

"Yeah, I want you to pray."

I go, "You want me to pray? You want me to -- all right, I'll pray."

So they flew me in. It was a large event. I do mean very large, a couple hundred thousand people. I come in and I get -- I go backstage and right there, going out there next to the Washington monument, and we're going up and the personality looks at me and says, "We changed the program."

Again, I took that red eye flight from Frisco to D.C. so it's my third caramel macchiato, and I'm looking and I'm going, "What?"

He said, "We changed the program. You're still praying but in the spirit of correctness, we invited other people, other faith narratives to pray. You know how it is."

I said, "No, I don't. But go ahead and tell me."

He says, "Well..." And it just sounds like three guys to a bar but you've got to see it.

[Laughter]

He goes, "We have a Universalist minister who will pray. We have an imam, (the Muslim faith,) we have a rabbi and you're the Christian." He goes, "You want to pray first or last?"

Something inside of me said, "Son, you better pray last and fix all the mess everybody else makes out there."

[Cheers & applause]

So I said, "I'll pray last." With great humility I'll pray last.

[Laughter]

So the first lady went up. She goes up first and she prayed, "God, you're the God of many names and no name at all. You're the air, you're the wind, you're the rock, you're the leaf. You're the tree, you are everything and yet you are nothing. Amen."

[Laughter]

Well, isn't that special! And the imam prayed in the name Allah and the Rabbi did a good prayer.

And I'm coming up and I'm fighting with God and I don't know if you know but God is bilingual so I'm fighting with God. I'm saying, "Senor, porque tue metes in este lio, Senor?"

[Laughter]

"God, why are you putting me in this? I thought you opened the door no man can close. I had an open door. The door was open so I just went right through it because you opened the door. I mean I took a six-hour flight and now I'm... And I'm going back home. I went... I don't want to make them uncomfortable. I don't want to make them --. I thought I had a prayer, but I don't want to make them feel bad. How do I pray here? I had the script ready and now -- I'm not here for -- I'm here to pray. But

they're here, how do I pray now? Will I pray in the name of what? The air? What do I pray?"

And the Lord, the Spirit of God told me, "Just pray like you do at church."

Y'all have never been to my church.

[Laughter]

So I grabbed the mike, hit the mike, looked and said, "Okay. This is a crowd."

[Laughter]

Everybody is like a deer in the headlights looking at you.

"Let's pray."

[Laughter]

"In the name that is above all the other names..."

[Cheers & applause]

"In the name to whom which every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess, no other name given unto men through by which salvation has come unto all mankind, in the name of he who saves, he who delivers, he who heals, and he who is coming back again, in the name of my lord and my savior, Jesus Christ we pray."

[Cheers & applause]

For the next four to six minutes the place wouldn't stop clapping and shouting. They couldn't stop. They couldn't continue. And someone asked, "Why are people reacting this way to a simple prayer? Why are they reacting like this?"

Real simple; there is still power in the name of Jesus!

[Cheers & applause]

There is still power in the name of Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus!

[Cheers & applause]

America, there is power in the name of Jesus so I tell you now to awaken. I encourage you to rise up. Understand that the agenda of the Lamb awakens extraordinary overcomers; understand they have defeated him by the blood of the lamb and by their testimony.

We overcome when we understand that an assignment without an anointing is like carrying around a million dollar check without a signature. You can't do much with it. We overcome when we praise beyond our problem and give beyond our need, when we reach beyond our circle and we love beyond those that love us. We overcome when we understand that cultural reformation requires political engagement as an act of prophetic activism. We overcome when we understand that there is no such animal as comfortable Christianity. We overcome when we understand that Christianity is less about promoting the perfect and more about blessing the broken. We overcome when we understand that today's complacency is tomorrow's captivity. We overcome when we understand that spiritual stagnation always leads to spiritual atrophy. And we overcome when we understand that Uncle Sam may be our uncle but he will never be our heavenly father.

[Cheers & applause]

Rise up! Rise up and speak truth! Rise up and heal in his name. Rise up and deliver with power! Rise up with a new song. Rise up as the Good Samaritan. Rise up and live our true religion. Rise up and clothe the naked. Rise up and give shelter to the homeless. Rise up in the -- life. Rise up from the bottom to Beverly Hills. Rise up and preach the word in and out of season, make disciples, fulfill the great commission and

worship God in spirit and in truth. And when the broken soul says, "No one can open the book of my deliverance. Who can possibly heal me?" Let us shout out, "To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever!" Amen! God bless you and God keep you!

[Cheers & applause]

James: Lord Jesus, I want you to put such a shelter and a shadow over Sammy that he can never move out of the very center of it. I want you to be the shepherd that directs every step he takes and every word he says. Holy Spirit, I want you to fill him so full to overflowing that all of the resistance on planet earth cannot ever slow down the release of the power of your spirit and the water of your life. And God, I pray that he'll walk in such humility before you that he will be that yielded vessel through whom you can flow a river of living water that cannot be stopped but will quench every thirsty heart and life in America!

God keep your arms around him. He is so special. Everything you've ever placed on me that was of value and important, put it on him. Put a double portion on him, God and let the world and the church hear the message you put in him. And God let that message burn in the heart of every preacher, priest, and person and every Christian on this planet.

Dear God, thank you for what you're doing. Use us according to your will. Thy kingdom come! Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done right here on earth right now through us for your glory forever and ever and ever!

And the church said amen! Amen! Amen!

End of clip

In the studio

James: And amen! Father, grant it please. I pray that for every one of you not only here in the United States, North America and Canada, Central and South America, but around the world. That God's power, his presence, his Holy Spirit will so fill us to overflowing that a mighty river will flow freely, and wherever it flows new life,

renewing of lives, restoring lives and relationships, eternal life, transformed lives will be the result of the free-flowing release of that living water.

We do not have to forfeit the future, our personal freedom, our national freedom to the power of darkness, deception, defeat, and destruction. We do not have to yield our lives, our family, our churches, to a spirit of division and dissension. We can stand together like a family of faith in faith, like a mighty army against the tidal wave of rebellion and immorality and ungodliness that seems to be prevailing on planet earth.

Sammy Rodriguez is a gift from God to us in the church but so are you. Every one of us have been called and set apart to be witnesses for Christ. Betty's testimony in the book that we're offering is so typical of so many people in the church who feel like for some reason they're either too timid or too quiet to release the glory of God. And no one has released God's glory and beauty and peace any more beautifully than Betty has when she yielded her life to that free-flowing river. We can do that together.

I want you to listen now to the story of someone who needs freedom and who found it because of love expressed through people just like you. This is going to inspire you and bless you.

On the mission field:

Announcer: If brokenness had a face it would be Dalene's -- her spirit, her will, her body. All at the cruel hand of sex trafficking.

Dalene: After my mother died, a lady came and told me she would raise me like her daughter. But instead, she sold me to a brothel to pay off her debts. I have scars from the chains they put on me. They force me to service eight to ten men each night, and we are not allowed to eat or drink unless we do.

If girls are disobedient, they're sent away by boat and they never come back. I haven't felt love since my mother died. I want freedom. I want to not live in hell anymore. This life, it is like hell to me.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: What do we need to do, Betty, to help her? Because I know it is possible.

Betty: We can help these young ladies, these children that are being trafficked.

They're being put in prison of no choice of their own; they're being used and discarded like garbage, like trash but we can make the difference.

We can give them a place to go. We can reach out and help them and let them know there is someone that cares about them. We can give them that hope that they feel like there is none around them close by. She says she feels like she is living in hell every day. I can't even imagine! But we want them to know what it is like to have hope and peace in their hearts.

James: We want you to know that we did rescue her.

Father, thank you! Thank you!

And when I say "we" do you understand that although Betty and I give, there would never be a time that Betty and I wouldn't give to rescue quite a few of those girls because we ask God to let us do it, enable us to do it. We started one at a time but she's been rescued.

The beautiful thing is that Dalene has been rescued and she's having a new future built, and by the grace of God, we're going to be able show you in the future what's happened to her because of the love of God through someone like you.

Would you right now be kind and loving enough to reach out and dial the telephone number that's there, a prayer line for you if your heart's broken or you need comfort or counsel or encouragement? You just need someone to listen?

Today there is someone waiting to answer in behalf of girls just like that -- thousands of children that we can rescue before they're sold to the traffickers, oftentimes because their family is in debt. And they always believe the lie that if they let the child go for a certain amount of money they're going to take them and educate them and they're going to get a good job. Not the case -- they're sold into bondage and slavery, sometimes taken far from their home or even their country land.

But we have joined hands and hearts with the people who are rescuing them because they love them, with Christian missionaries who care so deeply, and we're giving them the wherewithal, the ability to take care of them. The average cost to rescue one of those girls is \$128; \$1280... And I wish you would do this if you could, we can rescue ten.

Along with rescuing these children where we've targeted the outreaches in various areas, some places we can name, some we can't, it has to be kept quiet in order to protect the workers, but right now we not only need your help, three quarters of a million dollars plus, to rescue those we've already seen in areas and we need to add a great addition, restoration to the Ukraine *LIFE* Center where we're reaching so many because it burned and was damaged.

So we're asking you to dial the number or go online. If you could make a \$128 gift or a \$1280 gift or give a special additional gift to help us restore the *LIFE* Center, please do so. We've got some beautiful gifts for you that will bless you and help you grow in your spiritual journey.

Remember, this is the last week and I'm asking you to call right now that number or go online and make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it.

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.

This is the last week so please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip

On the mission field

>> Worldwide there are 1.2 million children that are trafficked into the sex industry every year -- that's two every minute! Those are facts. But you know what really concerns me? These are lives. It's our goal to reach, to rescue, and to restore young girls who have been trafficked into this sex industry.

So please, go to the phone right now. Make that call because without you, we can't do anything to make life possible in places like this. You're a vital part of the rescue.

In the studio:

James: I do hope that you will ask for the beautiful "Christian" bronze, the commemorative bronze. I pray you will.

I know you've enjoyed Sammy Rodriguez's message. If you missed yesterday's or you've got friends you want to hear it, tell them to go to LifeToday.org, just key it up and you can watch it. And you've got our permission, Sammy's permission; you can download it from the computer and play it to your Bible study group or to your church. But the product will be made available, and all the teaching, here in the very near future. I know you enjoyed it and pass the word on and tell people to watch *LIFE Today* every day. Thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*.