

11/18/13
Week 47
James and Betty Robison
Andy Andrews 1

James: Oh, boy! What a joy. Hey, you're fun! Thank you for being here. Come join us. We normally tape on Tuesday nights. We'd love you to come and be here in the studio. Do we have fun here all evening? People don't get to see a lot of the fun stuff.

Am I telling the truth about how fun it is? You just call *LIFE Outreach*, say we want tickets. It doesn't cost anything. As a matter of fact, we could pay the audience to come and clap. You need a job, here you go.

[Laughter]

I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We have got one of our favorite people on the planet, Andy Andrews is here. And Robert Morris, our pastor says -- and listen to this -- I've got to have a little talk with Robert.

Robert, let me talk to you in a little bit.

He says, "Andy Andrew is my favorite author -- my very favorite!"

Robert! Robert, I write books.

[Laughter]

This is my pastor.

Robert, we give to the church.

But this is kind of what everybody says about him. And here is *The Noticer Returns*. Now he wrote *The Traveler's Gift*. Of course some of you saw him when he was on *How*

to Kill 11 Million People; that ought to go over well in church.

[Laughter]

It was about Hitler and how he deceived. Today much of the world is deceived. Andy made that clear. He did *The Butterfly Effect*; how a butterfly can start a hurricane -- scientific fact.

But *The Noticer* -- interesting, and now *The Noticer Returns*. And I've got to tell you, Andy --

By the way, welcome Andy Andrews. He's here. I've just been talking about him, he's here.

If I'm going to be talk about you, I'm glad you were here. Here's the thing because I do get a lot of books. I get books piled on. People leave them on my doorsteps.

Don't please! The thing is I trip over them. Look, I find it hard to put it down.

You really do have a gift. I mean that -- I'm not trying to be patronizing, I'm being as honest as is possible to be. God's given you a gift. I know you're amazed that people read your books. You really are. And you write about *The Noticer* and you call him "Jones." I could just start speculating and guessing at this guy because he keeps showing up. He doesn't age; right? From the first time *The Noticer* -- has he aged in *The Noticer Returning*?

Andy: Doesn't seem to have. I mean it was 30 years from the first time I saw him to the second time. And then six or seven years from the second time to the third time. And the odd thing is the people in the town, you can say, "Now what about Jones? How long have you known him?" And even the old people say, "Oh, he was old when I was a kid."

One of those -- but he's one of these guys that you didn't really know where he was from, you really didn't know where he stayed, we didn't know what was in that

suitcase he carried around. But you guys, he was the first person in my life to really tell me truth about myself. When I say that, people say, "What does that mean?"

Well, when you meet somebody having a tough time, what do we do? We give them \$10 or we put them on the prayer list but very rarely do we sit down with them and are so honest with them and tell them things about themselves that might make them angry at us, and this is what he did. It was a very different person and he did change the lives... and my life.

And he was all about perspective. That was the deal. He would talk about perspective. In fact, I heard him say one time... I was with him and he looked at this couple, this thing that was going on and he went, "Hmmm... almost to almost."

And I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "Well, most people live their lives as soon as they have a crisis they will try to cram an answer right into that square hole and sometimes answers are a matter of God's timing." He said, "You force that answer in there you'll get something and you'll be somewhere but it won't be that best that God has for your life." And he said, "Because they end up just to the side of the best, they start their life from there. You get in a habit of doing that and then they end up at some point in think life and the way they talk is like this. They say, 'You know, a few years ago our marriage was almost... You know it seemed like ten years ago, financially, I thought we were almost... You know, the kids, it was a time we were almost...' He said, "Life is almost to almost."

He said, "That's why God's perspective can be more important than anything in the middle of a crisis," he said, "because perspective brings calm, calm leads to clear thinking, clear thinking yields ideas, and ideas are the way God often gives us his answers in his timing."

James: Wow! This is Jones.

Andy: Yeah. This is Jones.

James: And is this the Jones in this book or the first book? Same Jones but this is a new lesson?

Andy: Same Jones.

James: He talks this way all the time?

Andy: It was very odd the way this old man talked. People asked he all the time. They say, "Is this real? Is this a real story?"

James: They want to know if he is a real person?

Andy: Yeah.

James: Do they want to know if he is an angel?

Andy: People do speculate about that.

James: They're guessing at who he is?

Andy: And I have speculated about it myself because my answer when people say is this real? I say, "This is more real than anything I've ever experienced in my life." But his answers...

James: Now is he *The Noticer*?

Andy: He is *The Noticer*. When I met Jones he would say -- he said, "When God was passing out talents, I didn't get the cool ones. I can't run fast, I can't sing great but I notice little things that make a big difference in people's lives." And he convinced me -- and a part of this story is about how our society has turned on its head what truth is. That we have become deceived like you said a few minutes ago.

James: While we were talking.

Andy: Right, while we were talking.

James: It was when I got to say something.

[Laughter]

Andy: Whoooo! I'll be the funny one. I'll be the funny one, James.

[Laughter]

But he would...

Betty: Well, he knows how I feel now.

[Laughter]

Andy: Exactly! Exactly! So I'm doing exactly she told me to do. But he would say to me about... or he had convinced me just how upside down a lot of our thinking is today; that our society has an amazing ability to think logically to the wrong conclusion.

There is a saying out there; people talk about don't sweat the small stuff. Don't sweat the small stuff. And Jones, one time I said... he was talking about something and I said, "Yeah, don't sweat the small stuff."

He said, "Let me tell you something about that." He said, "You know people talk about don't sweat the small stuff." He said, "Son, you better."

[Laughter]

And I said, "Really?"

He said, "Everybody says don't sweat the small stuff and everybody wants to have the big picture." He said, "But what you've got to remember is every big picture is made up of little bitty brush strokes that were tenderly applied or ignorantly applied every single moment of every single day." He said, "And what your life ends up being, a masterpiece or a disaster, will be a result of the little bitty brush strokes you put in there."

James: This guy's smart.

Andy: Wise.

James: Yeah wise. You feel fortunate to have met him?

Andy: I feel incredibly fortunate to tell that story. To have had that--

Betty: We can miss so much, I found out through the years that I've lived on this earth, when we get in a hurry and we want to get to the finish line or we want to get to that big picture that you talk about, the small stuff is important.

Andy: It is important. It is important! And when I found him this time he was teaching a parenting class. So a huge part of this book is what I learned because...

James: He said to parents? Jones?

Andy: Oh, yeah. Polly and I got in on the second class and they're only five of us in the class. And he...

James: Was there a single parent in there since there was only five?

Andy: Yes. Yes. I know you're trying to be funny but you're serious. Right! And it really changed my life. I have an 11 year old and a 13 year old, Polly and I do, and to have sat and listened and to have understood... I put this in the book because I really believe now that parenting is the fulcrum that our society tips upon. I really believe that.

If you look back -- I mean obviously today there aren't many things that people agree on but whether you're a democrat or a republican or a liberal, a conservative, a believer, a non believer, we all agree that 70 years ago there was a generation and that's the best we ever were. We even have a name for it, the Greatest Generation. And we look at those people and say, "Man, they sacrificed more, they became more, they produced more." But what you really look at is who was responsible for that and it was their parents and their grandparents because what standard did their parents and grandparents use to raise a generation that we remember today?

And then if you look at the past 70 years and you look at where we are today parenting is also a huge part of why we're where we are. James, let me tell you this.

I work with a lot of football teams, basketball teams, corporations, associations, and it hit me the other day that just about every disaster I have dealt with for somebody in the past five or six years, every one of them had its basis in parenting -- in the wrong kind of --

James: Or the absence of it?

Andy: Exactly! Exactly! Because you see, sometimes... this guy got fired because he was this way with a customer and all like that. It wasn't that adult challenge there because somebody should have told him and taught him how to act in that situation when he was eight.

And there are people who will try to... what do you call it? Compromise or try to rationalize with a three year old and they think, well, we need to talk to them. But you and I both -- because we've seen them, "Hey! One... I'm counting! Two..." and they're chasing them all over the room. But we all know when you look at it...

James: You're teaching them that you don't mean what you're saying to them. You're going to do a little count deal and all this stuff. Bad training! Stop it!

Andy: And we know that at some point this three year old is going to be headed

toward traffic or headed toward the stove with boiling oil and you're going to need to say, "Stop!" And know that he will to save his life. So there's this...

James: But when you get older you can give them understanding of why they don't. And you don't have to stick their hand in the pot of boiling water to say, "See, I told you." That's not understanding. You can explain it to them. It's fabulous.

Now you've written a book that it doesn't just appeal to religious folks but it does appeal to religious folks who are looking for real answers and real solutions and real wisdom but it is something everybody reads. It is the kind of thing that you can say, "Hey, read this." And here's the neat thing I found, is I got... because I'm curious about, okay, let's see. My pastor says this is his favorite author. So I go in here and I get to read --

Betty: You can't get over that; can you?

James: I know! I can't stop reading. I keep reading and I say, "Dad gum, what about this one over here?" And this -- and they're short chapters too which a lot of you like that. It is provocative, it is not elementary, it is captivating. It's interesting. It is interesting to anybody -- I'm telling you -- and I don't think a lot of times they realize how much wisdom and truth is being downloaded into their psyche, into their mind but that's precisely what you're doing and you're doing it effectively.

Andy: Well, I appreciate that. I'm trying... I feel like for a long time I didn't know what I was supposed to do. But I know now that I'm to write stories that non-Christians will actually read to create conversations between Christians and non-Christians.

James: And Christians will read it too so don't think it is just to the unsaved, which is the bigger part of the population and a lot of times it is the bigger part of the bunch sitting in church. But the point is they will read it. But Christians are inspired by it because it is like you said a while ago, they've missed wisdom in too many areas. They've just taken traditions of men and the ideas of men and they have absolutely missed the liberating truth. And that's what this guy Jones...

I want to talk about him again. I want to talk to you in another program and you actually addressed something... Jones addresses something about people who say, "I don't have a job. I don't know what to do." Are you okay touching on that a little bit?

Andy: I would love to!

James: And it doesn't mean they have to go start a big corporation or big business but how they can make something worthwhile. Tell me another interesting thing. We've just got a couple of minutes before I'm going to do something that I know you love because you've helped us. You've absolutely helped us do everything that we've ever had on our heart in the way of touching people's lives and I'm going to show you how to do that. Give me one other insight that people might enjoy about the uniqueness of *The Noticer Returning*.

Andy: An amazing insight, he said to me one day as I was talking, which you know I have a tendency to do. I said, "Well, let me tell you what I think. I think this... and I think that." He said, "You know you've got to be careful with that." I said, "What's that?" He said, "You can't believe everything you think."

[Laughter]

I said, "What?" He said,

"Well, people only think as hard as they're forced to, it seems like. And most of us, when we get out of school, there's nobody to force us to think anymore." He said, "Have you ever thought something that you were sure about and you could argue it and you could win the argument and then you found out later you were wrong?"

I said, "Sure."

He said, "Well, then is it possible you might be wrong about something now?"

I said, "Sure."

He said, "Well, if it is possible then we don't know what it is or how many things it might be." He said, "But people stop learning when they know something. And then when they bump against what they know then they move to something they don't know." He said, "But wisdom comes beyond what you know. And to continue to read and to think and to pray past what you know," he said, "because all you know is what you think and you can't always believe everything you think."

James: That's fabulous! And the Bible says, "You walk in a way not good following your own thoughts." That's the prophet Isaiah.

And also, if you'll remember that the enemy is attacking us and he has the flaming arrows which are not little cupid-type little darts. The darts of suggestions and thoughts and the enemy is continually making suggestions. They become fiery when the deceptive temptation, attractive thing he can present, whatever it is that's an enticement or potential entanglement, he'll present it in a way that when it sticks, it burns because it has lodged like unforgiveness, or lust or jealousy or hatred and anger -- all the resentment, all those things, they lodge. Those are not things you just created they are oftentimes a suggestion of the enemy. "You know they did that." "You know they don't mean it." "You know what they're doing." And he's firing.

You know this Jones guy, he's pretty impressive. We'll send you this book today. If somebody wanted to go online and find out more about Andy Andrews and all the different books you've written and see how they might get them, even access through your web site or find out where you're going to be speaking, where do they go?

Andy: AndyAndrews.com. I do a podcast every week that's absolutely free: In the Loop with Andy Andrews. I'm on Facebook. Find Andy Andrews and click like -- I will be your friend!

[Laughter]

And you got hundreds of thousands of people that are going there and doing a podcast. Did you say you did one related to what...

Andy: I absolutely have. A wish I knew the number of it right now. But if you go on AndyAndrews.com and look in podcast and look in that archives you will see I did a podcast and you haven't heard it yet, but I did a podcast about James and Betty because what we talk about on the podcast, we talk about family, we talk about business, we talk about...

James: Okay, now if I see this podcast will I still be willing to invite you back?

Andy: Absolutely! I am honored by what I have learned. You guys have been an incredible influence and example in my life and in the life of my wife. My wife, she thinks James -- James reminds Polly of her dad, and so you guys have been huge. I can't wait. This year we're going to get together and my boys will get to meet you guys. So we're just... I appreciate y'all than you would ever know.

James: We're going to have Andy back. Would you just like to have him back this week and talk some more about what do you do if you don't have a job? The book is in the bookstores.

I'll tell you what. If you'll just watch something that I don't think you're going to be able to take your eyes off of, you're going to be a noticer in a moment. I think you'll be a noticer. I want to see... this is going to be a good test. I want to see if you notice what I noticed when this came back to me by our mission team. I want to see if you notice what I notice because then I'm actually going to show you what I notice and what we can do about it. Watch this closely.

On the mission field

Tammy: I once heard an analogy of somebody walking near one of those big water fountains and a child was sitting on the edge of it and had fallen in. And his first response was to run over there and to rescue that child.

Gosh, it is that same feeling that I had when I walked into a little village here in Africa. I felt like I was seeing a bunch of little children sitting on an edge someplace or a ledge

and they were about to fall in. These children are dying because they have no food. Gosh, I felt like I just wanted to reach out to every single one of them saying, "I'll rescue you! I'll help you! I'll save you!" I'm looking back at all of my friends saying come quickly! Like help me! I need your help. We need to grab them. Like one at a time -- I can't do this by myself. I'm asking you to come quickly. There is a desperate need. These children are dying right now every six seconds we lose another one.

Tammy: That breaks my heart because I can love them, I can love them deeply for moments... but then I leave. So I think the challenge for me was what can I do for them?

And I love what I've learned this week. *LIFE Outreach* has a beautiful mission feeding program and they have the means to go into so many of these villages and communities and set up this program. By just giving each child one bowl a day, which produces life, it could change a future for every one of these children -- that's the beauty of what I learned this week.

End of clip

In the studio

James: What did you see when you listened to Tammy talk about what she was watching? When those children gathered, just take a look at that. I want to tell you what I saw when you saw the crowd coming right there and we zoomed in. What did you see? Did you think you saw children lining up to get food?

Can I tell you what I saw? I saw children gathering to be loved. That's what they were gathering for. They heard love's here. Because see, there wasn't any food there until we had just established it, which they're going to see unfold in front of them. But as you looked into that crowd... now just think about this... you begin to see little faces and images.

Look at that! Look at that little boy; he's right there in that crowd. When I look at him, I see a little boy that I want to hear me say, "Hey! God noticed you and I did too." He's looking up. He's not looking for food right there, he's looking for love.

And then did you notice at the end and boy, what an incredible missionary representative Tammy Trent is, her beautiful musical ability and ability to sing and communicate; lost her husband, do you remember? Her husband, they were young newlyweds. He was a great swimmer and drowned swimming. It took them days to find him. Just disappeared!

And look at her. And there she is talking about what she is seeing at the end. Do you remember at the end what you saw when she was talking about what does *LIFE Outreach* do? And you saw those bowls? And you saw her putting it in that *LIFE Outreach* does it and you saw these orange bowls like that?

Let me tell you what I saw. I saw love expressed by someone like you. Do you think those missionaries could have taken those bowls out there and put that nutritious porridge mix that's been especially designed for the nutritional needs in that particular area. Who put it in there? Love put it in there. Someone who said, "I noticed, I saw them, I loved them."

Would you do that today? Would you literally reach out -- I'm asking you right there where you are, I want you to reach out and put the arms of God around a child. Did you see Tammy holding that little baby? -- That precious little baby? Well, you're going to hold that baby. You're going to enable the missionary to hold them, and the mother, a parent to hold a healthy little baby that's been saved because you're going to put something in the bowl that will go into their little body to give them life. Now will you do it?

Let me tell you the miracle God's done for us because if we'll just take care of three children for the next several months, it takes \$30, we can feed them. \$50, we can feed five. \$100 we can feed ten.

Now here's what's happened. Because people have love and they noticed and cared, they said, "We'll match what you give. If you want to help feed ten children, make it 20." You give that gift of \$100 and you're now feeding 20 children. Your gift of \$50 and you're feeding ten, your gift of \$30 you're feeding six. Six prayers answered for little

children from a mother like that, from those children that get in that crowd to be loved. Would you reach out please?

Father, I pray every person will right now move to get their bankcard, to go online, whatever -- to say, "I'm going to love those children. I see them like God sees them; in Jesus' name." Would you right now? Go get your bankcard, use it like a check, that's how you should use them. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail.

If you get a busy and that's a good sign, because people are either calling to give their life to Christ, to be prayed with or they're calling to give. You say, "I'm getting through because I'm going to give life." Or you can go online at LifeToday.org. Know that what you give is going to be matched. You'll be doubling the number of children because of love. Would you do it please? You might tack an extra dollar on for every child and say, "I'm going to give all those ten children or 20 children, I'm going to tack another \$20 or another \$10 and give them all a bowl" because that's what they cost. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation, and those hit the hardest are their children.

Life's Mission Feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. But our food reserves are gone and we desperately need your support to replenish our supplies at more than 800 feeding centers immediately. As an answer to prayer, a group of LIFE's friends have set a \$550,000 end-of-year matching challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact!

\$30 to help three children will be doubled to impact six children! \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save ten children. And \$100 for 10 children will be doubled to help feed and minister to 20 children.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Christine Caine's powerful new teaching series *Moving Past Your Past*, on audio CD along with her book, *Can I Have and Do It All Please?*

With your double impact gift of \$100 to help save the lives of 20 children you may request both the audio and video series. And as a bonus, we'll send you Christine's latest book release, *Undaunted*.

Finally, please consider a double impact gift of \$1,000 to help save the lives of 200 children. And you may request our 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, "Brotherly Love." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I really want to encourage you to pray about giving \$1,000 and ask for the commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love." This is an older brother feeding a younger brother with one of the bowls with the food you put in it. And now you give the \$1,000 it won't just help 100 children but 200.

And remember, we're sending you Christine Caine's *Moving Past Your Past* teaching, the books she's written, and today, if you'd like to have it, boy, you talk about wisdom and a treasure, best-selling author, rightly so, what a message he's got. If you'll help make any gift to help give those children love and life, we'll send you Andy Andrews book, *The Noticer Returns*. You won't be able to put it down. You'll be saying what Robert Morris says, "This is my favorite author." I know that.

Would you say thanks to Andy Andrews for being here?

God bless you, Andy. Bless you!

Thank all of you for watching! Thank all of you for being here! Thank you so much for sharing life and love. Thank you!