

6/24/14
Week 26
Christine Caine - *Awaken Now*
James and Betty Robison

In the studio:

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 and many foreign countries. You may not have been a 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 could 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.

I look forward to you getting the DVD's, CD's. And here, with all the fire and passion you could imagine, here is Christine Caine!

From Awaken Now Conference:

Christine Caine: Because you do what you want from passion. And the problem with us is that we are more passionate for the things of this world than we are about the things of God. Or we do the religious deal well, we just don't do the passion for Christ well. Or we've taken the emotion, dare I say the spirit out of our faith lest we get too emotive; and yet I'm in love with my husband totally. If he's got my heart he's got me. If Jesus has my heart, he has me. But if you keep your heart out of your faith and it is just your intellect and it is just a bunch of rules and regulations, you will soon get bored of this whole deal and then you'll sneak out and indulge in a whole lot of other stuff because somehow you've got to satisfy the God-given passion that he's put on the inside of every single one of us.

I wonder -- I wonder who really is lost. Of course, I understand the theology that the lost are lost but let me just explain this; we would all agree that you and I are living epistles; we are God's love letter sent to this lost and broken world. If I sent a letter home to my mother in Australia and the letter gets lost en route do I say, "My mother is lost" or do I say "The letter is lost?" I'm wondering, whether we got lost en route. Whether we, the church, are the lost love letter to this lost and broken world? We call them lost and of course, scripture refers to the lost as lost because they are lost but I really wonder whether much of us are lost? Because somewhere, every day when God says, "You're my love letter to that workplace, to that school, to that university," wherever your world is, "You're my love letter to them," does the letter actually get delivered? Do the people at the other end actually even get it?

Because so many of us we get lost in our debates about theology, we get lost in our comparisons amongst ourselves. We get lost in our debates about doctrine or tradition or culture or styles and we've heard two beautiful sermons about all of that today; I'm just tying it all together, but we've got lost. Lost chatting about everything, except for the one thing that we're here supposedly to be consumed with; and we're not lost-ologists. And when you no longer understand the lost because you're so busy being lost yourself, you then get into fear so you avoid the very people you are meant to reach because you fear them because you've forgotten who you are and you've forgotten what you're on assignment to do.

Now remember the job of the mission is way too important to leave to the missionaries. See many of us come from Christian traditions where we have a strong missions emphasis. But we always create departments to excuse the majority of the church from being the church because that's what the missionaries do, it's not what we do. Because I just go to work and I have my nice little house and I've got my nice little comfortable lifestyle and I'm except from doing that. But I'm going to send an offering to the missionary, God bless them, because that's for the elite troops of the church, that's for the Navy Seals, that's for the big guns, that's for the Billy Grahams, that's for the Peter Pretoriuses, that's for the Chris Caines -- that's for the Navy Seals of the Christian church. The rest of us, we're just normal, and our job is comfort and convenience. We've just got to make sure we protect ourselves.

I want to read you a scripture so you don't get nervous that I haven't actually read the Bible because I know people do get nervous about that. I have quoted scripture much, Miss Beth will give you beautiful theology but now you just get me. If you put up John chapter 17, the guys that are tracking with me are freaking out because they're thinking she hasn't said anything she was going to say yet. So here we go. [Laughter] Just keep preaching.

"My prayer is not," Jesus said, "that you would take them out of the world." I wonder if that ever gets your attention. When Jesus is praying and saying, "Let me just qualify what I'm not saying -- let me qualify what I'm not saying. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." He goes on, "They are not of the world even as I am not of the world." We've heard that beautifully from Dr. Evans. And then we go on, "Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth." Here we go, the kicker, verse 18: "As you sent me into the world, I've sent them into the world."

Now I think these three verses have been taken out of most Christian Bibles. I think that because for some reason we spend a whole lot more of our time trying to get out of the very place where God sent us into. We spend a whole lot of time condemning and judging and arguing about and writing blogs about and writing having discourse about the very place that Jesus said, "Look, I do not pray Father that you take them out of the world but that you -- that in the same way you didn't take me out of the world. They're not of the world just as I'm not of the world. Sanctify them by thy word. Thy word is truth. As you sent me, I send them."

Job profile, at the end of the chapter on unity that we're going to hear so much about and if you're asking me, why we're missing it all, it is predominantly about this because we are scared of the very world that God has called us into because of the marred image that we have of the Father and the very warped view we have of each other. And you will only ever love the world just as you love yourself, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind; and love your neighbor as we love yourself." We do love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we just hate ourselves and we don't like each other. So Jesus says, "Would you get yourself sorted out because by this all men will know that you are my disciples, not by your big building campaigns,

not by your big worship CD's, not by how many books you sell. But here you go, knock yourselves out, this is how they're going to know that you're my disciples, your love one for the other. But since you all hate each other you've come away from the world because they will never know that you're my disciples. And you go into that world every now and again, you build building programs and you sell a lot of CD's and you sell a lot of books and you try to impress them because you want them to think you're as good as them. But you are actually not even supposed to measure yourself like that. What you're supposed to do is actually love yourselves and get out of your little Christian bubble and put yourselves back in the world, love each other in the midst of that and then they will all know that you are my disciples." It is not complex! This is not complex. You have to get a lot of degrees to complicate this deal.

So what did we do? We went, "Oh, my gosh! I'm not of the world? I'm not of the big bad ooger booger monster, the world! So I'm going to come out from amongst them-est and be yeist separateist, in King Jamesest Englishest of coursest." [Laughter]

Now I'm not of them that is so worldly. I don't really know what worldly is so... dancing! That depends which tradition you're from. Makeup! So for some traditions I'm scoring well today. It's long hair, short hair, tattoos, piercings, drinking, not drinking, smoking, not smoking. What other external behavior modifications can I put into this list? Because of course Christianity is not a heart transformation program it is just a behavior modification program. So let me see what else I can talk about that is an external behavior modification and this is it! I'm not worldly because I don't drink and I don't smoke and I don't have tattoos and I don't have piercings and I don't -- and I don't know -- I don't do anything. And I'm beige and I've had a personality bypass and I've had a lobotomy, and I'm a Christian and I have no idea what I should be doing. Oh, but I know what I don't do! And in fact it is so hard not to do those things. And I'm trying my -- not to have sex and I'm not trying to do this and I'm trying -- and "Hurry up, Jesus and the rapture so I can just be spared! From not doing all these things that I really want to do." [Laughter]

Now I don't know what I should be doing but bless God, bless God I didn't press the click button again one more day. Whoo! Bless God that I didn't cuss today! And Jesus Christ came from Heaven to earth, died on a cross and rose again from the dead so I

wouldn't get a tattoo. That's pretty awesome! Or take another drink. Man! That's pretty awesome. I could have just gone to a psychologist and not done that. But anyway, that's all right!

So we don't know what to do. So what we've done is build a little defense fortress around us because I don't know what I should be doing. I need to protect myself and it is us four and no more and I'm just waiting for the rapture. And I just don't know what to do and there's that big bad ooger booger monster, horrible ugly world over there and it is so worldly!

Now the problem is we don't read the Bible very much but if we did it would be very interesting to find what the Bible calls worldly because I couldn't find dancing in there. But what I did find was things like lying, cheating, abuse and slander and gossip and envy and greed and sexual immorality and dissension. Like I've got the whole list except I never looked at my notes. [Laughter] Lying, cheating, stealing, gossip, slander, envy, greed, lust, immorality, idolatry, hatred, discord, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, hatred, fits of rage, unforgiveness, bitterness, lovers of selves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, without love, rash, conceited, having a form of godliness but denying it's power.

Not much in there about hair length or make up or dancing or clothe styles or music styles or body piercings or pre-post or mid-tribulation theology, or gifts of the spirit or infant or adult baptism or small groups or mega churches or liturgical or contemporary style of worship or missionary or attractional churches are having -- not much in there about any of that! Not much in there.

But this is the deal. Jesus says, "I want you smack bang in the middle of it but I don't want you of it." So here's what we do. Hang on a minute. Now this is not in the American church, just the Australian church; okay? So when we came out from amongst them to be yeest separatist, and got behind our artificial social construct, some call it "the church," and we got behind our little defense fortress, we brought us with us! So we haven't got tattoos and we don't drink but lying, gossip, slander, envy, hatred, selfish ambition, dissensions... and the list goes on.

I need you to hear what I'm about to say. Hopefully, it will tie everything together. So instead of being in the world but not of it, we're over here and we are of the world but not in it. You cannot change a world you are not in. And listen to the kicker. You cannot change a world you are the same substance as. When Jesus says in Matthew 5:13-14, oh, we love these scriptures! "You are the salt and you are the light." These are catalytic agents, these are agents of change. They change the very substance they come into contact with. If you're the same as the substance you come into contact with you'll never change it. You have to be different to create something that is different.

Now that is really hard because to be over there you have to be a Christian. But to be over here you don't even have to be a Christian. You do not have to be regenerated, you do not have to be born again, you just have to know how to act like one, and you just have to know how to talk like one. Praise God! I've been redeemed and sanctified and justified by the blood of the Lamb. And as long as I can talk the talk and as long as my behavior is modified, I may not even be regenerated. But here -- hoo! You've got to be the real deal.

Have you ever noticed a non-Christian knows exactly how I Christian should act? Ever noticed a non-Christian knows exactly how a Christian should be. But what we've done is we've taken all the salt in the salt shaker and we've poured it all into one place. Do you know if you had a piece of steak and you had a whole lot of salt and you poured the salt shaker, the entire contents on to one piece of steak, you'd take a bite of that steak and you would spit it out because it is unpalatable. That's what we've become to this world. We have taken the whole salt, created a Christian subculture and we try to force feed it into them and they spit us out because we are unpalatable. And Jesus said, "Would you just get a clue? Would you just back into this world and in the marketplace? Salt it here and salt it there and be my light and bring my love and grace and mercy and truth and justice in the midst of a lost and broken world? Would you just be the church? Would you stop acting like the church and would you be the church over here?"

And if we did that, I need to finish up with this because I need you to get this. I'm sorry that I'm not being eloquent but I just want you to get what I'm saying. What happens is then the missionary comes to town once a year, in our churches, flips open the Bible to Matthew 28 and we think, "Oh, know, the great suggestion -- the guilt trip." [Laughter] The guilt trip! And we already switch off because that's for the missionaries as if the role of the mission is only left to the missionaries. And this is what happens. They come in and we go, "That's not me! Christine, that's not my love language. That's not my strength finder. [Laughter] That's not where I fit on the disk profile. That's not my gift mix." I'm like wow! We write Christian books to excuse Christians from being Christians. There is only one love language, it is called: Die to self. That's really ultimately the only one. Even Jesus himself said, "I really don't want to do this. It is not my love language, it is not where I fit on the disk profile, it is not my strength finder -- but nevertheless, not my will but thine be done."

And what happens is we go, "Okay, okay." So now we've got the guilt trip, let's pick the four weirdos in the church, those elite troops, you know the weird ones. And they're going to be the missionaries and they've got the four spiritual laws tract and we're going to give them that tract and they're going to get in a holy huddle on a Friday night. And if you're from my tradition you "Shonda Honda Kawasaki" but if you're from your tradition it may be a self-reflective, deep introspective prayer -- whatever it is. And so what happens is I'm all prayed up and I'm ready. So then the drawbridge goes down because I'm about to go into all the world because this is my evangelism night.

So I've got my four spiritual laws tract, I've got some poor guy in the middle of Dallas, he's been working all week. I have zero relationship with him but this is my evangelism night. So I've got my little tract and I shove it in his face. I say, "Did you know that Jesus Christ died for our sin? If you don't repent right now you're going to die and go to everlasting hell. I want you to take this incantational prayer after me. Oh, my gosh, it's 10:00! I'm a Christian, I turn into a pumpkin. If you want to look like me, sing like me, dance like me, next Sunday, 10:00 come and visit me." And we come over here and then we put up our little defense fortress, another notch on our Bible, praise God, Hallelujah, I did my evangelism. And evangelism is something that someone else does because that's not me, and that's someone else's responsibility

because it is not mine. And we forget that Jesus says that we're all called to be his witnesses. Jesus said in John 18:37: For this cause -- there is a cause, church! For this cause I came to earth that my life would bear witness to the truth, not that I would give a series of exegetical truths or great little discussions about my existence, my death, my resurrection, but my life would bear witness to the truth of this word. Not we are given strength to do witnessing, we're given strength to be witnesses.

And what we have done is while we sit over here on the other side totally disconnected from the very world that God called us to, then we just continue to think, I do not have a responsibility. I'm too busy doing church over there to be the church over here. And God, loud and clear at this conference has said to us it's time for the church to be the church, not just to do a bunch of religious rituals. And to understand the lost is not somebody else's responsibility, it's why we're here. And when you get off mission, you have to distract yourself with a whole lot of dissensions to justify your existence until Jesus comes back.

God never called us to a comfortable, safe, risk-free Christianity. Jesus didn't come to make us safe. Death is the ultimate statistic, one out of one will die so get over yourself -- we're all going to die. So the fact is, Jesus didn't come to make us safe, he came to make us dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. He came to make us dangerous.

I'm going to read you this. It is a poem I came across years ago. I don't even know who wrote it; it says "anonymous" but it's called "The Pit." It says: A man fell into a pit and could not get himself out. A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there." An objective person came along and said, "It is logical that someone would fall down there in the pit." A Christian scientist came along and said, "You only think you're in a pit." [Laughter] A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into the pit!" A newspaper reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit. A fundamentalist said, "You deserve your pit." Confucius said, "If you had of listened to me you wouldn't be in the pit." Buddha said, "Your pit is just a state of mind." A realist said, "That's a pit!" A scientist calculated the pressure necessary per pound and square inch to get him out of the pit. A geologist told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit. A tax man asked if he was paying taxes on the pit. The council inspector asked him if he had a permit to dig a pit. An evasive man came along and avoided the subject of the pit altogether. A

self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."
[Laughter] A Charismatic said, "Just confess you're not in the pit." An optimist said, "Things could get worse." A pessimist said, "Things will get worse."

Jesus seeing the man knelt down, reached out his hand, and pulled him out of the pit. That's what we're called to do in Jesus' name. Amen! Amen! And amen! God bless you, church. Thank you.

In the Studio:

James: Boy, what a day in which we live! God knows we desperately need the next great spiritual awakening. As a matter of fact, it really is the only hope we have to secure peace and to give hope to people.

And please understand this. As believers, we don't have to turn our lives or our land, our country, or our future over to the gates of hell or the powers of darkness and deception. If Christians will be salt and light witnesses, we can actually refocus the eyes of the world on a living savior and that's what we're talking about with the Awaken Now Conference.

A year ago, celebrating our 50th anniversary in ministry and marriage, we hosted 20 of the most dynamic, anointed speakers on the face of this earth. Many of them you've never heard. Some of them you have. You know Beth Moore, Christine Caine, and Lisa Bevere. You've seen them many times right here; and many of our speakers you know, Andy Andrews, Governor Huckabee, Ben Carson, many of the great preachers that you've heard like Mark Rutland. I'm telling you, these great men, Jack Taylor and Dudley Hall and Peter Lord – many of you have never heard them but they changed my life and many of us went through an incredible transformation by the power of the word together, and it's impacted people all over the world.

Our viewers have said, "We loved the conference! We want everybody to see it." They're playing these DVD's and CD's; many of the DVD's are playing in churches and Bible Study groups. We're sending them to you if you'll simply help us continue to support the mission outreaches of LIFE, the television ministry.

As a matter of fact, you can get the entire conference both audio and DVD on a flash drive and we would love to send the entire conference to you. We're asking you for a gift to support our outreaches of \$125 to receive the CD's, the DVD's or the flash drive.

You will also get with that gift of \$125 the transcripts of all the messages and I'm talking about... here's Robert Morris and here's the transcript! What a great preacher! This is our pastor! Can you believe we had over 50,000 people attend our Easter weekend services at Gateway? A church that's only 14 years old but the power of God is there. And it was in Gateway that the conference was hosted.

So you are going to be blessed. You'll get the transcripts if you'll simply make the gift of \$125 to help us with the outreaches of LIFE. You'll get the CD's, the DVD's or the flash drive if you prefer it.

Now if you'd just like to have the CD's we're asking you for a gift of \$49. Again, that gift supports the outreaches of LIFE.

Go to the phone, take your bankcard or go online and say, "Send me the Awaken Now Conference now!" Twenty of the most truly anointed speakers you'll ever hear. And we thank you so much for your prayers and your support of the outreaches of LIFE. I pray you go to the phone or online right now. You'll be blessed if you do and you'll bless others.

Video clip:

Announcer: Introducing the greatest conference in 50 years of LIFE's ministry! *Awaken Now* – a powerful message for every believer seeking their full potential in God's Kingdom. In this once-in-a-lifetime gathering of over 20 anointed speakers, you'll hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church as you receive insight and empowerment from God's Word and experience a fresh call to unity with other believers.

>> If you're a believer you need to hear what has been said at this conference.

>> This was a very appropriate message for these times.

>> You will catch the enthusiasm of this group. Trust me!

>> A fresh touch of God!

>> It stirred my heart!

>> Listen to it -- it's wonderful!

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed.

Announcer: *Awaken Now* is available with your gift of only \$49 for the audio series or request both the audio and video series, along with a companion book containing the speakers' sermons and encouraging messages for just \$125! For your convenience you may choose to receive the entire series on CD and DVD or now for the first time ever, on USB flash drive! This micro device contains all the messages in both audio and video. Simply plug into your computer to watch or listen.

Remember, your gift today helps offer the gospel in word and deed around the world. Please call, write or make your secure gift online today!

End of Video clip

In the studio

James: You could have quite an awakening in your church or your community by just getting people to come week after week and just listen to these messages. Remember, \$125 and you can get the CD'S, DVD'S, or the flash drive, and in addition you get the transcripts. If you just want the CD'S, we're asking you to make a gift of \$49.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for watching LIFE Today, for listening to these great speakers and you're going to want to share the content and the inspiration that they bring with many of your friends and family. And hopefully, even your churches.

God bless you! Thanks so much for watching!

Begin video clip

>> 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 CIA representatives, and covert operatives. This is a day when you let your flag ring high in a culture in chaos. Jesus is not liking Christians. Yes, we want to win people to Christ but when it comes to his operation in history, he's having trouble finding disciples.

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed, because it will change your life!

>> Whatever awakening comes, and may God hasten the day, it will come only and all together because of the dangerous, wonderful, terrible, miraculous, unpretentious, uncontainable, unrestrainable liberty in the spirit of the living God, the Lord's power and presence through individuals. Come, Holy Ghost! And set us free!

>> If you are a believer you need to hear what has been said at this conference.

>> It is a now word for a now time.

>> That's a good way to put it! It's a now word!