

8/5/14
Week 32 WFL
Anthony Evans

James: Y'all are a wonderful bunch! Thank you! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Anthony who is just one of the most gifted singers on the planet. Anthony Evans has been blessed. This is a pretty cool looking cover on his new CD, *Real Life/Real Worship*. Another great picture on the back.

[Laughter]

Now I tell his dad that this is the Evans network that I raise the money for so everybody can meet Tony's family; and Priscilla was here recently and Tony is here often. It is a joy to have Anthony. Would you join Betty and me in saying we're glad to have you Anthony Evans.

[Cheers & Applause]

Anthony: Good to see you! Great to see you!

James: Well, you had a unique experience when you ended up on *The Voice*.

Anthony: A very unique experience.

James: There you were! Tell us about it.

Anthony: It was a very interesting phone call that I got almost three years ago now, with one of the casting team inviting me to come and be on this new show called *The Voice*. It was the first season; it was actually untitled at that point. They didn't know the name. They just told me that Mark Burnett was going to do it and they were giving me his resume. They said, "Come on!"

It was like Monday, they wanted me in L.A. on Thursday for like three months. I was like, "I don't think I can do it." I told them I couldn't do the first season and then I got a call back for the second season and had lots of questions.

James: Did it start doing something to where then it got your attention after season one?

Anthony: Well, it had my attention before season one but then schedule-wise I could do season two because it was more time. The first season they were trying to get it done really quick. So it was a very unique experience. It felt weird leaving what I was used to, which is being here with you guys, that's something I'm used to doing, to go to Hollywood, which is very not the Bible belt.

[Laughter]

It was different for me. But that started an experience that has changed my life, internally as well as externally, what I'm doing.

James: When you say that, it changed you internally, externally, tell us what you mean.

Anthony: Being in Hollywood got me connected to life outside the four walls of church. It got me connected to friends that don't believe. I have never had friends -- like a group of friends in my life who are non-believers. That's how sheltered I was, not intentionally, but that is just my world. I'm a preacher's kid, Christian singer -- that was my world. I learned how to communicate my faith outside the four walls, which is something I should have learned a long time ago. But it's done that and it's made me dream bigger and reach broader than what I was reaching before.

Betty: So it strengthened your faith? Sometimes that's a challenge for Christians to go into that kind of setting and that atmosphere to hang on to God.

Anthony: Very much so unless your dad is Tony Evans and you're on the phone with him all the time.

[Laughter]

Yeah! We had lots of phone calls and lots of... Yeah, it's so hard.

James: Yeah, I've got another modern mechanism to work.

Anthony: Exactly!

James: And there is no question you had a lot of praying because mom and dad do -- and all of us do because we love your family. How do they respond to somebody like you? You've got to be weird.

Anthony: Yeah, very weird! One of the first experiences I had was I was on Christina Aguilera's team and she had us over for dinner one of the first nights we were back in Hollywood. She sat down and was like -- okay, just like this, "So you're a preacher's kid and you're a worship leader. Explain that to me. What in this worship leading thing?"

I remember starting to talk and watch -- her face was like, "What are you talking about?" Because I was doing Christianese because that's just how I do. And then for a minute I just thought, she's got to think I'm the weirdest person alive because her face was like, "You're crazy."

James: Did you think about standing up and beginning to sing like you were really worshipping? I think you would have got her attention. I know though you're making headway. Don't you find when they find somebody that's for real, somehow they give you some kind of a let's say a platform, attention?

Anthony: Yeah, it's been connecting on an authentic, real life level. That's why the record is called *Real Life/Real Worship*. I sat down with Jewel and Christina at another time and Jewel said to me, she was my advisor on the show. She said, "I understand that you're a preacher's kid and you're a worship leader but that's the tip of the iceberg. There are things that are underneath the surface about you that I will connect with and I need to know what's under the surface. I need to know as a human being what do you experience?"

And she, Jewel, challenged me to write about my real life experiences and it is always going to be through the filter of my faith because that's who I am. So you'll see, you will get an experience of me and that conversation with Jewel and Christina challenged me to step outside of my box to talk about my real life. And that is what has connected me to my friends in Los Angeles who have said, "Never ask me to go to church. I'm not going to do that thing."

And all of them have been to church with me at some point now, just because of our connection because we're just connecting on a life level; they want to know what makes me tick.

James: You showed them respect. In other words, you didn't say, "Well, I live in a different world. I'm above all of this. Holy, holy, holy!" And that makes God and them want to go, "Blah!" It makes God sick too. So you respected them, now they're respecting you, and they're listening. Did they actually inspire some of this *Real Life/Real Worship*?

Anthony: Most of the record, sonically, what you hear on the record is 100% inspired by my friends and my experience in Los Angeles; and then subject matter-wise, half of the record is out of conversations I've had with my friends.

James: And Dr. and Mrs. Evans know that Christina and Jewel had something to do with this?

Anthony: Yes, they do!

James: Oh my goodness!

Anthony: There's been so many positive things that I've been able to take out of this experience. It really has taught me so much and I've been challenged by non-believers who are investing in me because now they love me as a person. And this record has come about, the things we're worked on, I've done some videos this week where people are going over the top, these people I've met through *The Voice* in helping me with these videos, and they're helping me get the gospel message out. They don't even believe the message but they believe in me and they're helping me get this message out in a bigger way than I ever have in my whole life.

James: That's what love does! I'm telling you, love tears down walls. We've got to learn that. Really and truly, the church is so encased under this cover of church houses and a church persona, that we don't pierce the darkness. He's trying to pierce the darkness. Don't you appreciate what Tony is doing and what God is doing in Tony? I do! Anthony has got something going! Now you know your sister was here and she's a preacher's kid too.

[Laughter]

Tony, your kids have got issues! But you know what she said? She said, "I've got relationship issues." Now do you have any relationship issues, Anthony?

Anthony: Oh, yeah. Do you have time for all this?

James: Well, brief time because we want you to sing.

Anthony: For sure. That's a whole other thing. Growing up I had a lot of pressure on me, not from my parents just my environment, it created a pressure to perform. So I never -- long story short is I couldn't understand the concept of acceptance without performance. So I'd get worn out in relationships where people are really trying to love on me. I keep performing and then eventually, I'll get worn out and I'm like I can't do this anymore.

And that's been the case in friendships, that's been the case in relationships, that's why this finger still has nothing on it because I really have some issues.

[Laughing]

But that's part of my real life experience has been to actually get into all this stuff. My parents didn't know until way later in life. I was 26, I think, and I sat down with them and explained this whole thing to me. My dad, I heard his footsteps coming down to the room I was staying in, because I wasn't living with him at that point, I was grown.

[Laughing]

And he apologized because he had no idea that I felt that thing that happens in church culture to perform -- that performance thing.

James: Well, your dad in my opinion is teachable. You're one of my heroes, Tony, you know that. I love you, Lois; I love y'all beyond words. You know that. I'm your servant and always will be. And I'm yours. You, in one of these relationship situations, I think it led to one of the songs that you might want to sing for us tonight? Set it up for me.

Anthony: The song I want to sing tonight is called "Somebody to Call Home." The dynamic is I've worked really hard. This is real life stuff. This is not necessarily your typical Anthony worship song. But it is a song about my heart and I've worked hard on my career for years and almost forsaken the relationship side of my life and used work and worship leading almost as a cover for my issues in not wanting to pursue relationship.

So this song is me finally admitting outside of just myself in my room in my journal, it's me admitting that I'm ready for somebody to call home. I'm traveling all the time

but there's -- your dynamic, y'all travel a lot but you are your somebody to call home. You know what I mean? It may not necessarily always be a place.

James: It's a miracle we needed! We needed that relationship. So I'm hearing your heart. Let me just tell you this, I bear witness with it and I'm one with you in it in agreeing with you and already, while I'm sitting here I'm praying with you. Because everybody... and you may not know this, but Betty and I sitting here, you say, "I wish I had somebody to love and to love me."

Well, I do too. And I care! And you've got to know there's somebody that cares more who can actually be involved in the situation and that's God. He isn't way up there untouchable. He is the most touchable force in the universe, and he wants to help you. So just know that.

Listen to Anthony and then listen to the song that his journey inspired. God wants you, and already we and all of you here are praying for Anthony but we're praying for you and there are people here in this studio who say, "Me too! Me too! I want that relationship. I want somebody and someplace to call home."

Father, I pray for every person right now that's saying that and I'm asking you to lead them to invite you into their setting, their situation, their journey, their challenge, their dilemma, their hope, their hurt -- to get you right in the middle of it; in Jesus' name. Do it, Lord! Invite him to.

Y'all want to hear Anthony sing this song he's been inspired to write?

Okay, do it. Go for it, buddy!

[Anthony sings]

I've traveled the world
Seen it all
London in Spring
New York in the Fall
Oh,

Beautiful things

I can hold
But I want something

that I can't let go
Go

But there's a part
a part of me
That longs for
Somebody to call home
To call my own
Someone I can turn to
Someone I can lean on
Whether I'm with them
Or whether I'm gone I want to call
I'm ready to call somebody home
Somebody home

I believe you're out there
Looking for me
Well, I'm right here
I'm here

Oh, you're in my dreams
In my prayers, in my heart
You're everywhere

Everywhere

Whoa
With all I am
I believe that I'm closer now
To finding somebody to call home
To call my own
Someone I can turn to
Someone I can lean on
Whether I'm with them
Or whether I'm gone
I want to call
I'm ready to call
Someone I can love
Someone I can trust
Who believes in the man that I am

And the man I will become
Someone I grow old with
And share a good night kiss
Over and over and over again

I want somebody to call my home
Someone I can turn to
Someone I can lean on
Whether I'm with them

Or whether I'm gone
I want to call
I'm ready to call somebody home
Somebody home

I want somebody to call home
I want somebody to call my own
I want to call
I'm ready to call somebody home
I've traveled the world
Seen it all

[Cheers & Applause]

James: Hey, man! Whoa, whoa! How did he not win *The Voice* and get to go back and win it again?

[Laughter]

Dear God! Dear Lord, you did good! I'm telling you, and I'm going to say this, we'll send you this CD if you'll just help us give a cup of water in Jesus' name, literally. I'm really praying for you, buddy because that's a prayer you sang, and it's a hope. And I'm telling you now, because I was over here leaning over on somebody to come home to. I know I'm not dumb, buddy, I'm blessed. You say, "You don't even know how blessed you are, man!" Yes, I do.

Father, for everyone who is saying, "I want that," please, God... and I know I started here, I did come home to you as a boy without a home and I meant it. I put you first. I want you to be first and you really got involved in my journey. And God, I'm praying for everybody out here who wants that home that Anthony is singing about. They'll

start with one, you're first God, but then you get involved God and let them have that heart's desire because they delight in you; in Jesus' name.

Anthony, I don't know who is going to screen all the e-mails you're going to get when they heard that song all over the world! They're coming from down under. They're coming from Canada, they're coming from everywhere. They're coming from the mission fields of Africa!

[Laughter]

Am I going to have to screen them all?

Anthony: No, I didn't. A pastor asked me to sing that song at a church a few weeks ago. And after I finished he was like, "You want me to do an altar call right now?"

[Laughter]

James: What are you coming for, honey? But I really want everybody to have that and I know you want everybody to start with a relationship with God.

Anthony: Absolutely! The next song on the record after Somebody to Call Home is called Ask and it is Matthew 7:7: Ask and it will be given to you, seek... So it is my real life emotions but tied into my real worship experience because that's where that kind of song leads me to asking.

James: Amen! Well, I'm praying for you and praying for you.

Just say thanks to Anthony again. He blesses us. Your whole family; we love you, Tony, Lois, Priscilla -- all of you! Now do what I know is in your heart to do. Let's give a cup of water. I want you to watch closely. You will be moved but be moved to more than tears or concern -- be moved to action. Compassion is action expressed. Watch closely.

Begin video clip

Tammy: Having the chance to sit around the edge of the water with Jennifer, and you know she is young so there's not a whole lot that she understands in life yet, but the one thing she understands is that this source of water is making her sick.

>> It hurts me right here; from there it hurts my head. It makes me want to vomit.

Tammy: We keep coming to different places and seeing something, as simple as water, and knowing that there's nothing she's done to deserve something like this, this kind of backdrop in her life. This is her only choice is to come to these water sources every day and drink from them. The water is contaminated, it's filled with parasites and disease, and I think it grips me with the thought of drinking water like that, putting that into their tiny little bodies.

But there is hope. We know how to come into these places that are out in the middle of nowhere and drill them a water well that will produce life-giving water. Wouldn't that be incredible? Something so wonderful like water! When you drink it every day, Jennifer, you know that it will give life to your little body; it will make you well. That's my hope and that's my prayer is that you would somehow catch the vision that we have and want to partner with us in that. So this is our opportunity to make a difference in the life of Jennifer and hundreds of other people in this village who have nothing.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! I hear Jesus in Tammy. And Betty, that little girl represents millions of people that need water. We've been able to get -- we, you, us together -- millions of people water by taking it one village at a time like she was talking about.

Betty: James, I'm glad that Tammy told us what the little girl's name was, Jennifer. All these children, they're so precious -- they all have names. God loves each and every one of them. And that precious little Jennifer even knew what was causing her pain, but there's nothing she could do about it. There is something we can do about it. We can stop that pain. Just simply by joining together and drilling the water wells. Let's give them the clean, pure water to put into their precious little bodies that God created.

James: Boy, I was watching you on the monitor while you were talking, Betty, and I... I remember Betty coming home from staying with our daughter Robin when she was so sick and she had such a wound that wouldn't heal. And she kept saying, "I just want -- I want to make it well. I wish I could do something." It didn't happen but she's fine.

But that little girl, her little stomach and that's where Robin, our daughter was hurt so bad, we've got a perfect cure. Do you understand what I'm saying? Perfect! It's just what we take for granted -- it's clean water.

So would you please, please, please provide the cure for that little girl, her family, children like that, so simple. I know we can't -- we can't meet every need; I wish we could. God can through us touch every need; do what no government can do, we do it. You've always wanted to help so we've got some friends who said, "We're so concerned about Angola that we'll match whatever is given for the 68 wells that are needed in that drought-stricken country."

So that means if you could help us drill a well we'd have another one because it would be matched. If you could give part of a well and then it would be matched. If you give the \$48 that gives 10 people Water for Life, we now provide for 20 because it's matched, it's doubled with a challenge gift of over \$300,000 for people who just said, "Look, we've got a burden for not only the 500 wells but for the desperate situation in Angola so we'll help you there because it is so critical right now.

So would you please dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check; that's how you always want to use it. Or go online, LifeToday.org and use that card like a check and make the gift. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Please do it right now. Please! We have the cure. We have it in our hand, in our heart. Just dial the number, make the love gift God puts on your heart. Thank you 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 believe with all my heart you're going to help all you can. Knowing, too in Angola, what you give now... And by the way, if you get a busy, be persistent; call until you get through -- and it will be matched.

If you'd like to have Anthony Evans, *Real Life/Real Worship*, we'll be glad to send it to you to say thank you, along with the other gifts to inspire you and bless you. You never give to get from us something we offer. I know that. You give to bless. Well, we give to bless you because we love you. And Anthony wants to bless you and we'll be glad to send you this.

Let's altogether say thanks to God and thanks to Anthony for the wonderful gift!

Bless you, buddy! Love you! Man, you did good! Wow! Wow!

Thank you for watching. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. Man, they ain't living if they're not watching *LIFE Today*!