

5/25/15
Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding
Tom and Jan Lane

James: Thank all of you! We appreciate it. You make us feel welcome and we welcome you. I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you. We love the church. Christ loved the church, gave himself for it; we love the church.

But we also love the church family that we're a member of, it's Gateway -- Gateway Church in Southlake. If you don't know where Southlake is, it's just west of the D.F.W. Dallas/Fort Worth airport. It's a church that wants to inspire God's arms around the whole world that he loves. Our senior pastor, really, sort of like executive, I would say administrator, well, he's just a leader.

But he and his wife wrote a book. It's called Strong Women -- *Strong Women and the Men Who Love Them*.

[Laughter]

I want you to meet him but I want you to meet him in a very unique way. Watch.

Begin video clip

>> So I picked up some color swatches for painting the front room. This one is called French blue and this one is called Paris blue. Which do you like better?

>> Well, um...

>> Are you folks ready to order?

>> Yes, thank you. I'm going to have the tuna tartare with sautéed asparagus and sherry wine reduction. Oh, and he'll have the Waldorf salad with vinaigrette.

>> Actually, I thought I had would rather have the porter house steak.

>> But we don't eat red meat. He'll have the salad. So which one?

>> They look exactly the same.

>> No. If you look this one has little bit more green in it and this one as a little bit more yellow in the blue. I think you'll like the Paris blue, which is funny, that's my favorite. It's so cool that we just like the same things.

>> Why do you always talk to me like I'm a child?

>> Excuse me. I couldn't help overhearing your conversation and we'd like to give you a little encouragement.

>> See, like you, I married woman strong in her opinions and the expression of those opinions.

>> And he's so glad he did! But seriously, after 40 years of marriage, we've gone through all kinds of situations and conversations like you were having and we decided to write a book called Strong Women and...

>> ...And the Men Who Love Them! See, it's actually true, opposites attract. But we thought we could tell our story and share some tips that helped us find balance when one person is strong...

>> And the other is more easygoing. I think I might just have a copy. Oh, how lucky!

>> I think I'll read it first.

>> We're going to need two, hon!

>> Thank you.

>> Okay Tom. Let's leave them alone. We need to go order our food and I haven't even told you what you're going to order yet.

>> As you wish! I like that one.

>> See! That's what I said!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Tom, and strong woman, Jan.

[Laughter]

Give them a big welcome; would you do that? I love that piece. That's really good. Has this just been your life?

[Laughter]

I feel like I might just need to pray over you. We all need to help you!

Tom: We've had many of those very scenarios to work out. She may not have the right answer but she's never in doubt about the answer she has.

James: There you go. Well, you act like you're really happy, Tom. I've known you a long time and we're pretty close. And you know, we love the same church and try to serve the Lord there. You act like you're okay; are you okay?

Tom: I'm okay. Yes! It works good. Like I said in the clip there, it really is true that opposites attract. I was from the very beginning, we've known each other since junior high, started dating in high school, and I was attracted to the spunk that was a part of her life. She was fun to be around. She always expressed an opinion. She was a party wherever she went, and I really liked that and I still like it today.

James: Have you been able to eat a porter house steak yet?

[Laughter]

Tom: No, we don't eat meat.

[Laughter]

Jan: Good job!

James: Jan, how do you respond because you're writing this and I know y'all are making light of what a lot of people would think well, boy, that must be a very miserable existence. And I have said this, and I believe this and I want you to tell me if this is right, I believe that a woman wants to be treated like a queen. True? But she would rather be treated like a queen by a king than a pawn.

Jan: Totally!

James: So he doesn't have to not be a king leader in order to respect your strength and what you bring to the table. He can make you feel like a queen from a position of strength. Because I don't think you would really be excited about the marriage if you knew you were just walking over him; am I right?

Jan: Right. And if you know him, he's not a meek quiet person.

James: No, he's not a doormat at all. He is really strong. He pushes men around.

[Laughter]

He's strong. So how do you explain this to people to help them understand? Because you have to have a strong personality, you're not apologizing for that. I sense that you're grateful for it; I also sense that he is grateful for it. Now how many children do you have?

Jan: We have four children.

James: And you have 13 grandchildren.

Jan: Fifteen.

James: Fifteen grandchildren. Well, because Peter, yesterday met with us and he had 13 grandchildren. I'm 71, I'm having issues.

Betty: That what I'm here to help you with.

James: That's it! You are helping. I wouldn't make it without you at all. I would not. So here's the deal. She is strong but you seem to be totally at peace with that. So how do you explain that?

Tom: Well, the dynamic that, really, we talk about in the book is one, I wanted to avoid conflict. I thought in my life, I'm the diplomatic one. I'm the one that kind of diffuses issues when they develop. I brought that into our marriage thinking the goal was to eliminate conflict. In doing that, I wasn't honest.

And what she wanted is, her goal was not to eliminate conflict, she wanted a real relationship. So when conflict would arise, I would do what I could. I'd tell her, "I'm sorry."

She'd say, "For what? What are you sorry about?"

James: See, that pawn deal doesn't work. Nobody wants a doormat. Many of the sweethearts -- and this is a sweetheart -- and I'm going to tell you, she has the kind of heart you could hurt and somebody could have walked on. And boy, I asked God, I have disappointed her and it's awful because she has that sweet tender heart -- because I see it. If I get close to God, I want to guard that heart. So that's really, really there.

So here you are, seeing where she is, she is wanting this strength. She is actually in strong leadership letting you know this apology business is not really kosher, it's not really something she wants.

Tom: No. The way she would tell me that is, "What are you sorry for?"

I would go, "Um... sorry for making you mad?"

She'd -- "Not good enough. Dig a little deeper, come up with the issue that you did that you're apologizing for."

So the strength of her personality played out in ways like that.

James: How do you see it? Take it from your standpoint in the book. What do you want women, because a lot of women who are strong, they can't stand to see things not done. They can't stand to see something overlooked and you've got to take these issues seriously. So how do you handle all of that and get him then not to just say "I'm sorry," but to adjust to where it is a happy situation? How do you make that happen?

Jan: I think the thing is that we would work together on it and we didn't settle for just, "Okay, you can say I'm sorry. I'm going to go my own way, you're going to go your own way." We wanted to have a real relationship. A lot of women are really strong -- a lot of women are.

James: And nothing wrong with that!

Jan: Nothing wrong with that. In fact, God likes it.

James: I think it is good. I think it is absolutely wonderful.

Jan: Really, that's why we wrote the book because there is not a lot of books out there from the point of a woman being strong and the men more easygoing. So women really don't know their place. I would read books and think, okay, I'm identifying more with the guy in this book than

the girl in this book. We have had people that have read the book that say, "I'm a guy but I'm identifying with you." So I feel like either way, you can go with a strong personality with a person who is more easygoing and peace-loving, how do you make it work? How do you negotiate?

Betty: I feel like you were saying to him, "I want to hear your heart; what's really in your heart" because it is about communication. I was more like you, Tom. I didn't like conflict either. I didn't want to get in a confrontation with James because I thought he could word me to death. I'd back off. So he saw that.

James: You've got a whole cheering section out here honey! You just won the jury and the judge and I'm done!

[Laughter]

Betty: But thankfully he saw that and he was determined he wasn't going to walk over me because he really cared about my heart and what I thought. So he would say, "Tell me what you really feel."

Jan: Well, the thing that would happen in conflict is that I would become passionate about what we were talking about and he would begin to kind of withdraw so that caused me to kind of want to connect some more so I would go after him, like, "Let's keep talking about this." And then he would withdraw more until he's backed into a corner.

James: Basically, that's what we did. I really, as the leader, which I was, I said, "Thou shalt not pout. You're not going to go off in a corner; we're going to get through this." I wouldn't let her go there. I knew that you couldn't live there. When did you begin to realize you can't live there, the way you were going? What hit you besides her, I don't think she did.

[Laughter]

But something she said got through. When did you realize I can't keep doing this?

Tom: We identified first a pattern that we'd go -- we had a harmonious relationship most of the time but we would go for a season and then it would work its way into some issue of conflict with this pattern of I'd withdraw, she'd pursue. She'd pursue until I felt back into a corner and then I'd come out emotionally just swinging, and we decided, we don't want that pattern. So if we didn't want that pattern, we were going to have to do something different. So I came home from work one day and she was at the stove fixing dinner. I walked in the house and I said,

"Hey!" She kind of looked over her shoulder and said, "Hey!" I walked back to the bedroom thinking she's mad at me. Now what did I do? I didn't do anything that...

James: Just came home.

Tom: Then I thought, oh, she wants me to call her and I didn't call her. This is all internal conversation going on.

James: You're just a jerk!

Tom: She just needs to know I'm working, I'm busy, I can't call her every day.

I get in the closet, I'm changing my clothes and she walks in and says, "So hey, how was your day?" -- All bubbly.

And I went -- everything inside of me was going, "Pull out! Back up! It's coming. You're going to get it!" I said, "I'm fine."

I'm thinking, because if the table were reversed, I had said, "I'm fine" when I wasn't fine, and so I was looking -- while we were in the this conversation the Holy Spirit just said to me, this is the pattern you don't want to get into.

I looked at her and I said, "Okay. Are you mad at me?"

She said, "No."

And I'd been there before where she had asked me, "Are you mad at me?"

And I was furious at her but I said, "No!"

[Laughter]

"If I've got to tell you I'm mad..."

[Laughter]

So I'm still going, "I need to get out of this."

I said, "Okay. Listen, Jan. Everything in me is telling me that you're mad at me and to prepare for rejection. So if you're mad, you need to tell me. If you're not mad, I'm going to override all of these feelings. And if I do, and you're mad at me it's really going to mess me up."

She said, "Look at me. Look in my eyes."

Jan: I was completely taken off guard because I had no idea that he was thinking all of this. So when he said, "Are you mad at me?"

I thought, I said, "Hi!" And then what makes him think I'm mad at him?

So when he said, "Are you mad at me?" I said, "No. I'm not mad at you."

Then he came out with, "I really feel like you're mad at me."

Tom: See, this is the nuances of these ladies. You've got to kind of read all the subtle messages.

[Laughter]

James: You've got to get all that settled. I understand that. The book about Everything We Understand about Women, its 500 pages and all of them are blank. But that's it.

Okay, here's the deal and I think this is where somebody looking in and a lot of their family here and so forth. Somewhere a miracle occurred because I know them both and to know them is to love them both. And to know them is to know they both not only love God but they love one another, and they actually appreciate the distinctives, the difference, and the strength.

Now I think this can happen to everybody because see Betty loves my strength, I love hers. I've actually gotten her to be more expressive. I tell her, "You can duke it out now, girl!" And it's good for her to know she can.

Do you feel comfortable now going ahead and kind of downloading? And you feel like you'll live to tell the story another day?

Tom: Yes, yes! I think I'll survive!

[Laughter]

James: That's good! So when you say to people who are not connecting because Betty and I

believe in open honest communication. We believe in conflict resolution; not just enduring it or ignoring it. We believe you can actually get to a point of understanding and. Even if you're still different about something, you can appreciate the difference.

Is this what happens when you go through the book for people who are saying, "Okay, we want this." -- Because I see it in both of you. Are you saying this -- is this just a cover you've got here for us now or is it really what you're writing about real? Y'all have made it to that joy place?

Jan: Listen. This is our life story so this is really vulnerable for us. The book is, we're telling our story, we're telling how we walked through it and we didn't always do it great but it is what we did and we've managed to make a good marriage with a good family and we love each other.

James: And she's done all the talking about that. How is that? Are you agreeing with that?

Tom: I'm totally agreeing with it.

James: I know she was sincere with what she just said.

Tom: It's split. I wrote five chapters on issues that I had to deal with to come to grips to make this connection we're talking about; she wrote five chapters on what she had to deal with. So I'm dealing with things like denial, I lived in denial, "No, that didn't bother me. No, it doesn't hurt me. No, I'm not mad."

Or withdrawal, "Just leave me alone. I'll say whatever you need to say just so we can get along. I had to learn --

James: That really has to be miserable. And people live there. That's not a happy experience.

Tom: It isn't, but you think you're going to create happiness in that process and you don't, especially in marriage when the whole goal is to connect your hearts and lives together. As you were saying, a partnership, really. When this works right, the strengths of her life, I take advantage of now. I understand and I appreciate. The strengths in my life, she takes advantage of and we're better as partners together than we were individually.

James: I see you as one. How many years did it take you to get to this point where you finally got here? Was it pretty far into the marriage; longer than it should have been?

Tom: Yes! Much longer than it should have been.

James: And it's been okay now for a while? It's been a few months or it's been okay longer than that?

[Laughter]

Tom: See today...

James: It's pretty touchy!

Betty: But you know it is about commitment too. James and I, of course we have disagreements and we've had some pretty good ones through 52 years of marriage, you can imagine. But we never threatened divorce to one another because we were committed to this forever, this relationship.

And God made us different. You say "opposites attract." Okay, God means for this to work then. We are one but we don't give up our difference -- our personalities are different, they mesh together, we learn to work together. And that is the difference is the commitment to work through it and become one.

Tom: It was a developing process for us but I would say we've been married 42 years and I would say we were at least 14 or 15 years into our marriage before this pattern really was understood of what was taking place. And then we've been progressively learning how to apply it. We still have our moments too but we've got the tools.

James: If you want to know what they share, I'll tell you what we'll do, it's in the bookstores. You can get it. You go visit Gateway and they'll have it in the Gateway bookstore and drop in.

But here's the thing, we'll send it to you. Here's what we're asking you to do. We want to –

By the way, would you like to say thanks to Tom and Jan for opening up their lives?

Thank you both for sharing it with us.

Let me show you something. I want to show you a child that you can in a way be a father figure, a God-the-Father figure, and you can be a healing factor.

And you know what I think? I think inside, if you look, you're going to want to be. You're going to want to be the answer to a heart cry. And while you're being an answer to the heart cry

you're actually being an answer to the heart of God and his will. Watch very closely and prayerfully. Watch!

On the mission field

>> We would not have survived if not for the food you've given.

Announcer: 15-year-old Achol amidst the conflict in South Sudan, she has lost so much her father, their home, life as she knew it. But she has also found some things, a will to survive, a nurturing heart for her little brother.

>> We heard gunshots all around us. I took my younger brother by the hand and we ran as fast as we could. We saw so many killed as we ran. We saw our two uncles lying dead on the ground. When we reached the woods, I realized we were separated from our mom and dad.

Announcer: Sometimes life thrusts us into roles we don't anticipate. During their escape, big sister became protector.

>> At night when we would sleep I would hold his hand. For five days we were lost. Then we were finally reunited with our mom but she told us our father had been killed.

Announcer: Because of your support, food awaited them in a place of safety. But in this time of crisis in South Sudan, without you *LIFE Outreach* can do nothing. Again and again, Achol takes her brother's hand. It is a gesture of love that keeps him near, safe, provided for. When you respond to the need before you, your gesture of love erases the distance between to take the hand of Achol and those suffering like her.

End of clip

In the studio

James: O Lord, how I pray we would take that precious 15-year-old girl's hand and lift them both into the arms that you extend so freely; in Jesus' name. I honestly believe that in your heart, every person that is watching, if you stayed with us and you didn't turn away, then you see an opportunity to literally put the arms of a loving God around that precious family and so many others.

And you, of all people on the planet, the missionaries think you're just the greatest Christians in the world. They say it over and over, "The people that watch *LIFE Today* and help us do what God called us to do have got to be the greatest Christians because they're helping some of us

and they've never met us but they enable us to be the hands of Jesus. And they don't leave us empty-handed." We're able to extend not only love and expressions of love but we're able to give them food and give them the future.

Betty, we're able to take those children over a period of time into a miracle situation in so many instances. There are miracles occurring because of prayer and because people are involved. I'm believing every person watching today is going to take advantage of a miracle we've had where we've had a few friends say, "We're going put a \$400,000 matching gift for what you give right now -- we're going to double it." Because we've got 400,000 children, plus 25,000 right there in that Sudan area that's just in horrible conflict -- 425,000 right now and we're asking you to help. Betty, I believe every person watching is going to do something knowing it will be doubled.

Betty: Will you right now reach out and join hands with us and let's make a chain of love around these precious children and these families? And let's give them hope; let's show them the love of Jesus by offering help to them. Please join with us.

James: Yeah, we don't just love in word, we love in deed. And when you show people the power of the gospel, the good news, and you show them love, you don't just tell them about it, you show them love, they receive love, they believe the story of God's grace because they've seen it.

Would you right now knowing that what you do today will be doubled, would you go online, LifeToday.org, take your bankcard and use it like a check? That's the way you should always use them -- like a check. Or you can dial the number and get your bankcard and say, "Here's the gift."

Now think about this: \$30, \$50, \$100, under normal circumstances feeds three, five, or ten children for the next months. Now it will be doubled! A gift of \$100 doesn't feed 10 it feeds 20 now; \$50 feeds 10, \$30 feeds 6 so what you do is doubled. These are the closing days of this emphasis. Twice a year we ask you to help. We need a miracle right now -- a miracle of love. Would you be that miracle expression?

We have some gifts to send you to bless you and inspire you. And I promise you, they will. We want to place in your hands that which will bless you and encourage you and inspire you so we will say thank you. But will you right now reach out and touch someone with God's love? -- LifeToday.org. Or dial the number; make the gift God put on your heart knowing it's going to be doubled in its effect because of love. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa. Those at greatest risk are the children.

This month, 400,000 children are depending on us for survival. And now in South Sudan the suffering has intensified and our feeding efforts are desperately needed by an additional 25,000 children.

As an answer to prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$400,000 matching gift challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact! \$30 to help feed three children will be doubled to impact six children. \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save 10 children. \$100 for ten children will be doubled to help feed 20 children. And \$300 for 30 children will be doubled to help feed and minister to 60 children.

With your gift, we'll send you *Heirs to the Kingdom*, four powerful messages on audio CD or USB flash drive. You'll also receive the award-winning book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*.

With your double-impact gift of \$100 or more to help feed twenty children please request *The Story*, a running narrative Bible to help you engage with God's word more easily.

And finally, please consider a double-impact gift of \$1,000 and request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light™, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I do want to say thank you. By the way, if you're trying to get through and you're calling and you get a busy, a lot of times people are calling because 80% of the calls today, there will be over 1,000 people call and say, "Would you pray for me?" Yes, we will!

But if you get a busy be determined, "I'm going to get through."

To say thank you we're going to send you *Heirs to the Kingdom*. This is a tremendous teaching by our wonderful friend Dudley Hall.

And then *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey; you have no idea how this is going to bless you, I'm telling you. And if you would like to have *Strong Women and the Men Who Love Them* –

And by the way, if you're a strong man, there's this in here for you because it actually tells you how to communicate. If you'd like to have it, it is in the bookstores but we'll be happy to send it to you to say thanks for your gift.

Join us here in the audience to say thanks, if you will, to Tom and Jan. Thank you so much for sharing. Thanks for opening up and helping, I believe, bring healing in relationships. Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today*.

Go every day to stream.org -- go to the stream and pass on the insight!