

8/27/15

Week 35: Christmas Shoes and Smiles

Kelly Shackelford

Book: *Undeniable & A Time to Stand* 2015

James: Thank all of you for being here with us. Thank you for joining us. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to welcome Kelly Shackelford. As far as I'm concerned, in the realm of what matters, he's a General Patton, he is a MacArthur when trying to stand against the evil empire. He's got the zeal and the love and desire that Reagan had to try to stop this terrible menace and tear down that wall. What he's trying to do is literally storm the gates of hell so the gates of hell don't overwhelm us.

Now please listen to me. If you love freedom, if you treasure opportunity, if you wish people had jobs -- we're concerned about all the people that are unemployed. I want to say something to you very pointedly. We need to be real concerned about people who don't have jobs but you better start getting real concerned about everybody that's got a job. Because the way we're going and the decisions we're making, everything special, meaningful and precious is about to dwindle and could be destroyed and we've got enemies determined to destroy it -- and they're out there trying to get in.

They already say they're in; they're just waiting to pull the trigger. But at the same time, we're allowing this tsunami effect of a liberal, secular progressive mindset that is destroying the very foundation upon which freedom must stand, and the walls of protection that keep us free and have the liberty we enjoy.

Kelly Shackelford with the Liberty Institute is a Patton. He is a MacArthur. He is a voice. He is an attorney that has been tireless for you and everything of value.

By the way, if you say, "Well, I need help but..." You're never going to get it if he fails and we fail to do what he knows has to happen.

Welcome Kelly Shackelford to *LIFE Today*.

[Applause]

Kelly, you hear me saying thank you. I want you to kind of cut to the chase. Could we send

everybody *A Time to Stand 2015*: Why saving religious freedom depends upon what people of faith do next. Could we send this to everyone if they ask for it? And if they wanted to know some of the things you're telling people and some of the things you're fighting for, what's the web site they would go on with you?

Kelly: LibertyInstitute.org.

James: It's there on the screen. Go there. Now you've got a book here that I will send to people. You say this has been literally reduced down from the real mammoth size it was. It is called *Undeniable*. This is reality. This is actually some court cases and things that have been done. This is the violation of people's precious freedom, including even primarily religious freedom where people have very deep convictions and where our founders said, "Congress shall pass no law or make no law limiting the freedom and the expression of that," not locking it up anywhere but free expression of it. Right? And that's being assaulted and the process in many ways being destroyed.

Kelly: Everyone in this is an attack on religious freedom that's documented and it's from 2014; I will have a new one in 2015, latter part of the year. And this is just a reduced version. On our web site there is a full one that's about this thick. Literally, there are five or six to a page; everything from a six year old boy who is caught praying over his meal in a lunch cafeteria and taken into the office and told to never do that again, to senior citizens who literally have had their federally funded meals threatened to be taken away because they were praying over their meals, and they said that would violate separation of church and state.

James: In other words, if the state is providing it through any kind of welfare or tax funds at all, that means you can't have anything to do with God related to that or you don't get it anymore.

Kelly: So it's everywhere -- it's every age group, it's in the north, it's in the south. There is nowhere you can...

James: People on social security shouldn't thank God for their social security check and let anybody hear them. Right?

Kelly: If, in this, they would literally be coming after your meals, which is what they did until we got involved in that case. The point is this is very pervasive and it is growing every year. We do a survey every year of what's happening. This started ten years ago when we testified in the senate on this issue. They said, "Would you survey this and see how pervasive this problem is?"

What we've noticed is it's literally doubling sometimes from one year to the next, the attacks on religious freedom. So it really is a wake-up call. Part of the reason why the little booklet of *A Time to Stand*, I've been doing this for a quarter century and I can just tell you in the next five years we're either going to save religious liberty or we're going to lose it as a country. It is coming under assault in ways that I've never seen.

I have full belief that we can and will save it but it is going to require us to stand up and pay the price and do the right thing or it is not going to be here for our children or our grandchildren.

James: How do we get the church to stand on the rock, quit hiding under cover and become the light? What do we say that's necessary to wake them up?

Kelly: Well, I don't know; if you give the message, some people are not going to have the courage to stand so we have to realize that it's always been that way. There will be churches who will not stand if it costs them. We pray for those churches; we pray that God will illuminate them. But there are some who they're not going to because they don't want to pay the price.

Betty: But they will pay the price.

Kelly: They will! They will! And we've seen those types of descriptions when they talk about the churches in Revelation and you see the description. But unfortunately, and I hate this being an answer, I think many churches are starting to wake up now because it is landing at their doorstep. It is no longer something that one day will come to the church.

When I started doing this 25 years ago, if you would have told me in religious liberty work that you would be representing churches against the government I would have said, "This isn't the Soviet Union. This is the United States of America." Now every week we get a new church as a client that we have to represent that's just wanting to be a church, they're wanting to feed the homeless, they're wanting to do what churches do and now the government is against them. So it is happening and churches are waking up, I think, because they're not going to have no choice. They're either going to wake up or they're going to be out of business.

James: And you sure can't preach at military bases where our soldiers are willing to die or lose limbs to protect freedom -- freedom of worship and religion, freedom of expression -- real freedom, and now they can't pray.

I preached in the Air Force Academy Chapel, that beautiful chapel; I gave an invitation. Nearly 200 cadets came and gave their life to Christ. I might have not only been taken out, I might have been shot right there before a firing squad. You can't do it. Imagine that!

I preached at all the big army bases. I was introduced down at Fort Hood by one of Patton's relatives; it was one of his family that introduced me.

I preached to the whole group, to the soldiers. I've been to all the different army bases and preached. Military bases that are naval bases, and to the marines -- I preached! I can't do that now. Your leaders can't even say a prayer or they're threatened. They're in the military, they can't pray. They don't even want them going in uniform praying in the church.

Kelly: Let me first affirm what you're saying. It's gotten so bad that the veteran's memorials across the country that have crosses or Stars of David are literally under legal attack right now. We're representing those memorials.

James: Arlington National is to a degree.

Kelly: We've got one; I think you guys even have a picture of what happened while it was on appeal. This memorial had been up since the 1930s. It's a cross; it says "For the debt of all wars" on the bottom. It is in the middle of the desert; it was put there by World War I Vets; they got an order to tear it down after 70 years.

While it was on appeal, on its way up to the Supreme Court the court ordered it be covered. This picture is chilling because it's a bag over the cross with a chain around the bottom with a padlock. Now we were able to reverse that at the Supreme Court but we reversed at 5-4. So it tells you, you change one vote, that picture is what our country is. And we have like four or five others of these now that we're defending around the country. So it is bad what's happening in the military.

Most people do not realize how quickly it's moving. But I'll say this. We opened a legal division solely focused on religious freedom in the military and we have on our staff a guy who was a Jag, a lawyer in the military, a marine -- incredible experience. And we have started to see things turn around.

We still have hostile cases. One of the more recent cases that people talk about is the marine that we're representing right now who is literally court-martialed because she had a scripture verse taped to her computer. We're now up at the highest...

James: Court-martialed?

Kelly: Court-martialed. This is something that has to be fought. But the good news is that we're now seeing things begin to turn. We're seeing the threats, the intimidations that were

attempted by these groups, these outside groups to try to shut down religious expression, we're now providing the law that that's not the law in the military and we're starting to see the military realize it is not the law and slowly but surely they're starting to turn around. So I think there's real hope there that if we're willing to stand and we have people that are willing to stand in the military that we can turn this around. And we will lose our military if we don't have religious freedom in the military.

Betty: It's always been confusing to me that when 9/11 happened all the sudden the whole world was praying, asking for God's help. And then when we get through that it's all back to the same thing, "Don't pray out in public."

Kelly: Let me tell you the good news because a lot of what we're talking about is difficult to hear, it's the truth, but it is. The good news is we actually have a method of dealing with this that I would call the body of Christ. And that is if you look at the legal organizations that are out there on whatever issue, they do the same thing: raise as much money as they can raise, hire as many attorneys with that money as they can. They put them in an office in D.C. or New York and they fly them around the country and they cover as many of their cases as they can cover.

That's not our model. Our model is there are all these people who went to law school. They're people of faith and they did so because they wanted to stand for what was right. And 30 years later, they're literally the best litigators and the best law firms in the country and they've done honorable work for major corporations and clients but they've never gotten to do a case for their faith or their country. We go and we find them, the best of the best, and we say, "If we give you everything you need, are you willing to give your time?"

And they're like, "I've been waiting my whole life, 35 years of practice. Sign me up."

So our teams like this case with the marine, our lead attorney is a guy by the name of Paul Clement, former Solicitor General of the United States, argued more cases at the Supreme Court in the last ten years than any attorney alive -- the best of the best. And that's who we get on our cases. These teams of these incredible people.

And the result of that is -- well, number one, for every \$10,000 we spend on a case we get \$60,000 donated. So it's multiplying the Lord's resources.

But number two: Our win rate is beyond any other group in the country. Everybody else: win a case, lose a case. We're winning way over 90% of our cases.

James: Because you've got people dedicated and you have people praying for those who are

dedicated and we need the same dedication all the way across the board. We don't need any link in the chain to break. We need the cords to be strong together. And we really need, in order to be a shining city set on a hill, it's not one person coming out from under cover no longer hiding. It is the family -- it is what Jesus prayed for; that the world would see we're his disciples because we love the Father, we love one another, and we're brought together in supernatural unity that he prayed for in John 17.

Is it any surprise that Satan, the father of all lies, would not -- is it hard to understand that he would be focusing his fury on keeping Christians from getting together and being that shining city? Keeping people who love truth and who understand freedom and personal responsibility and opportunity -- that these people stand together? You think he's not trying to keep them apart?

Now, if you wanted to say to the people watching us, the things they need to do, they need to pray. How about let's be an answer to prayer? How about let's be an answer to Jesus' prayer? That we really love the Father, we let truth sanctify and purify us, but then we become supernaturally united as a mighty force, a body, a family.

What would you say to the family? What do we need to do? Yes, we're going to pray but I think some people have been praying and I think we need to be seeing some answers to prayer. How would you see prayer answered by the people watching us taking action?

Kelly: I really think you look at a country and there are certain times for certain people. I think our country is in a Joshua one time where God is telling us, "Be strong and courageous. Some things are coming against you and they're going to come against you but you be strong and courageous."

If you'll remember, the Israelites ended up in the Promised Land, although they were going through something very difficult. We have got to stand. But I really believe if we stand this is the time to stand where it can make a difference.

So I would encourage people, number one, I would encourage them for instance, make sure you're getting an e-mail from us about what's happening because that will allow you number one to pray, because you'll see these things happening.

Number two: You can begin to share that with other believers. I think there is incredible power in the body when they have information and know what's going on and they're on their knees.

But then what you will see happening is you will see something happen and you'll go, "That's happening in Georgia; I wonder if it is happening in my school district. I wonder if this is occurring near my church. I wonder..." And you'll find that it is!

The answer to it is if the body understands what's going on, they have the information, then they can start to unite and turn things around. But the first step is they've got to have the information. They've got to know.

If you go through this book and you look, I bet they haven't heard of very many of these cases. They're happening every day -- every day! We can take probably two or three new cases a day on attacks of religious freedom. These are just the ones we know about, the ones that are in the press. So what's going on is a real wake-up call for a country that was built on religious freedom.

James: I'll tell you what I'd like -- do you appreciate Kelly Shackelford for standing up for freedom and for all of us?

We're going to ask you to give children smiles for Christmas. Here in the summer, we start raising the funds to give shoes and smiles, to put little shoes on little feet where they've never had them. Protect them from bacteria, infection, from hookworms that can actually terminate their lives; and to give them cleft palate surgery where they need it. We're asking you to help us do that.

We're going to send you some beautiful gifts that you're going to love that will mean a lot at Christmas. It will be a great conversation starter that moves people toward compassionate acts. But we'll send you the book that just tells you what's happening, and what if we don't stand up for freedom, for truth.

Really, the people who are going to force their way on us, they're so opposed to freedom that they can destroy it and not blink because it's really an anti-God movement. It is against the real worship and the real appreciation for sound standards and principles upon which you can build stable, secure relationships, businesses, communities, schools, and futures, and nations -- and it's eroding. The only ones that can stop it are the people who will have the courage some of these attorneys are standing up for and they are sacrificing for it but we've got to do it together. So we'll send this to you just to give you an insight into what is going on.

Kelly, we're going to let our viewers kind of look in on something that Betty and I have been a part of.

I promise you, just sort of put yourself there with us and go a step further. Could you not see Jesus expressing himself through us in situations like this where we can be the perfect answer to a particular need and it's with a compassion connection? It is not redistribution and tossing somebody else's funds at an apparent need. It's seeing the need and touching it with love and meeting it because we care. This is really the only way we give meaningful relief that makes a difference. Watch closely. Watch it!

On the mission field

James: You sure are pretty! Hello there! How are you doing?

Aren't they beautiful? You know what Jesus said? Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not. We are the representative of Christ; we're his body, we're his family, and we can share his love.

Betty: We want to be able to help these children. They're so worth it. If it was our children, we would want someone to reach out to them.

Kathy: *LIFE Outreach International* is absolutely providing food and pure, clean, drinking water for children such as this. We are absolutely, through your giving, getting the job done in places around the world.

The thing that is exciting though, that *LIFE Outreach* would love to do, is putting shoes on little children like this little girl across the world. Just a simple gift of putting shoes on the feet of this little precious girl would help her as she runs around, as she plays. No telling what she steps on every day.

James: They can get diseases. They've got what is known as hookworms that get in their feet when they just walk in dirt or sand, and then it gets into their little intestines and causes serious problems. We're going to give children all over the world shoes. When I say "we" that's all of us together.

Hi buddy!

Tammy: What I love is that this simple pair of shoes has become a treasure to this little girl. I love that she is holding on to it like it is the greatest gift she's ever been given.

Kathy: I'm... I'm pleading with you this day that you would find it in your heart to remember God's heart for the poor. I pray this Christmas that you would bring that joy to her heart. That's what I'd love to see. We're going to get you some shoes, honey! You sweet thing!

End of clip

In the studio

James: I've literally prayed children into my lap that I've seen back in the distance. Betty's watched it happen. I so wanted to hold them and touch their little feet, and so wanted to put whatever they needed in place. We have been able to put God's arms around precious children and people all over the world.

And I'm asking you to help us give these shoes and put them on little feet. These are very doable. They do have a Velcro strap where they can grow and expand them a little bit and wear them when their foot is a little small and keep them from getting hookworms that cause horrible bacterial disease, even gets into the brain.

And I'm asking you to please, please, let's give them the shoes -- 200,000 pairs. And we want to give as many cleft palate surgeries as we can. We call it "Shoes and Smiles for Christmas." We have to raise it during the summertime and get everything in place so we can let the missionaries deliver it. It is a big deal to them.

Father, I pray everybody watching will help, at some level they'll do it; in Jesus' name.

Now listen. The shoes are \$3.60. You might say, "I can do that." Well, do it because for one child that's real important. \$36 and you've got 10 pairs of shoes, \$144, as an example, you've got 40 pair. We're going to say thank you for any gift by sending you the shoe, the little Christmas shoe. We've been making them every year.

People love this little ornament that you put on your tree. People come in and talk to you about it and you talk about loving people -- talk about what love does. Here are all of them, now for five years. We'll send them all to you if you'd simply make a gift of over \$100 and help us buy a lot of shoes.

By the way, the surgeries are \$500 each. That's what it costs us to get them done. So how about giving some smiles? \$1,000 will give two children a smile. Isn't that a great gift for Christmas?

Betty, I'm praying everybody watching who can help will.

Betty: I know you will because I know you care about these precious little children. You care for them from the bottom of their feet to the stop of their heads, and that includes shoes for their feet and smiles for their faces.

James: And you know that's the smile that got me -- that swept me off my feet 55 plus years ago! And we've been married 52 years. We've really been trying to put God's arms around a world. But do you realize... And we're asking you right now to go to LifeToday.org or go dial that number. Do you realize every day we come into your home we're trying to put God's arms around you to help you put God's arms around others in every way possible for freedom, for love and life.

Right now you make the best gift you can. We're going to say thank you by blessing you and you're going to really enjoy it at Christmas when you talk about what love does.

Please, LifeToday.org, dial the number, use your bankcard, use it like a check. Make the greatest, largest gift you can. But the best gift you're giving, you're going to be giving life and love. Thanks for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount be sure to request this beautifully crafted green antique shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$100 or more you may also request a special boxed set of *LIFE*'s Christmas shoe ornaments from past years.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries. And you may request our beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel."

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

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: There you go, buddy! Look at that! Brand-new shoes! New shoes on dirty feet.

But you know what? Not all of you can come here and have the privilege that I have of actually putting the shoes on the feet of these beautiful children but you can still be a big part because really, we can't do it without you. This is not just something fun for them. They love it. We're also improving their health. This is a significant outreach. These children are all smiling because we've given them new shoes.

But there are others that need a little extra support to correct that cleft palate so they can have a smile too. I hope you make an additional gift today as we take the shoes and smiles to as many children as we can. Go to the phone, go online, do the best that you can. You can give shoes and smiles to children all over the world.

End of clip**In the studio**

James: We're thrilled that we can send you these -- do you like these?

Betty: I love these! I'm going to get another set of them.

James: You've already got a couple of sets. We don't do anything here that Betty and I don't give to. We actually give our lives to it but we also give our resources to it and we just thank God for the privilege.

But also, if you'd like to have *Undeniable*: The survey of hostility to religion in America. Our enemies say they're going to destroy us if we don't buy into what they say. And they say they're already in place to do it.

I'm telling you, we're going to have to have God's hedge of protection and we need to be in the shelter and shadow of the almighty. Let's move there. Let's stand there. Let's be the shining city set on a hill.

We'll be glad to send this to you. Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Kelly Shackelford? You're an ambassador for truth and freedom and we thank you.

Kelly: Thank you.

James: We thank you and your family and all who work with you. And all of you watching, thank you. Go to the stream -- stream.org. We're trying to help you know how we can correct the course. Thank you!