

1/20/14
Week 4: Water for Life
James and Betty Robison
Tony Evans: Awaken Now

James: Well, I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you be a part of this incredible crowd of people, some 4,000 who came; actually over 5,000 registered from almost every state, many foreign countries. You may not have been part of that crowd but you're about to be a part of the Awaken Now Conference.

And then, the good news is, Betty, you can have every speaker, every one of these gifted teachers and communicators teaching under the anointing of God something that the church and the whole earth needs to hear, America needs to hear. You can get the messages on transcript and hear these great speakers. I promise you, you are going to be inspired and blessed beyond measure. So I look forward to you getting the DVD's, CD's. And right now, you get to hear one of those incredibly anointed speakers. Here is Dr. Tony Evans.

Begin video clip

Dr. Evans: I've been a chaplain for the Cowboys for a while, and my son Jonathan, my youngest, has taken over those responsibilities once he stopped playing in the N.F.L. And I've been the chaplain for the Mavericks the whole time. They give me four tickets -- they give me four tickets to the game. And when they gave me four tickets to the game, I ask sometimes, any of the guys, "You want to go to the game?" I said, "Look, don't drive. Come with me because I have premium parking right in front of American Airlines Center. If you go, you're going to have to pay \$15 a car to park so you don't want to do that. You want to come with me because I have free parking right in front of American Airlines Center. You come with me, you park for free. They're going to let you park for free, not because of who you are but because of who I am.

[Laughter]

They're going to let you piggyback off of me because you are in conjunction with me.

Now we're not going to go through the public door, we're going to go through the private door. They're going to let you go through private door not because of who you are but because of who I am. When we get downstairs they're going to serve a four course meal. You get to eat a free four course meal but you don't get that meal because they know you, you get that meal because they know me."

[Laughter]

"And when the game is over, we're not rushing where everybody is else rushing, we're going out a private exit, up a private elevator, out a private door to the private parking lot. We'll be in the car, halfway home before most people have gotten to their cars. And the reason that whole day will have occurred has absolutely nothing to do with you. It has everything to do with me! You go on your own you're on your own. You go with me, you get the rights, privileges, and benefits of the association."

Jesus is saying today, "You're with me." [Applause] "And unless there is association with me, the authority that comes with me you do not share in." So he gives three participles, he says, "Go." Now you can study the word *go* in Hebrew, Greek, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Syriac and *go* means -- go.

[Laughter]

It means don't stay.

Matthew chapter ten uses this. It says, "Going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, tell them the Messiah has come." So going meant to declare the messianic word; to make declaration about Jesus Christ. Not declaration about God, because all authority has been delegated to Jesus Christ. So we're not talking about God here. Yes, we're including God obviously, because of the Trinitarian nature but we're specifically talking about, as you'll see in a moment, the second member of the Trinity. He says, "I want you to go and make your association with me clear." Don't be ambiguous or ambivalent, apologetic your association with me.

When you vote for a candidate, you put placards in your yard, you put bumper stickers on your car, you go around declaring, you try to get other people to buy into your candidate. You're unapologetic about your association for the candidate that you are pushing for election. If you can go public for a man who is here today, or a woman, and gone tomorrow, how come you can't go public about the association with the king of kings and Lord of Lords who possesses all authority?

[Applause]

See, it is easy to be Christian in church and it is easy to be Christian in a conference, but you have all seen on television at the home game of the Cowboys somebody showing up with a Redskin jersey. They're in enemy territory unapologetic about who they're standing for even though nobody else agrees. Well, if you're willing to stand for the home team in a visiting scenario, even though they don't agree with you where you work, where you live, where you operate, it ought to be clear what jersey you are wearing; that you have made your public stand for Jesus who is the Christ. Why? -- Because all authority has been delegated to him.

He says, "Baptize them." He doesn't mean get them wet. First of all he says, "Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," something you've never seen done in Acts. You never see anybody saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." You don't see that. Not because it is wrong, but that's not what he is talking about.

The word *baptism* is from the Greek word *baptizo*. And baptizo was used of a dye maker -- a dye maker. Back in Jesus' day, if a mother wanted to make her daughter a pink dress she could go and buy the cloth. She would take it to the dye maker and say, "I want to make pink dress for my daughter." So the dye maker would dip the cloth in pink dye, brush off the extraneous dye, hang it up, let it dry and then give it to the mother.

He would baptize the cloth, which is immerse it in a color dye so that the cloth would come up looking like whatever the color was that he baptized, dipped, or immersed the cloth in. And he was known as the baptizer when it came to cloth. He colored it. He identified it in this new color.

Color is a big deal today. The Zimmerman trial and the loss of Trayvon Martin have made color association a big deal. And it appears like it will become a bigger deal. But your chief color, as a follower of Jesus Christ, ought to be red because you should have been dipped in his blood. [Cheers & Applause] Your chief identification ought to be because you've been dipped in Christ and therefore, any cultural associations must be secondary to spiritual association.

[Applause]

That I make my judgment calls based on my relationship to the kingdom up there not based on the culture I'm a part of down here.

We are to neither be blinded by blackness or warped by whiteness because we ought to be Christian first. In fact, it is technically incorrect to say "I'm a black Christian" or a "white Christian" because then you make black and white an adjective, you make Christian a noun. The job of the adjective is to modify the noun. So if you've got Christian in the noun position and color in the adjectival position you've got to keep changing the noun to reflect the color of the adjective that you said it was. You've got to put Christianity in the adjectival position, your culture in the noun position, so that if anything changes, it is the noun of your humanity, not the the adjective of your faith. Your Christianity must define you. [Cheers & Applause]

Because your allegiance first and foremost must be to Jesus Christ, and it ought to be clear. Everybody else is coming out of the closet, you might as well come out too.

[Cheers & Applause]

This is not a day for secret agent Christians, spiritual C.I.A. representatives and covert operatives. This is a day when you let your flag ring high in a culture in chaos. Jesus is not lacking Christians. Yes, we want to win people to Christ but when it comes to his operation in history he's having trouble finding disciples with whom he can share his authority; His ability to overrule in history.

And then he says, "Teach them." What did he teach them? -- Numerology, ecclesiology, eschatology, anthropology? No, he says, "Teach them to observe." That means how to live -- how to live it out. "Teach them how to live out my truth in their world." Because doctor, you're not supposed to be a doctor, you're supposed to be God's representative in the medical field so the medical field sees what God looks like

when God helps hurting people. Lawyer, you're not just supposed to be a lawyer. You're supposed to be God's representative in the Bar Association so the Bar Association can see what God looks like when God tries a case. Businessman, you're not just supposed to be a businessman. You're supposed to be God's representative in the arena of business or the business world sees what God looks like when God cuts a deal. Teacher, you're not just supposed to be a teacher. You're supposed to be God's representative in the classroom so the classroom gets to see what God looks like when God teaches a lesson because your job is to represent his truth in your world. Teach them how to observe it, live it, apply it -- not just talk it.

Let me ask you a question. If you were accused of being a Christian on your job would there be enough evidence to convict you or would you be found innocent of all charges? If you were accused of being a visible, verbal follower of Jesus Christ, could we convict you? Not a church member, not a deacon, not having a ministry, but a public representative of the one who has been authorized to share his authority with us on earth. Our problem is discipleship; radical followers of Jesus Christ in public.

One of the most misquoted verses, and I know I'm going to throw a little wrench with you right now, but one of the misquoted verses is Romans 10:9: If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. I've got a problem with that verse. Because according to that verse you've got to do two things to be saved, you've got to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart. So if that verse is talking about justification then I've got to do two things to be justified, I've got to say something with my mouth, and believe in my heart.

But then I've got a problem because if the book of John is the book that is supposed to tell me how to get saved, the book of John never mentions that I have to confess. So either the book of Saint John, which is supposed to tell me how I get saved, is either incomplete or I've got a contradiction because Romans 10:9 tells me I've got to do two things, I've got to confess and believe unless they're not talking about the same thing.

See I'd like to suggest to you Romans 10:9 is not telling sinners how to become saints but telling saints how to be saintly. Jesus said, "If you deny me before men," Matthew chapter 10, "I will deny you before my Father who is in Heaven. If you confess," -- same word -- "...me before men, I will confess you before my Father, which is in Heaven." In other words, Romans 10:9 is telling you how to have authority to be saved or delivered as a believer on earth. You have to accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior to be justified but to be empowered, you've got to open up your mouth and declare your association and your allegiance. If you are a silent Christian you may see Jesus in Heaven but you won't experience much of him in history.

He says, "I want you to be identified with me, not just believing in God but the one who has been so deputized to exercise authority on earth. All authority has been given to me in Heaven and on earth and I'm interested in transferring it to my disciples." And Super Bowl 43, Santonio Holmes, with less than two minutes to go in the game, went over to the end zone. Roethlisberger threw him the football. He stretched out and caught it to score the winning touchdown for Super Bowl 43; to score the winning touchdown he had to reach high and catch it with his feet firmly planted in the end zone. If he caught it but his feet were not planted in the end zone, it is incomplete. If his feet are planted in the end zone but he didn't catch it, it is incomplete because in order for it to be complete he has to reach high while simultaneously touching low.

What God is looking for is a generation of men and women who reach up to Heaven with their feet firmly planted on the earth. [Cheers & Applause] But they're not so heavenly minded that they're no earthly good. They're not so earthly minded that they're no heavenly good. But they reach up there and make their calls on the field down here so that this field gets to see the authority of Jesus Christ operating in its midst because he's gone beyond church members and religious activity.

I know we like to say, "I'm waiting on God" but there is another side to that coin -- God is waiting on us to become visible, verbal followers of his. And then he closes by

saying, "And lo, I will be with you always, even until the end of the age." Interesting phrase in the Greek text because the word "And lo" is what we call the ego eimi construction. Ego eimi is the word *I* written twice: I, even I. So when they translated it they didn't write I twice, they just intensified it by saying "And lo I." It literally reads, "And I, even I." Why does he name himself twice? Because he had just said in the previous verse, "Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." So he named the whole Trinity. But when it comes to authority on earth he says, "The Father and the Spirit operate in conjunction with me, I, even I."

You see what you have to understand is that Jesus does not bear equal relationship with all Christians. You remember in Saint John chapter two, it says, "Many believed on him." It's *pisteusan eis*, that means got saved. Many believed on him but he would not commit himself to all of them because he knew what was in them. He knew some weren't ready for his commitment to them yet. So he loves everybody the same but he is not -- everybody doesn't have the same experience with him based on their association with him, their declaration of him, their commitment to him.

He said, "Lo, I, even I will be with you always." He's not talking about when you're sick and when you're depressed. That's another verse for another situation. He's talking about when you're in this discipleship mode, I'm with you; I'm going to share my authority with you. You're going to experience me at a whole other level."

If Jesus comes back tomorrow we don't have to worry about much of this. But if he doesn't come back for another 200 years, you better worry about all of this because these are your children and grandchildren and great grandchildren and they're going to grow up in some kind of world. It will be either a world owned by the devil or a world that's been revived because Jesus has enough disciples to turn this thing around.

[Applause]

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I am so glad that you, if you didn't get to attend the conference you are attending it right now. Many of you who did have been saying for some time... I mean we heard from a lot of people say, "When do we get the DVD's; because we ordered them there." And of course, we got them all ready and edited and packaged beautifully so that we could get them to you. But many of you who did not get to go to the Awaken Now Conference are now going to get to attend virtually every session of it; hear all the truly anointed speakers. And if you will make a gift to help us drill water wells, \$100 or more, we're going to send you the DVD's, CD's, and a transcript -- a written transcript of the messages. I'm telling you, this is something you'll want to share with your church.

I really believe, if you were to take Sammy Rodriguez's message, which is really, in total, about 20 minutes and then the prayer that I pray with him at the end, if that was played, Betty, in every church in America, I believe we would experience an awakening. I really believe that.

Dr. Tony Evans, what a message -- Governor Mike Huckabee, really speaking as a pastor, leader, as a statesman to the nation; Dr. Ben Carson, gifted neurosurgeon. All of the other speakers that were there are so truly anointed of God. You get these messages.

I want you to look in on something that I know beyond any doubt is going to grab your heart. Betty and I have found the greatest joy in becoming a helper, a servant to people who feel like no one ever noticed. You may feel that way. I know there are people who feel like nobody notices me. But God does! And you are so vitally important in his kingdom purpose. And you're the ones that can show the most overlooked, forgotten people on the planet that God notices, God loves, and God cares. And what you're about to see is going to inspire you to take the most profound, positive, transforming action possible; you're going to be moved by love. Watch very closely.

On the mission field

Subtitles:

>> My name is Chao. I am a mother of three.

Announcer: Yes, Chao is a mother. And with love and tender care she has given all for her children, whatever the cost. But there are times when commitment, diligence,

and sacrifice are not enough. Not when the conditions around you are beyond your control.

Subtitles:

>> I know the water is bad.

Announcer: Bad water: The term hardly characterizes the horror it creates. For though Chao was a mother of three, this water made her a mother of two.

Subtitles:

>> I took my son to the hospital, but the doctor could not help. It was too late. He died at midnight.

Announcer: A dark moment on a dark night. But unfortunately, it wasn't the last because in one year this water also attacked the life of her two-and-a-half-year old girl.

Subtitles:

>> She would run and play and sing so beautiful. When she got sick she would call for help. I would hold her hand when she cried, but there was nothing I could do to help her. If someone helped us with clean water, I would not have lost two children. I'm afraid my other boy will die.

Announcer: With every drink this life hangs in the balance. Will their water give or will it take? Will it nourish or attack?

Subtitles:

>> I don't want to lose another child.

In the studio

James: I'm really grateful that God moves my heart. Sometimes I think I feel a little bit embarrassed because my heart is tender and because I weep. But I guess I'm grateful.

I remember when Lazarus died and Jesus came to the graveside and everyone was weeping. The question comes up, why did -- that brief verse, "Jesus wept," is two words -- why was it there? What's the significance of it? I think the significance is, and I really believe it is important to grasp this, was not that he wept but why did he weep? Because he knew he was about to solve the problem; he was going to raise the dead.

Why did he weep? Because they were weeping; He felt their burden. I honestly believe this and I believe it is a supernatural thing that God does in our lives. I believe he will give us compassion, like a mother has for a child with fever; you suffer with them. I believe God lets us feel the broken heart of mothers, grandparents, family members who have lost a loved one for whatever reason and I believe we can feel that pain.

Many of you told us, "We feel, at least to some degree, what you and Betty felt when you lost your daughter, especially around holidays, Christmas, New Year's." And you really meant that. That lifted a heavy load, just the fact that you cared.

Now think about this. If you have compassion and you care, and you have the solution to the problem, and we do, it is literally as Jesus said, just a cup of water in his name -- that's literally how we give it. We show them his love. We show them he cares and we meet their need, and you make it possible.

Betty and I could weep and care with the missionaries but we couldn't drill water wells if you didn't help us. We might drill one or two but with your help we've going to drill 500 in targeted areas in 12 nations. If you will help us, some of you can drill a well. Please do -- \$4800, that's the average cost. Some of you could give \$2400 and immediately pray, "Someone join me!" We've got a well. Some give \$1200. This happens frequently. And then three others step up and we've got a well.

But the majority of our support comes from people who give gifts of \$48 and \$144; \$48, 10 people water the rest of their life; \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life. If you make a gift, we're going to send you, for any gift you make, the CD's of the Awaken Now Conference. If you make a gift of over \$100 we're going to send you the CD's, DVD's and the transcript; the written transcript of the messages. These are going to be a treasure that you're going to share because you shared the treasure of life through Water for Life.

Would you dial the number right now? Take your bankcard or go online, LifeToday.org and make the best gift you can. Please do it! If you write a check make it to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving.

I want to thank you in behalf of every family member you help, every child whose life you save and touch, in behalf of all the missionaries for making that call. Don't be distracted. Go to the phone or go online, please right now, and make the gift God put on your heart.

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 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 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 the *Awaken Now* audio series, a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of 23 anointed speakers proclaiming a powerful message for every believer in God's kingdom. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Awaken Now* on both audio and video, along with the companion book containing the speaker's sermons and encouraging messages.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request our new commemorative sculptured glass statue, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, it is no exaggeration to tell you you're going to be blessed by every speaker and teacher in the Awaken Now Conference. This is something you'll want to share. You will treasure it and you will share this treasure. Thank you for helping us share Water for Life -- 500 wells, that's the goal.

"The Blessing," the glass sculpture -- beautiful! You will be amazed at the different areas you put it in how it reflects the color. And you and I are an expression of his life, his light, his love and we release a river of living water. Thank you for having a part. Thank you for sharing God's heart.