

5/8/14
Week 19: Spring Mission Feeding
Marilyn Meberg

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Who do we have with us today? Because we've already been laughing -- we're having a big time!

Betty: Marilyn Meberg!

James: And you're listening to James and Betty Robison at *LIFE Today*. We're having a wonderful time already. Marilyn Meberg is here. Would you welcome Marilyn Meberg? We're glad to have her back. Marilyn, we're glad to see you!

Marilyn: Thank you!

James: Now you didn't bring all the ladies. We used to have the whole studio full of the Women of Faith.

Marilyn: They've all died!

[Laughter]

You know, old age; it just happens. But we were all giggling, you and the audience, about old age -- and your age specifically!

[Laughter]

And you're talking about the four women with Women of Faith, well, Luci Swindoll, and she doesn't mind saying that she is 81 years old and sharp!

Marilyn: I am losing it.

[Laughter]

And it is hard on me. However you have to face things. I've lost my nouns -- person, place, or thing. I can't remember what city, I can't remember the name of the person in the city --

[Laughter]

But I know what they did which doesn't matter if you can't say who did what where!

[Laughter]

So it's hard -- it really truly is! I just lose... So I try to be pleasant with what's left.

James: What are you doing now because you're not traveling with Women of Faith? They're not all dead, by the way, they're still going.

Marilyn: No, I shouldn't have started that. As far as I know, they're all doing well. In fact, I see them all and they are doing well. I've been retired, sort of for a year and a half -- or maybe a year. I'm speaking some. I have the fun of saying, "I don't think so" if something comes up, if anybody wants me. Or I'll say, "Absolutely!" Now this is something I would do every day of my life and I know that will make you run to your car to go home right away.

[Laughter]

But I love this ministry. This is an amazingly real, authentic, deeply spiritual, with an outreach and I love it! So you're kind enough to ask me, I would love to come.

James: Well, you have an open invitation. I mean that! Anytime, let's just say, the Lord gives you some burst of some insight that you think, "Oh, I want to tell everybody!" Here it is!

Marilyn: But I won't remember the place.

[Laughter]

James: We'll call you frequently. And we'll say, "Have you got a burst of something that you want to share?"

Marilyn: Oh, I have bursts! But I don't know if I can share it.

[Laughter]

They aren't sharable.

James: This is a spiritual show -- a very spiritual show! All right, you wrote a book and we never talked about it; it is called *Constantly Craving*.

Marilyn: That's my last book.

James: And it is: How to make sense of always wanting more. Explain that to us because you know we can want more of some things that would be better not to want.

Marilyn: Well, the whole thing is we are never quite satisfied. I was going to an event last week, to a church in this side of Houston. And I've never heard of -- okay, now Marilyn, what was the name of the place?

[Laughter]

Um... It has fudge. And oh, Marilyn truly cannot remember the name of this.

Okay so at any rate, I did not want to stop there because it looked like a huge glorified place where you go to get gas, but they had everything there. I walked in, against my will, and this woman recognized me from Women of Faith. She said, "Oh, Marilyn Meberg, blah blah blah!" And so we're chatting. And it was right by this homemade fudge, which I didn't know was there -- Bucky's, that's what it's called, Bucky's. I said, "Oh, my gosh, there's the fudge!"

And she said, "Do you love fudge?"

I said, "I crave fudge."

So she's so dear. She got me a great big bunch of fudge. So if you're watching, I have so loved it! I'm out.

[Laughter]

Oh, it was good! Now here's my whole point. I loved that fudge. On the way to the event in Houston, I munched on the fudge and it was good at the time but then it went away. It was gone. Guess what? I craved more. That's the way with life. We have something and we think that will be it! I need a puppy! I need a baby! I need a new car! I need a house! I need a new husband! -- All these things *you've* undoubtedly thought.

[Laughter]

We have these cravings that once they're satisfied, like the fudge, it's wonderful at the time but it leaves you wanting. So the book is about all those things that drive us toward things; and they don't really have any lasting value and that was -- God set it up that way.

James: So what's the point you're making?

Marilyn: I have no idea!

[Laughter]

That was so tactful! So wise.

James: This is a fudge book! You were saying --

Marilyn: No, I'll tell you what I was saying.

[Laughter]

James: Please!

Marilyn: I think I probably better because I haven't done a good job so far.

James: Or I'm going to start guessing.

Marilyn: Well, you know when Eve -- I'm so ticked off at her! -- in the garden she had everything. Okay, so the deceiver convinces her she needs more. She fell for it. And of course, the result is the cataclysmic fall of the earth in its current -- and sin. We've been doing it ever since.

"Yes, this is good, but I want just a bit more."

"Oh, this is fine. Yes!"

And it satisfies just a bit more. And so I have in the book all the things for which we crave and all the things which don't quite satisfy because that's the hell of it -- that's the curse from the evil one. It will never quite be enough.

James: But the longing may be appropriate if you could just long and find what does satisfy, right?

Marilyn: Absolutely! But you don't find it here. Now it is momentary. When we say we don't find it here, when we know Jesus we are connected then to the future where there's no end of fulfillment, that is heaven. People say, "Well yeah, but what about now?" Well, I love the now but I will lower my expectations for everything that happens here because it is never going to be perfect and I will always want more so relax, enjoy what is.

James: But can't we have joy pursuing him and his will?

Marilyn: But don't you get bored with that sometimes?

James: No. I don't really don't. I really don't --

Marilyn: Well, you're such a saint! I don't know how to talk to a saint!

James: Here's what happened. When I got my dreams fulfilled... And you know Solomon, who had lots of dreams and beyond, really pretty ridiculous...

Marilyn: He was in the Bible, wasn't he?

James: Yes, he was, and he really messed up. Women really were a problem; women really have been a problem for a while. Did you know that?

Marilyn: Yeah, yeah. I've heard that.

[Laughter]

James: But the point is he still said it is all vanity. I found that my dreams were fulfilled and then I really began to try to lose myself in seeing his dreams fulfilled. Does that make sense?

Marilyn: Absolutely makes sense and that's the whole truth; isn't it?

James: And that really is. The craving for other things, I feel like in many ways has been removed, not as fully as it needs to be, but to really crave his will being done. Like I want the children of a good father to behave like the family of a good father.

And we get along; do you agree we're family?

Marilyn: Absolutely!

James: We have fun, we have joy, we love to share joy, we love to share love; well, that's just kind of where I am right now. I want to see other people find that joy.

Marilyn: But you're old. See, you're old -- you're old. It has taken you a while to get there.

[Laughter]

No, really, I'm sounding so disrespectful and I'm saying it because you are older than I am but...

[Laughter]

James: The fact is I'm not!

Marilyn: The fact is, no, he isn't. Here's the deal. I end the book with the chapter on heaven. I have benefited from Randy Alcorn's writing on heaven. Love it! I read his book, maybe five or ten minutes every night before I go to bed.

James: You have a husband in heaven; we have a daughter.

Marilyn: I was going to say do you have a husband? I have children and I must have had a husband.

James: Yeah, but you have a husband in heaven.

Marilyn: Yes, I do. He died 25 years ago.

James: And we lost a daughter just over a year ago. So when you have something that close, that precious, heaven becomes --

Betty: A very special place.

Marilyn: There are no words for it because we will be reunited. It isn't something that is going to end -- "it" being our love relationships -- they will be perpetuated.

Everything good on this earth is going to also be an experience we can have eternally when we know Jesus. That really knocks me out.

James: And we will not be bored.

Marilyn: I won't be bored; I don't know about you.

James: You know what else? This is the book I wrote about pets. You see my little dachshund? She is going to greet me when we get home.

Marilyn: Do you believe animals are in heaven?

James: That's the last two chapters. She's there if you want her there -- if you want the puppy there. Now if you've assigned it somewhere else, you know, you might not have it.

Marilyn: I do!

James: You may say, "That puppy, that dog needs to be done."

Marilyn: That dog is demonic.

[Laughter]

James: But she's going to be there.

Marilyn: I believe that! You know I have a puppy now named Ricky. You want to know something? This is crazy. I don't know if it is crazy but it's a new experience for me spiritually. I fell in love with a Maltese puppy that belonged to my friend, Pat Winger. So I would run over and play with her puppy when she wasn't there.

James: They're so cute!

Marilyn: So she said to me, "You should get your own."

[Laughter]

What in the world would that mean? It was so subtle -- so subtle!

Betty: Was it because she found you in her house when she came home?

Marilyn: I think so -- playing with her puppy! Not cooking, not cleaning, just playing with the puppy. So her breeder called me and said, "I have a perfect..." I said, "No, I do not want a dog!" All right, long story short the next day I went and got this little dog now named Ricky. He's a little boy -- four pounds. Adorable!

James: Is this one white? Or is it got color?

Marilyn: It's white, white, white! And adorable! But now here's the thing, a theological thing; I still don't quite what to do with it. I was deliberating, Betty, thinking I don't want a dog. They're a lot of work and trouble. You know how much... Mmnh!

But the Spirit of God said to me, "This is a gift from me." I thought, oh, come on! I know he told Noah to build an ark, there's a reason for that!

[Laughter]

But why get a little 74-year-old a puppy? That made no sense. And it was an unmistakable message. "This is a gift from me." Oh! I look at little Ricky now and when he does naughty things, I say, "Thank you, Jesus!"

[Laughter]

"You're a gift for me!" What is your baby's name?

James: But they really, really are!

Betty: Princess.

James: See, I wrote this whole book. By the way, it is in the bookstores. You can get it online at Amazon. We're giving you another book here, giving it away that I wrote and we'll give you this one that Marilyn wrote. It's not about fudge, it's about craving. But what I did is I tried to show people how much God not only loves us by giving us wildlife and pets to observe but they teach us lessons.

Marilyn: The pets do? When does that start?

[Laughter]

James: Even when God says that there's not a sparrow that falls to the ground he doesn't notice. You know what that says? He didn't say "cardinal, peacock," he said, "sparrow." The least noticeable -- and he notices the people who feel the least noticeable. See, he teaches us; we can learn from the birds. You know one thing I learned today in today's world? They don't worry but they do work.

Marilyn: Birds?

Marilyn: Yeah! Do Malteses?

James: I don't know about them. He didn't give us a story about Malteses. They're just gifts from God.

Marilyn: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

James: Do you know what it will teach you? How they're always glad to see you.

Marilyn: Always! Oh, always!

James: Hey listen to me. I just want to tell you this. You don't have to get drunk to be happy. You don't have to be on something, you can be full of something. You can be full of joy. This crazy -- this is us; isn't it? This is us.

Marilyn: Yes, that's why I always love to come!

James: There is joy unspeakable and full of the glory of God. Now since we've had all this fun --

Marilyn: Oh, we've got to get serious?

James: Could you tell us something serious? What do you really want people to grasp that... We've only got a few minutes left.

Marilyn: Okay! Don't be discouraged with yourself when you find -- like we used to say to our kids, "Are you ever happy? Is it not enough you got all these Christmas presents?"

Don't feel bad about that. That is the humanness of things, enjoy them to the level it is possible to, and know you've got more coming, but it is a lot of good while you're

here. But don't blame yourselves for just being human. You're craving. Find some good craves. If you can take your life after James, and know joy unspeakable, even on this earth, and Betty too, she is even better at it, it's going to be a good read. It's going to also be a good realization that there's more to come and what is here now is for you with his love for you. And he might even give you a puppy!

[Laughter]

James: You know, one of the things that we really pray happens on *LIFE Today* is that people will understand. If you're there and you think, nobody notices; do I matter? This is why we're here. Not only because we think you matter, God knows you matter and you matter to him, but you matter to all the people who make *LIFE Today* possible, because Betty and I certainly couldn't pay to put this on all over the world, you do -- viewers do to share the life and love of God.

Well, it's really directly to you to let you know that you are that valuable to God and that valuable to a lot of people. Yes, we want you to laugh and smile but God wants you to have a joy and a peace that really is beyond understanding or comprehension, it is so great. It's the peace of God even in the midst of the storm. You can find that and that's the reason you're watching.

So please don't feel overlooked. Just know God is looking out for you by sending you someone to make you smile or laugh. Or say, "I wish I could be like that." He came to give us life. He sent the Holy Spirit, like himself, to live in us so you can receive that. Ask and you will receive. Would you do that? Would you like someone to pray with you?

The phone number on the screen is always a lifeline because we always ask viewers to help someone but it's also there as a prayer line for you. You want someone to pray with you just call and say, "I have a hurt, a heartache, a need, I'm lonely." If you need someone to pray with you, that line is there.

Do you appreciate Marilyn Meberg and the joy of the Lord that's in her?

[Applause]

If you'd like to have her book, *Constantly Craving*, of course it is in the bookstores, you can get it online. We're going to ask you to help us save lives.

We're actually offering a book that I wrote called, *A Dad's Blessing*; and then also a book that our son wrote, *Rise Above*. He is a great gifted writer -- brilliant frankly and we thank God for him. You'll like this.

But also, if you'd like to have Marilyn's book, *Constantly Craving*, we'll send it to you today if you'll just do this, watch with your heart and then help as God impresses you to because I think you're going to want to. If you've ever seen something that you really wished could happen, I'm going to show you something that can happen because of you and it's really the only way it can happen and it needs to happen. We need a miracle -- you're it! Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: This is an experience we pray you never encounter. A child fighting for his life; a young boy named Leo. The clinic staff has done everything within their ability to keep him alive. Now his mother, Ilda watches helplessly. She too has done all she can.

Open captions:

>> I cannot lose my boy. He is my youngest of two boys. I can't lose him.

Announcer: It's a case of malnutrition. We'd like to tell you it doesn't happen often -- that it's a rare occurrence but Leo's suffering and Ilda's heartbreak cries out from all over Africa where almost half of child deaths under five are caused by malnutrition. Like so many mothers here, Ilda holds the hand of her suffering child, willing him to live but fearing he's slipping away.

Leo was 3 years old. He died from complications of malnutrition.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! For all of you who have ever lost a child or loved one -- and we did lose our youngest daughter over a year ago -- and so the pain is so much deeper even now.

But Betty and I have been right there in Angola. I want you to listen to me.

Betty, we stood there years ago in the height of the greatest death cycle, in a malnutrition clinic, not that one but another in Luanda, and we watched a baby die. Remember we tried to suction -- they didn't even have good equipment. This was 20 years ago. And then the baby died and you and Ann Pretorius were weeping with the mother and you just didn't get it fixed so you weep with them.

But because we came to you -- yes, you, viewers all over the world, people like you, they said, "We want to stop that." And we stopped the death cycle in those areas.

And in that very hospital where you were weeping with Ann, just like that mother we just saw weeping in that other malnutrition clinic just a few weeks ago where that baby died, one of the most famous pictures in the history of the world was taken at that clinic. And it was Princess Diana, Princess Di holding a little baby and it was chubby and healthy. Right there in the clinic where they were trying to suction because they didn't have any equipment, and we got them more equipment. We got them what we could to help.

And look what happened! And millions of lives saved -- millions of lives saved! And so Betty, when we go to our viewers and we say, "We can stop that, we want to get them" -- we're going to try to save them in those malnutrition clinics. That's the last stage but we're trying to get them out in the fields and there is a terrible drought there, in Angola right now. It's probably as bad as the one 20 some odd years ago.

And we've got 100,000 kids that are really in trouble right now and so Betty, we can feed three, five, or ten children for \$30, \$50, or \$100 for months! So we ask you to make that gift. Give as much as you can. If you can feed ten children, give \$100. Where would you better spend \$100?

But because we've got 100,000 kids right now, facing situations where they're headed there, I'm praying that we'll have 1,000 people who will give \$1,000 and that will feed 100 children each -- that's 100,000 children. We need it now.

And then the other 300,000 that we've located and we have them in feeding programs, we need to continue that and that's where we need the \$30, \$50, or \$100 or whatever you can give.

Father, I pray everybody watching will give something -- as much as they can; in Jesus' name.

Would you go to the phone or go online LifeToday.org and make the largest gift you can? If you can give \$1,000 or more, do it! Please!

If you can give \$100 because I'm always going to ask you, \$30, that's three kids -- how big is that to those three kids? That's real big; so there's no gift too small. That's why I've even said, if you watch us anywhere in the world, how about letting us know where you're watching us and we appreciate you even sending some kind of little token gift. Say hey, thank you for what you're doing. But if you can help us \$30, \$50, or \$100 do it!

Put it on your bankcard. Go to the phone. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it, please! Or you can go online and make the gift. We have some special gifts to send you, a couple of books I've written.

Randy, our son has written to bless you, some gifts that you're really going to treasure and a beautiful glass sculpture, "The Blessing" because that's what you're going to be.

Please! Go to phone or go online. If you write a check, call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail. We really need to know. 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.

With previous food reserves gone and Angola facing its worst drought and food shortage in 20 years, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for our feeding programs immediately!

Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

With your gift of any amount we will send you this inspirational two book gift set, *A Dad's Blessing* by James Robison is packed with valuable fatherly wisdom and insight for dads of all ages.

Rise Above, by James and Betty's son, Randy Robison will show you how to soar far above the circumstances of life and go higher in your walk with God.

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children you'll receive our blessing bowls, a great way to teach your family about giving and a daily reminder of God's provision for hungry and hurting children.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children and you may request our 2014 commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Beautiful children! And they're lining up because of love -- not just food, they're lining up because of love. I just thank God for his love and I thank God for the love that you express that is the love of God for all these children. Betty is here right now and she's serving up the soup.

Betty: You know we've seen lots of lines over in the states, kids lined up for games, kids lined up for parks, kids lined up to go to a movie. These lines are different. These kids are lined up for food, for life. Won't you join with us? These are the kind of lines that really count. These children need our help. They need someone to make a good choice for them and that's for life. Please join with us and help us with the mission

feeding. Thank you so much!

James: Betty and I just want to say thank you for your help. I want to remind you, if you'd like to have the book, in addition to my book and Randy's book, we will send you Marilyn Meberg's book. What a blessing she is! She is a treasure. I just praise God for her. I don't know if you say, "I wonder if she would ever come speak in our area?"

Well, go to LifeToday.org, a lot of you have gone to make a gift, thank you, but go there and say, "How do I get a hold of Marilyn?" And it will be there if she wants you to know.

[Laughter]

Would y'all say thanks to Marilyn Meberg?

Marilyn: Thank you, thank you!

James: Marilyn, we love you!

Marilyn: Love you too!

James: When you get happy come back!

Marilyn: All right! Get over my depression! Thank you.

James: Thank all of you for watching and we really do thank you for your help, your prayers, your friendship. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today* every day!