

6/30/14
Week 27: Water for Life
Tim and Sherice Brown

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

James: And we have a non Dallas Cowboy football player here.

[Laughter]

Really, would you pray for the Cowboys sometimes; just a little mercy. Would you pray for them? They were America's team, now we don't even know if they're Dallas's team anymore. Here is Tim Brown who won the Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame; nine pro bowls, played for Oakland. I don't know how we did playing him back then. He probably intercepted everything we threw. He would today. He would have intercepted all of them.

But he's just a wonderful person. I want to show you this: *The Making of a Man*: How men and boys honor God and live with integrity.

By the way, I know some of his friends and people he kind of hangs out with and for a long time, they've been telling me about the witness and impact of Tim. His wife, Sherice is here and she is a beautiful person. I've just told Tim a while ago that God really looked out for him and for me.

[Laughter]

You'll see that when you meet his wife. But this is a great story. Now he didn't start out with everything right. He was a typical great athlete, winning all these honors, but he had a head-on encounter that changed everything and actually, probably, was one

of the reasons that he's married to the beautiful woman he's married to and that they have four beautiful children.

Would you welcome Tim and Sherice Brown to *LIFE Today*? Tim, Sherice -- I'm really glad to have you here. And you did good! You just did really good. And I did really good. How long have y'all been married?

Tim: Going on 17 years.

James: Imagine us, 51 years.

Tim: That's unbelievable!

James: Well, it is! It's a miracle.

Tim: Pray for us!

James: I believe you'll be there.

Sherice: Yes, we will. Yes, we will.

James: I want you to tell why you wrote the book, which I hope everybody will get. As a matter of fact, I'll just tell you what, we'll actually send it to you because it's going to inspire you. But it's going to be something you'll probably want to put in the hands of maybe a young athlete or an aspiring athlete, boy or girl -- and it's just going to be a treasure. Tell us about the story.

Tim: Well, since I retired, the last 10 years, flying around in all these airports, people are always coming up to me saying, "Oh, man, I really enjoyed how you handled yourself off the field." Not so much about what I did on the field but people talked a lot about how I handled myself off the field. And I thought people should know the whole story because it wasn't by chance that I was the man that I was off the football field. It was because of my relationship with God that I handled myself a certain way.

So I thought that was important. I know so many of my friends and so many people, men who are losing in marriage and losing in life because they're trying to do it themselves. I was like that one day myself. I was in my mid 20s, I'm in California, things are going well.

Close your ears, wife –

I had all these beautiful women, things are going great. But in the midst of all that I couldn't --

James: By the way, athletes attract women in an indescribable fashion. It almost looks nonsensical; and the most foolish thing, the way they literally will throw themselves at an athlete. He doesn't necessarily even have to be a great star athlete -- he is a star.

Tim: You don't even have to be good looking!

James: Just an athlete.

Tim: And that was the thing. Being in California where you have so many -- all the actresses, all the people who want to be, you have the Raiderettes. You have -- they call them females -- football fabulous females. So you have all these -- you're in the midst of all that.

And growing up here in Dallas, born and raised in church of God in Christ, I was taught how to live and how to do things right but the further I got away from Dallas, seems like the further I got away from God. But in my mid 20s, I got to the point, literally, where I couldn't even look at myself in the mirror. I shaved and I did everything in the dark because I couldn't look at the man that I was at that particular time. I knew that I needed to make a change and it was difficult, because in the middle of a locker room, especially a Raiders locker room now -- you have the Cowboys, now the raiders are something totally different. They're known as the bad boys of the N.F.L. so we had a lot going on.

But to be able to stand up in that locker room and say, "Hey, the man I was yesterday, I'm not that man anymore" was a pretty big deal. It took a while -- it took a while before people bought in to me really changing. But after they did buy in, then you realize, people come whispering to you, "Hey, man, what is this God thing? What is going on here because what we were doing a year and a half ago, you're not doing those same things with me anymore?"

James: Now how did she get in the picture?

Tim: Well, I had a great friend, and at this particular point I call him my angel from God, Chester McGlockton, he passed away three years ago at the age of 42, died in his sleep. He had been trying to introduce me to her for about a year and a half. I kept telling him, "Man, look."

He kept saying, "Man, she's a nice girl!"

Look, in the locker room we have "nice girls" and we have...

So I was like, "Look, dude, I'm not trying to go there with you."

And he kept telling me, telling me, telling me, "Hey, look, you need to get with her. You need to call her."

I'd say, "Chester, why would you do your boy like that? I thought we were boys?"

So long story short, he got married and he had me sitting at the table with her.

James: Was she part of the wedding party?

Tim: No, no.

Sherice: He is kind of fast-forwarding but go ahead.

Tim: See she want to tell this story, "I went to the bar and I was ordering a cranberry and orange juice."

Sherice: I was.

Tim: "And I turned around and I asked the young lady, she just happened to be by me at that time.

Sherice: I was and I turned around and I asked him, I was with several other girlfriends and I said, "Would you like for us to order with you?" Because he was by himself, "order your drink?" And he said, "Sure. What are you having?" So I told him that I didn't drink but I would order him a cranberry and orange juice, what I was drinking. I turned around and politely gave it back. And then now you continue with your story.

[Laughter]

Tim: It stretches out over the years -- it's amazing!

Sherice: Because he wasn't -- you remember, Chester playing for the Oakland Raiders as well, and he was a football player. There were several athletes there. He said there's no possible way I did not know who he was because he was Tim Brown.

[Laughter]

I'm like, I was like, "Okay. And who is Tim Brown?"

Tim: I will admit, I did say that. But she said she came to a Raiders game and didn't know who Tim Brown was. I was like, "Baby, come on!"

Sherice: I really didn't! I had Melani Ismail, Rocket Ismail's wife who sat right next to me and we talked about the Lord pretty much the entire game. He does not believe that we weren't paying attention to him.

[Laughter]

Tim: That's just how we think; right, James?

James: Now when you met her, had you already had that encounter in the locker room with God?

Tim: Yes, yes! It is just so amazing. Sherice, and I'll let her tell her story but I had just got saved two weeks prior to meeting her. It was just amazing because I was where... I was about to turn 30 years old at the time and it was just time for me to do something different. And two weeks later, I meet her and I tell her because she's -- she's all this going on and I tell her, look...

James: You could tell she was a really nice girl; right?

Tim: She was a really nice girl but I said, "Look! Hey, if I'd met you two weeks prior, we would have had a different game going on here."

Sherice: No, we wouldn't have! No, we wouldn't have!

[Laughter]

James: You're going to play a new game!

Sherice: That's right!

Tim: I think Sherice should tell it because what was fascinating to me is that at the same time I was going through what I was going through she was going through...

Sherice: I attended West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles. There was an author by the name of P.B. "Bunny" Wilson who had a book called, Knight in Shining Armor. I got that book, I read it and it was an amazing book. It told you to write down the qualities of a husband. But it said "You're going to go under

construction and you're going to only date God for 90 days." So I went in full -- I went in full. But the book said, "By the time you finish this book you will have met your knight in shining armor."

Tim: That's right!

[Laughter]

Sherice: So fast forward there, I met Tim within that two week period that he's speaking of. Well, there was a graduation. So if you had completed it they wanted you come and be a part of the ceremony. I actually invited Tim to attend church with me and he came and I was able to stand up with him sitting next to me.

James: Tim, the book. What do you want people to hear?

Tim: I'm hoping here that the 15 and 16 year olds that when I started my journey doing the wrong thing, I'm 47 years old as we sit here right now and I know men who are older who are still struggling, and everybody in-between; what you're trying to get them -- what I'm trying to get them to see in this book is the only way that you can live a life of integrity is to live a life for God. It's the only way. We try -- we're smart, we're educated, we've got some money, we have this or we think that we have it all but in all actuality we don't have anything unless we have God in our life.

I want people to realize it. I want the brother, the hood to realize that and I want the biggest rapper in America to understand that if you're not doing what you're doing for God then you're wasting your talents, and that is just the bottom line. That is not Tim Brown speaking, that is the word -- that's what the Bible says. So I think from that standpoint, we're trying to reach everybody with this book. We want men to be accountable, to be responsible.

I had a situation, my son, Taylor, at 25, Taylor -- Sherice is not his mom, but it was a situation where I could have turned my back on Taylor and I could have said, "Hey, I'll send you money, I'll do this, I'll do that." But instead I moved him from Newark, New Jersey at six months old to be with me here in Dallas. He's a fine young man today.

James: Yes, he is!

Tim: He is in nursing school at Baylor and he is doing well.

James: And he is loved.

Tim: That is exactly -- what if I'd turned my back on him? Where would he have been? But I think in that --

James: You made a big mistake but you corrected it with a great big outpouring of love and personal responsibility.

Tim: That's exactly right.

James: I just thank God for that. Do you not like -- that testimony alone, the whole story? But I've met Taylor and I didn't know that but that's great. Praise God! You made a right decision. A lot of right decisions need to be made. What do you think about when you're watching what God is doing in his life and what you're seeing together in his level of influence?

Sherice: It's amazing because I've seen in Tim for so many years probably what others did not see -- such an amazing man of God. So I was so impressed by the title because I've always told him, you could just reach multitudes of people just expressing and sharing everything that he's experienced and how God has just blessed him tremendously. You can see it all in his life. Everything that he does, it's always to either better someone's health or -- he's a giver so his heart is just huge. He is just a giver and that's what I love about him.

James: And he's not giving to get, he's giving to give. There is such a big, big difference. The world teaches you to give to get and God teaches you to give to give -- the joy of giving.

Sherice: Definitely. I think I asked him early in our marriage, "Tim, why are these guys not faithful to their wives?"

He said, "Sherice, they have to have the conviction of the Holy Ghost. And if you don't have something that you are praying to and you don't have -- if you're not asking and you're not in that word, they're not going to be faithful to their wives. It's not that they don't love their wives but he loved..." What did you tell me?

Tim: I told her, before we got married, I said, "Look, if you ever see me doing something that's outside the will of God -- now I'm not perfect -- but if you see me doing something that you know is outside -- leave, don't ask any questions, just leave. Because if you're seeing something, there's probably about 20 things you're not seeing. So don't let me talk you into -- just leave."

Because I wanted to be accountable to her. I'm obviously accountable to God, I'm accountable to my family, but it's such a big deal if you can say to somebody out loud this is how I am. I need you to hold me accountable so if something goes wrong you can't come back five years -- well, you remember what you did -- or whatever. Now you know exactly where we stand and you just...

James: But I have an idea if you did stumble, she would be all over picking you up because she is full of love. Betty, you want to say something to this couple because I know you're captivated by the beautiful love.

Betty: One thing I think is beautiful too is that in your testimony you're saying you can have all the success. There are a lot of people that do in sports and business, whatever, but those things, you think oh, if I just had this or had that, maybe for a short time, it satisfies but that satisfaction doesn't last without that relationship with God.

Tim: Betty, you bring up something that's really important. I'm 33, 34 years old and I'm at the point in my career where people are saying, "Oh, man, you're going to be in

the Hall of Fame. You have Hall of Fame numbers." You hear that a couple of times, James, and you start... [hcht-hmm] I'm going to be in the Hall of Fame when I'm done!

James: You told her! Boy, you should have known all this!

[Laughter]

Tim: But it was amazing. I can feel myself getting a little full of that. And in prayer one night -- in prayer one night God said to me just as clear as day, "I don't have you here to make it in the hall of fame. I have you here on this platform so you may be able to attract men." And I got up boxing; I want to be in the Hall of Fame -- I want to be in the Hall of Fame!

But it really sunk in that all of the success I was having because my last four or five years in the N.F.L. after that point, I was able to -- you know you have 21 year old kids coming into the N.F.L. now coming into the league. I was 36, 37, 38 years old; so now they're able to see a veteran guy who is playing at a high level who is living for God. That's something that they don't see on a regular basis. And at the time same, I was able to tell them that, "Hey, let me tell you how I started out."

They heard some of the stories and they were like, "No, Tim -- not you!"

"Yes, me! But by the grace of God, here I am now."

James: Sure, and that's what the story is about. I want you to get the book. It is in the bookstores. You can go online and get it. Can you briefly... you talk about the relationship with your dad. We've only got a couple of minutes left but tell us about what's the significance there.

Tim: Well, my dad, at age 13 we had a little incident where he came in a little intoxicated and thought that I was coming after him and threatened to kill me. It scared me.

Me and my dad had a pretty good relationship up to that point. So to skip forward a little bit, for the next 12 years, we really didn't have a relationship. It was, "Take the trash out." Do this -- do that -- but it wasn't a relationship. I graduated high school, I get a scholarship to Notre Dame, I graduate Notre Dame, win the Heisman Trophy, first run pick in the league, make two pro bowls and I still don't have -- everything I'm doing I'm thinking this is going to be the thing that brings him in -- this is going to be the thing.

And finally, at some point it was revealed to me that "Your dad is doing the best he can do. Not that he should be doing, but he can do."

And with that, I went to him and said, "Hey, man, what happened 12 years old is over. I forgive you. I need for you to forgive me and I need for you to be in my life."

My dad was not a man of many words so "okay" is about all I got out of him. So for the next 20 years until he passed away in 2011, we had a great relationship.

But the worst night of my life, because what I didn't say is when I thought my dad was going out to the car to get a gun, I was in the corner, after I woke my mom up at 1:00 in the morning and I said to myself, well, if alcohol will make you want to kill your son, I'm never going to touch alcohol. And I've never had a drink of alcohol, but it was because of that horrific night. But I think of all the opportunities I had. I tell people Notre Dame is a Catholic university but they drink a lot up there.

[Laughter]

There was a bottle of wine or can of beer every place you go, but I was able to pass on all of that because of what happened to me when I was 13. I get out to California and I'm hanging out with Eddie Murphy and all these people and I can't even spell the liquor that is going by my head but I'm able to pass on that -- but it was all because of that horrific night. That probably turned out to be the best incident that ever happened.

James: It could have kept you from being a horrible addict because of the compulsivity can sometimes capture you. The story is great.

Again, say thanks to God and thanks to this beautiful couple. I do encourage you to go online and get the book, *The Making of a Man*. As a matter of fact, you may just want to get several copies for young athletes or college athletes, pro athletes; get it out.

I want to show you something, Tim, that I know is going to touch you and Sherice's heart and all of our viewers. I'll just tell you this, if you will do what Jesus said do, if you'll just give a cup of water in his name, I'll say thank you by sending you this thank you; and a little book for children. And then a book Betty put together, 32 incredible stories from truly anointed women called *Women at the Well*. I want you to see the need for clean water and I want you to listen up. Watch!

On the mission field

Announcer: Mothers find pleasure in teaching their children life skills; Preparing them for the day when they will have children of their own, and dreaming of a bright future for them. But for literally millions of mothers throughout the world, mothers like Maria, this pleasure gives way to the pain of knowing they have no other choice but to give their children water from contaminated sources.

John: Even as we speak right now Levee is sick. He has diarrhea, he has vomiting and his mom is telling us that he can't even eat. And it's because of water like this that these children are drinking that are contaminating their bodies and causing disease and sickness.

Announcer: Maria always hopes the best for little Levee. She wants to see him grow up happy and healthy but her dreams will be crushed as long as she has no other choice but to give him contaminated water that constantly makes him sick.

John: I said, "Maria, is there ever a time when you've prayed and asked God for a miracle for fresh water?" She said that every year is another year where they continue

to pray that they would be able to have good drinking water. We need to provide good clean water for this family and many families in this village. We need to make a difference today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: That is a very moving story to me for more than one reason. John Hernandez there, we've been working with him in mission outreach for more than 20 years. We started more than 20 years ago with him in Miami -- the street children. Incredible! Then we watched him end up in the mission fields of the world and now reaching out in Bolivia and other areas to children.

Some of the things that have happened with John and with the outreach to children has made as great an impact on our grandchildren as anything we've ever done, and some of them have been around the world, so to speak, to see what's there -- and that really blesses us. But everything that's happened with John and him coming to us, why do you think he's talking to us? Well, 20 years we've been helping him be the answer to people's prayers and needs.

And it wasn't just me and Betty; we just identify with legitimate hurt and we know the answer. It is the love of God through his people who will literally extend his hands. So what John was talking about there is so important because that mother represents thousands of mothers.

Now think about this, in 20 countries right now, with your help we're going to drill 500 freshwater wells. We're about halfway there already, but we need to complete it because we don't want to miss the mark. We pray every year, God, let us go beyond. Last year we went beyond a little. Beyond the 500 -- we can do that. But here's how we do it. If every person watching and I want you to just kind of zero in. Let me just talk to you, just me and you just for a second.

Honey, do you mind?

Betty: Go ahead!

James: She is over here saying, "Go on! Go on!"

Listen to me, if you would just say, "I will do my part expressing God's heart," \$4800 is the cost of a well. Many people tell us they have no greater joy in an entire year than to be able to give a well. We've had people that said, "I prayed for years to be able to do that, and I finally can give a well." And then they would often write back two or three years later, "Now I've been able to give one now every year."

So I'm asking you if you can, give a well -- as a couple, as an individual, as a church. Thank God children have even gone to their friends and neighbors and family and said, "Let's drill a well," -- as young as four years old, and they got a well. So everybody can have a part.

But here's the way we normally reach it. If you give a part of a well, let's just say of the \$4800 you give \$1200 and pray, "God, raise up three more" -- we've got a well! \$2400, "God, match this" -- and another joins you; we've got a well.

But most of the support comes from people who give \$48 and when you break it down that gives ten people Water for Life. Give 30 people Water for Life with \$144 gift. There is a level at which you can say, "I'm going to give more than a cup of water I'm going to help give a well of water."

Jesus said, "If you give just a cup, you won't lose your reward." I have an idea most of the reward is what that love does for others -- not what comes back to you -- just that joy is enough.

Would you dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check? Go online LifeToday.org. Many people are going there to do that. And if you ever call and get a busy be determined because there are people calling for prayer too. The majority of the calls will still be people, "Pray for me." You better believe we will. But would you be determined to get through to give water? Please?

We have some very special gifts for you. One of the little books I'm real excited about, not only the *Women at the Well*, wonderful women stories, including our two daughters, (one who is in heaven) hear about her wonderful job she had while on this earth. Then this, *Children at the Well*; this is a touchy-feely book for children that talks about the joy of giving. It is just absolutely beautiful! And the beautiful glass sculpture to say thank you; and the journal, the *LIFE* Journal. This has been transforming in your life, Betty, to journal what God put on your heart. And your journal ministers to me continually. So you start one.

We want to say thank you, we want to bless you. Please, please take that bankcard and use it like a check. Again, if you write a check, make it to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving. Thank you so much for doing it. From the bottom of our hearts we say thank you in behalf of the people whose prayers you're going to be an answer to.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children of all ages 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 effective life-saving demonstrations of God's love you could ever be a part of. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages impacting over 20 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five 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 new *Children at the Well* interactive book to help your little ones understand the blessing of clean water, as well as the *Women at the Well* daily devotional with 32 refreshing devotionals for your quiet time. With your gift of

\$100 or more you may request this beautiful leather journal to help capture your personal times with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our commemorative sculpture glass statue "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I want to say together thank you for your help. I also do want to mention that we've got the children's book we referenced, and the *Women at the Well*, and of course, the Journal. But if you would like to have, if you'll help, just say, "We want to do our part in providing water," we will send you *The Making of a Man* as a gift that will bless you and perhaps you'll pass it on. It might even become a way of giving somebody some spiritual water to drink by giving them this truth.

Well, join with Betty and me and let's just say thanks to Tim and Sherice for being such a blessing.

You're a beautiful couple! I love you, buddy!

Tim: Thank you, James.

James: Thank all of you for being here. From the bottom of our heart, in behalf of everybody you give fresh water to, thank you! God bless you!