

8/11/14
Week 33 WFL
Dudley Hall

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm James Robison. I'm joined by a lifelong friend. Literally, this person was so instrumental in my life that I don't know that I would have been in ministry for over 50 years. I don't know that I would have made it much past 25 or 30 had it not been for God using Dudley Hall as an instrument of grace and freedom and deliverance in my life because I discussed with him many times and asked the question, "Can you really be free? Can you really be?" He would ponder it because he is an old Alabama boy and football player and athlete -- but a scholar -- but he was honest. And he just had to kind of ponder.

One day I sat down by him in one of our city-wide conferences, nationwide conferences, and he just looked over and grinned and said, "I'm free." I almost started weeping because I knew he meant it.

Dudley Hall is the founder and teacher with Kerygma Ministries, and that covers a broad base. We're going to ask him to tell you what that exactly stands for because he's been in ministry for many years. He did our follow up for the hundreds of city-wide crusades that we did; he would come in and begin to disciple people. I'm just thrilled to have Dudley Hall here with me because I promise you, God will use Dudley to be a blessing to you and many people you love. Dudley, I'm glad to have you here, buddy!

Dudley: Thanks, buddy! Good to be with you.

James: Our journey is similar in a lot of ways because we experienced something we wondered about; didn't we?

Dudley: Yeah, we knew there had to be a level of freedom. Jesus didn't go to all that trouble to leave us in as much confusion as we were in.

James: Yeah, and we were church leaders; and the church leaders we were with seemed to be more confused than we were. I referenced the title of your ministry, which you just recently renamed what you'd called Successful Christian Ministries for

many years but you went to Kerygma. What does that mean? What do you want our viewers to understand about it; because you think it is vitally important.

Dudley: There are two words in the New Testament that are translated gospel or proclamation of the gospel. One is evangel; that's a very popular term among Christians, and the other is kerygma. It means the proclamation of an event that is so radical that after the proclamation nothing will ever be the same again. It is an announcement. It would be like if you and I were sitting here and somebody ran in and said, "James, somebody just gave you \$5 trillion!" Well, that's an announcement!

James: Yeah, I believe I'd listen.

Dudley: And if you believed it, life would never be the same again.

James: Especially if it was true. So the gospel that you're talking about is the transforming power of God through Christ. And we've got an awful lot of people today filling various houses of worship or churches, both Protestant and Catholic, who do not appear to have the power of that gospel.

Dudley: Yeah, that's exactly right. There's preaching... The word *preach* has taken on a bad connotation. Recently I was doing some research for a father/daughter retreat that I do in trying to help the girls identify the culture and the cultural messages. I rediscovered a song that Madonna did some years ago called, "Papa Don't Preach." It's a story of a little girl who said, "Daddy, you told me not to go out with this guy, not to hang around with him but I did. I shouldn't have but I did and now I'm pregnant and we're in trouble. Papa, don't preach."

And I thought, you know, I've even adopted that sometimes. I've sat with friends and said, "Now look, I'm not preaching to you just talking to you." Well, what's wrong with preaching? Well, it is because we have the idea that preaching is condemning you, challenging you, asking you to do something you can't do, making you feel bad for what you haven't done, asking you to improve, whatever; so nobody likes that kind of preaching.

But the preaching of the New Testament is an announcement that God has done something in Jesus Christ. It is true. It's already been done, and if you believe it your life will never be the same again. So that's what the word *kerygma* is.

Most everybody is familiar with Luke 14 where Jesus is starting off his ministry and he basically states his mission statement and says, "This is a fulfillment of what Isaiah

said. Isaiah said, 'One would come who would do this' and I'm he. I'm anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim" -- there's the word *kerygma* -- "to proclaim release to the captives, to proclaim relief from the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord -- the year of Jubilee."

All of that is a proclamation; it is something that God has done. And those are all the things that require for us to -- it's required for us to be free. So Jesus came to preach good news to the poor. That doesn't mean that he came to say, "You're about to be inundated with a bunch of stuff."

What he was saying was, "I'm bringing you such a rich relationship with God through Jesus Christ that regardless of your physical circumstances, your riches will be such that stuff will no longer confine you or define you."

James: And that's where most people live.

Dudley: Yeah. We're either embarrassed about our poverty or we're proud of our wealth. If stuff defines you, you're in bondage -- you're in big time bondage. So the kind of wealth that Jesus announced was, "I'm giving you a relationship that puts you in such a relationship with God the Father that you can be secure in knowing he's going to take care of you to do what he's told you to do." So that's rich.

James: And Paul experienced that gospel. He said, "I'm able to abound or be abased. I can have much or suffer lack." This is an inner relationship. And you know, Dudley, I can say that I know what that joy is with and without. I think one of the great powers of the gospel is and this is where so many people who have been blessed to live in a free society like we do, where we have free market opportunities, they get the blessings of that freedom but then they can't handle the blessings of that success and they become so arrogant that they make dumb statements like greed is good. There is nothing good about any evil or sin including greed.

So they're possessed by their possessions. God gives us a freedom that you live in freedom with or without the material possessions of this world. He didn't keep you from them; he doesn't necessarily promise that you're going to have everything somebody else has. So this is, to me, what I hear you talking about when you talk about the gospel; this is what Jesus came to give us.

Dudley: The next thing he says is, "I'm going to proclaim" or "I am proclaiming the release of the captives." Well, you just described some of the captives. Some rich people are captive just like poor people can be captive. If the issue is on stuff, whether

you got it or you don't have it, you're captive. Jesus came to set us free from it -- He did set us free from that.

One of the things that a lot of people don't get is that we are a part of a family, a family of Adam, that is in hostility toward God. When Adam and Eve chose to sin, they chose to listen to the serpent; they chose to submit to the kingdom of Satan. Ever since then all of humanity has been under that rule, deception, the lies of Satan. Jesus came and changed our family.

A lot of people are worried about am I doing enough for God to love me and to bless me? And have I done too much so that God is going to curse me? If you're in the wrong... Well, let me use this illustration: The old story of the Hatfields and the McCoys. If you were born a Hatfield, the day you were born you were in hostility against the McCoys; it didn't matter what you had done, good or bad. And the McCoys didn't care if you did good things, as a Hatfield; you can clean your room, you can farm your corn, you could be a good honest man, pay your debt, they didn't care, they still hated you because you were in the wrong family. And the only way you could ever get reconciliation is something has got to happen to the family. You either have to be a McCoy or something has to happen.

So we were born as children of Adam, in hostility toward God. Jesus came as the last Adam and through his life, death, burial and resurrection made it possible for us to be in the family of God so that I am set free now from the hostility toward God. I have as much access to God the Father as Jesus, his son, does; of course I'm in the son's family now, not in the enemy's family. So not only with the family change but the person who was in charge of us, Satan and his lies was defeated on the cross. So I've been set free.

All these people that are dealing with addictions and oppression and things that are controlling their lives, they can be free because Jesus came and made an announcement and said, "I have done what is necessary to set you free. It's an already done deal and you experience that freedom by coming to know me," by coming to know Christ. So there's that aspect of the announcement that he has done something that's defeated our foe.

James: One of the most exciting conversations you and I had over lunch one day was when you began to talk about the reality of this family and the relationship with the Father of that family, God himself; through Christ we come into that reconciled life with God, become one with him. You pointed out that most church people live like a house full of orphans and they don't know who they are in Christ. They don't know who their father is, they don't even know who they are individually and they sure

don't know as a family. So it looks like we're kind of holding weekly orphan meetings rather than sons and daughters.

Dudley: Absolutely! When Adam and Eve sinned they ran and hid behind a bush, so they're isolated from God, and then they were ejected from the Garden of Eden. So from that point on they were on the outside looking in. All of humanity has been on the outside of the garden looking in. And so we all grew up with that mentality -- an orphan mindset, if you will. And orphans are always thinking, what does it take for me to get in? And whatever the answer to that is, it becomes their religion.

If you should tell an orphan what it takes to get in is for you to give the most precious thing in your life, that would maybe be your firstborn son, then they will give it. Or if you tell them, you've got to keep these rules, they'll do it. Or if you tell them, you have to give this amount of money, they'll do it. Of course an orphan wants more than anything to be allowed to get back into the family, back into the garden.

I told you about a young man that lived with me for a while. He had grown up in Iowa on a farm, his mom and dad had gone through a terrible divorce and his mom kind of took it out on him and projected a lot of her anger on him. She would not let him stay in the house at night. She made him live in the barn. He was just a kid; he was like five or six years old. And he would have to get under the heat lamp with the chicks to stay warm enough to survive.

When he was telling me about it he said, "The thing that I did every morning was I always was awake at daylight and I would see the light come on in the kitchen. And I knew the family was gathering to have breakfast and I wanted so desperately to be in there."

And a few times, the little boy went out and pulled himself up on the window ledge and looked in to see his sisters setting the table. He said, "I would look at that and I would wait and see if they would ever set one for me but they never did."

I thought when he told me that story, that's what all of us feel like as it relates to God. I want so desperately to get in where Jesus and the Father live, where Jesus is enjoying the Father and the Father is enjoying Jesus. Could I ever get back in that house? Could I ever get there? What would it take? And it really makes you vulnerable when that's such a drive in you because some cult leader can come along and say do this and you'll do it because you want to.

But the good news is that Jesus came as our Adam, as our representative. On the cross he took our -- I made up a word *orphanity* -- he took our orphan mindset, he cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He took our place outside the garden so we can have his place inside with the Father.

Isn't it interesting when we close the Bible, the book of Revelation it all ends back in a garden. That's been the whole story, Adam and Eve, God's people that he created to enjoy him, to subdue the earth in partnership with him, the whole story of their fall and then the return; and then finally we're back with God in the garden with the stream flowing through it. A beautiful picture of what Jesus -- what the gospel is -- it's an announcement that God has done everything that needs to be done to get you in that place where you are enjoying God the way he designed you to enjoy him.

James: I just -- I can't listen to something like that and not see that little boy pulling up to the window. And the song kind of ran through my mind: Coming down the master calleth. I've set a table before you in the presence of all the enemies and critics, and everyone and everything that ever hurt you and I'm inviting you to come.

I can't help but wonder if I'm looking at somebody right now, you kind of feel like I'm pulling up. I really do want you to hear an invitation not from me and Dudley, God knows we wouldn't want to leave you out; why do you think we try to feed hungry people and give fresh water to people who don't have it? It's because not only we love you but God loves you and he loves through people like us and others who are willing to reach out. But wherever you are in your life, you are really chosen by God to be family. He never wanted the human race to be separated from him. He wanted us to live in the shelter and shadow of his wisdom, his watch care, and his boundaries to protect us, not to imprison us. He's inviting us, as Dudley said, to come back in because Christ made it possible for us to be children of the Father and be in the presence of God.

If you feel like you're looking in, maybe you've tried religion and church and still felt left out. Well, today's invitation that Dudley and I are sitting here to tell you that that invitation is to you. You can be family. You can know him as Father. Would you do something right where you are right now? Would you mind just bowing your head and would you just say, "God, dear God, I want you to be my Father." Just say that to him, "Forgive me. I want to be in your family." And go ahead and tell him, "I believe you gave Jesus to take my place in separation that I never be separated; I believe was cut off for my sin, for my sake that I never be cut off." And ask Jesus to come into your heart. Would you do that?

Father, I pray everyone you touched will do just that and receive you today; in Jesus' name.

And then Dudley, I'm praying that everybody out here who is a member of God's family will begin to live like children of the most high God and not like orphans and really apply the transforming power of the gospel. That's why we're here. I appreciate you sharing. You've been such a blessing to me and it's one reason I think that Betty and I and what we've done, we've been able to be a blessing to people all over the world, just like you've been -- you've disciplined so many people, helped so many families.

By the way, there's Dudley's web site. He hosts wonderful retreats for young people, for couples, father/son, father/daughter; he's trying to show people the father's light. Check it out. He's continually teaching and sharing. You can find those resources. Dudley, our viewers are unique. There are many people right now who are calling to say, "I prayed." And we'll send them the book called Knowing God as Father; it's a simple Bible study. And Dudley, you know what we try to teach people, and just going into the word and getting to know God. We'll send it to you if you prayed and asked God in your heart. But our viewers love to give water. They love to give more than just a cup of water in Jesus' name, they love to give wells. I want you to look in right now and I want you to look at scenes and people that I believe will so inspire you that you're going to reach out and say, "I'm going to be a part of giving you more than a cup of water, we're going to give you a well." Watch this closely.

On the mission field

>> There are certain stories which must be told and must be told because something must be done; scenes which scream for intervention. The desperation that Angola's drought has created for Domingas is one of them. But desperation is not a word which can adequately describe her circumstances. In fact, you're finding that no words can. We cannot sufficiently describe the need of Domingas' small family. We simply must show you.

You may not fully understand the nature or effects of waterborne diseases but you probably understand that these children will not survive much longer with this as their only water. Something must be done.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And we know what must be done and what can be done.

Betty, when you see that beautiful little girl and even younger little girl kneeling down there at the last, when you see them get that water, what goes on in your heart?

Betty: Well, it breaks my heart. I want to say, "No, no, honey! Don't do that! It's not good for you." But when that's the only source they have, that's the only place they have to go to get a drink of water, and they get thirsty, they have to have water. It just breaks my heart because I know they don't know what it's doing to their little bodies. But they will drink it until we offer them something else. And that something else is fresh clean water that we get from drilling the wells in their areas to help them.

Let's give them a choice. I'll just want to be sure, and I know you would be sure too, they're going to go for the clean water. They're going to see the purity of it and want that water. So please help us!

James: Well, these children and their families, you know they've never even seen a well. But when they see the water come out of the ground or they see the functioning mechanically operated well in their area it's like a party -- it's like a celebration. They know what it means.

Now we want you to help us do something very special that someone like you, a few of our friends knowing the crisis, as an example that we've been telling you about in Angola, and we're drilling wells in 20 countries, 500 of them and we've reached the halfway point, now we're going to complete it.

But in Angola, because of the seriousness of the drought and people facing death, we have targeted to drill immediately 68 wells. And some friends said, "In order for you to do that, we will match what people will give." \$326,000 they put up.

Father, I pray everyone will literally get up and go online right now or go get their bankcard or their checkbook and say, "I'm going to write the check; I'm going to make the gift that you put on my heart knowing it's going to be matched." In Jesus' name.

This is a very special opportunity. We're targeting 20 countries for the 500 wells. We've got a 68 well crisis and we have the areas targeted. There is water there below the surface; in many areas it is not too deep so we can get it quickly. And we've got some friends who said, "We'll match what you do."

Thank you for being those friends who do that but thank you for being the one who goes to the phone or goes online right now and says, "Here's the gift."

Now we have some gifts for you because we want to bless you and the children you love but you are literally transforming a community by expressing love when you give more than just a cup of water in Jesus' name, you're helping give a well of water and we're going to tell them about the well of life, the water of life. We're going to show them that love and I'm convinced they're going to receive it.

Thank you for going to the phone, thank you for going online. If you write a check call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail or call us and tell us what you want on that bankcard you use like a check. Thank you so much for doing it!

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: I don't know how you can look in on a need that must be met and not want to meet it if you could. I don't think there is a person watching that wouldn't try to save a child that was struggling or drowning; not a one of you watching wouldn't have done anything to save our daughter from the disease that finally took her.

Well, we've got a perfect cure. We've got a serious situation right now in Angola. The drought is so severe that if people don't get water, the death rate is going to be indescribable.

Let me tell you what some of our friends have done because they identify with the heart of God, the heart of the Father and they care about others. They said, "We will literally give a matching gift of over \$326,000." That's the exact amount; it was actually \$326,400. We will match that to help drill 68 critically needed wells. Some of them are quite a bit deeper than the norm but that will also give an incredible supply to reach far beyond the normal village size.

So if you could help us, we're running out of time. We need a miracle! That 68 of the 500 wells that we've targeted to drill, as I've told you for the past few weeks we're

more than halfway there, but we need to finish and this urgent call for Angola is really critical.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you; some books that will inspire you and inspire children. You're going to love them -- *Children at the Well*, *Women at the Well*, and then the beautiful *LIFE* journal. I'm telling you, you just don't know what this has meant to me and to Betty. I told you, our daughter gave me my first one like this and it's a treasure. I'd just been in a fight for my life with staph infection. Boy, what a treasure! And then we passed it on to others and it became so popular we want to offer it again if you'll just make a gift of over \$100 to help us.

And remember this, \$48 ten people water the rest of their life; that's how it breaks down -- \$144, 30 people for the Angola area and then to complete the total 500. Would you do it? Dial the number, take your bankcard. Go online LifeToday.org, use your card. If you write a check, make it to LIFE but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Would you do that? Or use your card today.

Many are calling to say, "I gave my life to Christ." You'll be calling to say, "Because he lives in me and I'm family, I want to share his love with others. Here's my gift." You're actually giving the greatest gift, you're giving life and we're going to point them to Jesus. Thanks for making that call.

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!

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hope as many of you as can will make the \$1200 gift or give a well, \$4800 knowing that it is going to be matched and doubled and ask for "The Blessing."

I want to say thanks to you, Dudley for being with me today. We're going to put your web site back up; you do have retreats.

He's kind of dressed like a retreat ranch manager and that's exactly what he is too with all his travels but he has a beautiful retreat west of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It is just fabulous, incredible scenery but great places to meet in the presence of God. There's the web site, check them out, and see if you can get in on some of those wonderful times of inspiration and instruction.

Thank you again for watching *LIFE Today*. Please, please tell your friends to watch. Betty will be back. She said, "I want to pray."

I say, "Honey, whatever you ask."

Sure do love all of you. Thanks for loving others!