

7/20/15
Week 30 WFL
John and Lisa Bevere

James: Boy, it is a pleasure to be here with all of you and to have this opportunity to be with you. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I are thrilled to have two of our favorite people on the planet. I don't think we ever have very many guests that we say, "These are not our favorite people but we decided to have them anyway."

[Laughter]

But there are some people that are really like family. Lisa calls me "dad." I take it as a real compliment because she sees it as a spiritual father. I love her like a daughter. John, her husband, we work on.

[Laughter]

John: He needs a lot of help.

James: And we love John Bevere and his wife Lisa. Would you welcome them to *LIFE Today*? We're thrilled to have them back. I absolutely love them!

Let me tell you, I want you to see this. I'm holding it near my heart and it is called *The Story of Marriage*. Boy, do we need to understand marriage. In case you didn't know, it's between a man and a woman; and John is very much a man and Lisa is very much a woman, and they are very much married and they are very happy about it.

I want to put a picture up of their whole family on the screen. This is one of the most beautiful radiant families I've ever seen. I praise God for the addition, grandchildren, the whole bit. I see glory on their children.

I love all of you. Don't know you like mom and dad but I know you through mom and dad.

This is an incredible package here. Let me tell you what it is. It is beautifully packaged, Messenger International; that is where they are trying to take the message of Christ to the ends of the earth in every language. This is a six DVD/CD set of teaching on marriage where the two of them are teaching and they're very open and very honest.

These are two of the most open and honest people -- you think me and Betty are, well, we are pale in comparison. They are open and honest. They are very much transparent and very, very gifted.

So here is the teaching. Then the book, *The Story of Marriage*; it is just phenomenally done. I love the way it's divided. I love everything they're talking about. They give you an opportunity to respond, ask questions, learn, grow, relate in your marriage and we'll gladly send you the book.

What web site, if they want to know how they can get this and utilize it, John?

John: MessengerInternational.org. But the book, it's a devotional. People are so busy. We actually broke the book up into daily readings. So every day you've got ten minutes of reading, if you're slow 14 minutes a day. But then you've got the devotional, the gray pages where you review what you read that day; that's another 10 or 15 minutes.

It's made for individual or for marriages or for family study even. It all goes together with this - so you can do the book by itself or you can get the whole curriculum together.

James: Well, we're going to give away the book so if they want the rest of it they can go to the web site.

John: Oh, MessengerInternational.org.

James: What do you think about... he's telling us about it. Do you think this is good stuff? Worth people getting or do you -- what do you think?

Lisa: I'm trying not to interrupt. I'm trying to be a good wife. Yeah.

So no, I think it is an incredible tool. To be honest with you we looked and we didn't find what worked well for us, just dysfunctional kind of people.

And our kids, they said, "Hey, mom and dad, we think you need to do this. We think there are more and more people our age that are not wanting to get married."

We know the attack on marriage is going on; that they're completely saying that marriage is not a man and a woman. John and I were so outraged that God is who created marriage and he is the only one that has the right to define it. So we said, we have not done this well -- not us two - - but as a group, as a people, when we're living in places where our children say, "I don't want to get married because of what I saw with our parents." We thought, we need to write this story.

So we decided we would open up our lives, be open and transparent and give them a tool that they could customize their marriage. That was a key thing for us. We felt like a lot of the marriage things that were out there said if you want to have a good marriage it needs to be a three bedroom two and a half bath house like ours. A lot of people aren't building that way. They say, "I want a one bedroom, one bath." Or "I want an eight bedroom, ten bath."

The truth is, you need to build your marriage according to your purpose, according to your season, according to your lifestyle. Nobody has the right to tell you that you can't build a marriage the way it fits the calling of God on your life.

So we want to empower people with the tools they needed to build their marriage.

James: What do you think about what you're hearing?

Betty: I think it is awesome!

[Applause]

I think what you're saying is there are some basic foundations in which you start this marriage on.

Lisa: Love, respect, trust, faithfulness, all those things but they have the freedom to create it. Yeah.

James: What are the areas you touched on John that people might not have expected?

John: I think the first thing we need to talk about is the fact that for years marriage has been under attack but now the very institution of marriage is under attack. The reason is, as Lisa said, because God instituted it. But God put man and woman together to conquer, to be fruitful, to multiply. Now because of the strife, the intense problems in marriage, the break ups, now we're dividing, we're diminishing, our effectiveness is going away.

So we really believe in order for Jesus to be represented beautifully to the earth -- because marriage is really a reflection of God's relationship with us. When Paul talks about it he says

marriage is really a pattern of Christ's relationship with the church. So when you attack the institution of marriage, you're attacking our relationship with God and our ability to portray to the world what the relationship with God looks like. So marriage, there is a lot of very, very practical things we really go into because marriage is everyday life -- it's the grind. The thing that's so beautiful about it is nobody gets closer to you than your spouse.

So God says, "I love marriage and I hate divorce. And the reason I hate divorce is because marriage produces children of God."

Not only does it produce natural children but it refines us, it makes us into better people. I wouldn't be the man I am today had it not been for this woman sitting beside me. You would never have read one book by me. You'd never had met me, James, because I wasn't ready for what God called me to do and He couldn't have put me out to do what I was called to do or else I would have brought a lot of shame to his name, which that's happened but if it hadn't been for the closeness of our relationship, because Lisa gets closer to me than anybody, and what happens is things get exposed.

And all the sudden now I can justify it, I can get angry, I can blame her, I can say, "You know what? I've got some areas I've got to deal with here." And that, I think has been one of the greatest things that has come out of marriage.

James: In the same way though, she talks about you when she was in school, you influenced her and really impacted her life so she actually started to change, a transformation.

Lisa: John led me to the Lord on our first date. I had never heard the gospel. I got born again, I got healed, I got filled with the Holy Spirit and I was like I need to marry this guy. If he can do all that on the first date, this needs to happen.

John: I was just thinking I've never seen a girl so beautiful in all my life!

[Laughter]

Lisa: But we dated for a year and a half, we went to marriage counseling but we didn't listen. Why would we listen? We were in our 20s. These were people with 30 years of marriage. God put us together. We're not going to listen to these people. So we didn't listen to anything they said. Then about three months into our marriage I'd had a vision and it was a vision of a perfect man. This man looked like John but he didn't act like John. I realized it was my gifting to change John into the man...

John: But I had a vision too. And my vision was of a sweet submissive wife. So I felt that that

was my job and we began to fight. It was W.W.F. type fighting: Bowls broken, windows broken, plates that were never supposed to break breaking.

James: Throwing stuff!

John: Oh, yeah! Yeah!

James: She's been here confessing before.

Lisa: So the first four years we attacked each other. Then the next four years we lived in the aftermath of that. And then the year eight we started to rise and build. And see, I think people do not know how to get beyond that aftermath and begin to rise and build. So we decided we're going to open up our lives because we both came with some incredibly dysfunctional things -- well, I came with most of the dysfunction. He had the acceptable dysfunction. I had the entertaining dysfunction. I just had the Kardashians way early. So we had that in our family.

But the truth is, we just didn't have any tools. So we had to make it up as we went along. We don't want that for the next generation. We can't afford another generation that has a family breakdown and says, "Oh, I thought that my parents were perfect and then my dad just leaves my mom for another man." Or "My parents don't ever want to have anything to do with it." We don't want that.

We want something more for our kids. So we said we're going to open up our lives, we're going to pen it. We have not done it perfectly but we have done it well. I know you guys are the same way, which means every time you made a mistake you learn from it. And "well" just means healthy. So John and I have learned how to build a marriage that is healthy.

A lot of the stuff that we saw just doesn't fit with the young people coming up. They say, "I don't want to do that."

One of the things that we did right, by accident, was here in Dallas, Texas, we used to go to a Chinese restaurant, we would split an order of Moo Shu Chicken and we would dream. We would say, "When we have kids one day, what are we going to do with them? How are we going to raise them? Are we going to pay them for doing chores? No way! They're part of our family. They're not going to get paid for that." Like we sat down --

John: We wrestled these things through.

Lisa: We mapped it out. And we didn't understand, James and Betty, that we were actually doing something that was a spiritual principle because God talks about when his own begin to

write the end at the beginning and when they have conversations that fear the Lord, he listens in -- that's what it says in the book in the Malachi. It says he takes notes. So God is like, "Look at these would people. They got married in the 80s. They look ridiculous! They're just so awkward but they have something on them that I'm going to be able to get something through them."

And that's what you see on my boys. God said, "I know that John and Lisa are going to raise up their kids to fear me and to obey me and instruct them in my ways."

Betty: Don't you think though the big difference was that when you got married you made a commitment to one another? I feel like James and I did -- commitment. There were times when we didn't like each other very much and we, like y'all, would get angry with one another, but we never thought about being apart. It just wasn't part of our thinking.

John: Their generation, my mom and dad were married 66 years. My dad just went home to be with the Lord. So there were very, very difficult times that Lisa and I went through but the one thing we were not going to do is we weren't going to part ways. Because I'd made a commitment, I'd made a covenant and that's the thing. I think you respond differently to hardships when you know you're in it for life.

If you look at it like okay, if it gets bad enough I'll get out of it, you're not going to respond correctly in situations where the needed response is. So there were times --

I remember one time Lisa locked me out of the house. I said, "I want in."

She said, "No, you're not staying here tonight." I went and fasted and prayed that weekend and I came back and I said, "I'm just so sorry."

It's so amazing whenever things like this, climactic things happen, we think O God you're really going to deal with her. She is thinking, you're really going to deal with him. You know what he does? He deals with us.

One time I walked out of the house, I was so angry at Lisa I was like oh, my gosh! I didn't even want to see her I was so angry at her. I'm outside and God said, "I want you to thank me for one thing for Lisa. Just thank -- just say one thing you're thankful for."

"Well, she's a good mom." Then I said, "She's a really good cook." I said, "And she is really tender towards people and she's really got a great personality" -- and all the sudden it just came pouring out of me. All of the sudden I'm thinking, you jerk! You absolute idiot! I came back and I thought, she'll throw me out again but she just looked at me --

Lisa: These were not the same incidents.

John: This was a different incident but she just looked at me and she just received what I said. So I think what happens is we tend to quit, we tend to give up instead of fight for our marriage. We try to figure out how can I just live in peace? And I don't think that's what we need to do as believers. We're going to fight any adversity that comes against us to stay together. Both of us have to have that resolve.

Betty: And we have to realize that we're not in competition with one another. We are there in a relationship that should complement one another and I think that's what James and I have learned through the years is that I want to be a compliment to him and who God has called him to be, and I feel like he wants to be the same way. So if we do that we mesh together and we become --

Lisa: You guys are our role models. We're heading this direction. You guys do it very well.

John: Yeah, you do.

James: I find both of you to be very teachable. You know you're very strong-willed. I've been one of those people who would call you John and say, "Go this route, John, but let me tell you how you can broaden the affect, still make the point and not alienate people who don't understand." You push back at first back at first but then you listen. Am I right about that?

John: Yeah, you are.

James: And you've been the same way though --

John: I've been a better man because of it.

James: Here's the deal, you are -- to me you're both yielded clay. I think you're two of the most dynamic people I've ever met. Usually it's very difficult for those kinds of people to really live together and have joy. You have joy. I think what you've done here is an expression of that joy in the relationship. I think what you're doing to share the message all over the world...

Tell everybody what you're doing to get tools into the hands of church leaders all over the world. Tell us what Message does. What is your ministry?

John: Five years ago I was in my basement and Lisa was in England doing a conference and

the Lord said, "You've been faithful with the English speaking community." Our curriculum is now in over 23,000 churches in America. He said that so clear. And he said, "Now I want you to reach out to the leaders in the world."

I had no idea what he was talking about but six months later I walked into my leaders and I said, "Hey, you guys know I've always wanted to give away more books than we've sold." I said, "We've done far less than that. How many books did we give to pastors overseas last year?"

They said, "33,000."

I said, "That is pathetic." I said, "This year..." and I said a number and Lisa said she felt like she tasted throw up in her mouth.

Lisa: No, I threw up in my mouth.

[Laughter]

John: Long story short, in the last four years we've been able to give away 6.5 million resources to pastors and leaders in 59 nations.

James: And when you say we, it's what I say to you all the time, we have drilled thousands of water wells, we have fed millions of children. We -- we -- it isn't this we, it is all of us together; it's the body of Christ. Can you imagine what the body of Christ could do if we would just connect and submit to his head? This is what you're doing. How does he give away these millions of resources to help? We, people like you.

There is their web site. You pray about it. You're inclined to help them. A lot of times people say, "Well, you're giving away your donors." We don't own donors, they are the children of God. They are the stewards of what God entrusted. We count it an incredible indescribable blessing that you would help us do anything that we share with you that God put on our heart.

We want to know what's on God's heart and we sense that it gets on our heart and we share it with you. If you didn't take it to heart and you didn't help it goes nowhere. We're just people who have a heavy heart, we've got a broken heart, but we've got empty hands -- that's what the missionaries told us.

They said, "The only way we can stay here and do the work is you keep us here and don't leave us here empty-handed" and you got it. The same way with what you're doing.

People who see what you're doing, they want to help you do it, then they can do that. Now let me just say this to you. You go online you can get the entire curriculum. If you would like to have the book, which as they said, it breaks down into where you can go daily and learn. I think it would be great for husband and wife to talk together, pray together about these things and grow. We'll be happy to send it to you.

You both know because you've been on the mission field, you and I were kind of held hostage. The missionaries thought we were going to die. You remember that? And why didn't you think --

John: You thought we were going to die. I was certain we were going to live because I was with James Robison.

[Laughter]

And we didn't know that until after the six-hour ordeal that we were surrounded by A.K. 47's with drunk kids -- soldiers -- drunk soldiers.

James: It's unbelievable! You have been and you've been all over the world, Lisa. Just for our viewers, is what we're doing effective? Does it work?

Lisa: It is beyond effective. It's not just drilling wells and even though that's amazing and it is not just feeding, it is changing the culture; it is empowering the people there locally. That's why we're so honored to partner with you guys because we see what you are doing as just really the hands of Jesus.

I remember when we went as a team and we were drilling a well of water, I remember the women coming from the villages and crying and thinking we were angels -- thinking that we were angels. People do not understand that their gift to *LIFE Today* translates as angelic visions and a message of hands and feet of Jesus in other lands.

James: Amen. Let me just say -- just applaud our viewers and all the helpers. You are the hands of Jesus extending and expressing his love and expressing his heart. I want you to watch. Now here's the thing. We see some issues and some problems and some challenges -- not a person that wouldn't stop a hurricane or a tornado from hurting people but we're helpless.

What we're about to show you we're not helpless, we're empowered to do it, we're enabled to do it so together let's do it. I want you to watch. See if you don't want to be a part of this miracle. Watch it!

On the mission field

Tammy: Cambodia -- it's rolling clouds give way to blue skies and green fields. But looks can be deceiving. While the tropical climate here may look like a paradise, one of life's basic needs is tainted by contaminants in the rivers and ponds these people use for drinking water. And too often this brings tragic consequences.

>> The doctors couldn't do anything for my baby. I took him home but he was too sick. He died that night. My baby needed water to drink. If I weren't poor, he would still be alive.

Tammy: I don't want you to feel hopeless. I don't want you to feel afraid. I don't want you to feel those things because I really believe that there are people that want to help her. I really believe that. And so I think this is our opportunity to help to do something for you and for so many other people.

End of clip

In the studio

James: In heaven, the Lord will wipe away our tears. I think that here he wipes away our tears the way Tammy was sharing that burden.

Do you realize that Tammy Trent had the most wonderful, handsome, all-American husband, a swimmer, and on one of their little vacations not long after they married he drowned? They didn't even find him for a long time. He just went for a short swim. They don't know all that happened.

So she has a broken heart, and yet she's sharing the broken heart of that precious woman, that precious mother who feels so poor. And you know what amazes me? There are many wealthy people. I wish people wouldn't think badly about everybody that's successful. Money is not the problem. Loving money or coveting money, that's the problem; money having you, that's the problem.

But you realize, Betty, that most of what comes in the wells, and we do have people, we have some people who will drill ten wells because they can and they want to. But most of people that help, they don't have a lot; the greatest support of ministries like ours comes from people of humble means but they have this heart. This is the way America ought to feel about all the challenges we face. We ought to all want to take a part and not say, "We'll get it from them. They've got too much." What kind of attitude is that?

See, what makes things work at *LIFE* is people want to share life out of whatever means they have. And so what I'm asking you to do is let's meet that need. Let's drill a well there. We've got 500 locations where the need is obvious, the challenge is undeniable. The missionaries are brokenhearted. They said, "We can do it." You've already, as viewers, paid for the drilling rigs. So now we have to send them in, have the diesel fuel, all of the pipe, everything it takes, keep the drill bits where they work, everything working and moving, and it averages \$4800. Some of the wells are shallow, some of them are very deep but the average is \$4800. I don't know how long it will stay there; it's been there a while.

Could you drill a well? Could you give \$48 and know that basically you've given ten people water the rest of their life -- a gift that just keeps giving; \$144 gift 30 people; \$1200, pray three join you; \$2400 another joins you or \$4800 -- whatever you can do. Would you right now go to LifeToday.org and take your bankcard, make the greatest gift you can? Or would you call the number and take your bankcard, use it like a check? That's how you should always use that card, like a check!

If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail and then do it! Make the check to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving. We're giving them Water for Life and sharing the water of life because we have that life in us and it expresses itself in love. We have some gifts to send you. You'll see them in a moment. They are gifts to help you grow, to bless you as you bless others with a gift of love, a gift of Water for Life.

Thank you for going online. Please move to do it. Or go to the phone and make that gift. Please do it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children 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 exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 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 you'll receive the "Every Day a New Day" devotional broken out into the four seasons of the year. This daily devotional features scriptures, inspirational thoughts, a Bible reading plan, and a place for you to journal each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "The Names of Jesus" pen set; one inscribed with the names of Jesus found in scripture and the other reflecting the gifts of the spirit.

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 request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: If you dial the number and get a busy, call until you get through. We want to send you those things we believe will bless you. If you'd like to have John and Lisa Bevere's *The Story of Marriage*, beautifully -- beautifully presented -- we'll be glad to send it to you. Perhaps it would help you; perhaps it will help someone you know, maybe someone thinking about getting married or maybe they haven't been married long or maybe they've been having trouble but it will be a blessing. We'll be glad to send it to you.

Would you join us saying thanks to John and Lisa?

You guys are a blessing. We love you! You are family! Thank you.

Go to stream.org every day and pass on what you learn. Send it around the world. Thank y'all!

Announcer: Introducing stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment. [Stream.org](http://stream.org) is a new information stream where those concerned about our nation's course can now gather for news, wisdom, and inspiration. Working together we will see the promise declared in Psalm 46:4, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God." Be sure to visit stream.org, a news site to unite us!