

4/08/16
Week 15: Spring Mission Feeding
John Eldredge #1

James: This book is out today. My staff, some of them have read it and they were quite taken up with it.

Betty: Beautiful cover! I like that.

James: It is a beautiful cover. It's called, *Moving Mountains*: Praying with passion, confidence, and authority.

I think John and I are going to have a good time, and Betty, talking about this because as sad as it is to say, I think we talk a lot about praying but we don't pray or even really know how to pray.

I find myself, and it is the first time its hit me quite as hard as it did just while we were sitting back here a moment ago, and John said, "You need to teach people to pray." I learned to pray praying. But I don't find most people know how to pray. So I wasn't taught this is kind of -- I don't know how to figure it -- but I've been taught at His feet and taught with pain and I do know how.

And one of the things we want to get through to you, so we'll start right here before we even plow into it, but if you'll grasp the fact that if you could only understand that praying is not just pouring your heart out and really wanting to be heard by the greatest power in the universe, but it is hearing the heart of that person. Because I promise you, the Father so longs to share his heart and for it to be heard and imparted that it's like he leaps at the opportunity for you to just hear him. And if he thinks you want to, you engage in something that few people really experience.

This is what we're going to talk about with John Eldredge. And I'm glad you were looking in as I greeted this studio full of people who will join me in welcoming you and welcome John Eldredge.

[Cheers & Applause]

John, I'm glad to see you. I think you could tell by just my little visit with this incredible studio full of wonderful people, and when I look at all of them, I see them as a vessel that God created to honor and give glory to Him; and the Master's hand will shape beautifully what he longs to shape in you and prayer is such a vital part. What you have written, *Moving Mountains*, and God knows we got a lot of them that need to be moved.

John: Don't we!

James: And when you are telling me how excited you are that people get this, I think you can tell you come into a studio where the hosts are excited about you being here because of what you want to talk about and the importance of it.

John: And the way you were praying backstage here earlier, your heart is in this. Your heart is deep, deep in prayer.

I think the big surprise is that prayer is something that you have to learn; right? People approach prayer like saying, "All a marriage needs is love." Right? And you're like, "Well, kind of. It's a good beginning!"

[Laughter]

James: It helps with all the rest of the stuff.

John: But anything in life that you do well and that you enjoy, reading, driving a car, being a parent, you had to learn it. There are things to be learned. And we haven't taught people how to pray.

James: Well, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. They didn't say, "Teach us to preach."

[Laughter]

I have an idea if we really learned to pray, we'd probably preach with a lot greater freedom and authority and impact.

John: And if we learned how to pray we probably would have to do a lot less preaching.

[Laughter]

James: Especially if the audience was praying. Wouldn't that be nice? We just come in and we just sit there and say, "Y'all pray!" And the preacher would sit down. It would be great!

Some of you would get excited about prayer, if that would get the preacher to hush! Wouldn't that be great?

Betty: One of the really important and life-changing things to me about prayer was when I learned more that it is a conversation with God.

At first I would be frightened to death when I'd go somewhere in public and somebody would ask me to pray. I thought, okay, what do they expect to come out of my mouth? I was more concerned about what the people I was with thought than what God thought.

When I became more concerned about what God thought about me -- and I wanted to hear him talk to me. It really makes a difference.

John: Exactly! The single thing that has changed my prayer life more than any other -- there is a lot of wisdom in this book but the one thing is, ask God what to pray.

My son was having a hard time at work a couple of weeks ago. He asked for some prayer. I thought, yeah, I'm going to pray for his boss. I'm going to pray... I start launching into, what Christians do is prayer speeches. It's a one-way communication; we just say a lot of things. I felt like the boy swinging at the piñata. You could just tell this isn't getting anywhere.

So I stopped and I said, "Jesus, what does he need? I don't even know what to pray. What does he need?"

Jesus said, "He needs me."

Like totally changed the direction of my prayer; it was not on the boss, it wasn't on the promotion, it suddenly shifted to, of course he does. This trial, this is his chance to go deep with you. So Jesus, I pray for an abundance of you for my son. And those prayers, those are powerful prayers. You pray tons of Jesus on somebody they're going to have a great day!

[Laughter]

James: Years ago, we did emphasize what Betty just said about it being a two-way street, a conversation. In my praying, a lot of times, people talk about reading the word and meditate. I think it's probably one of the greatest suggestions or greatest understandings of reality that you'll ever grasp is that you take scripture and you meditate on it.

We had Mark Rutland here just a few days ago, actually talking about prayer and he was talking about breaking down the Lord's Prayer and meditating on each phrase. It's incredible. Just like

"Thy kingdom come." That's kind of like somebody says flippantly, "Thy kingdom come" and your mind may think well, there's a kingdom coming some day and we'll get out of all this mess. And yet, he's actually praying, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And you realize there is a kingdom imprint, a kingdom weight, a kingdom impact, a kingdom impression that can be made on earth now and you just meditate on that. Then you got it.

But also, when you go and you let the word speak and you meditate, but if when you're talking to God, if we could just pause long enough he will actually begin to talk even more clearly than we think we're pouring out to God.

Let me ask you this in your prayer life because this happens to me a lot. I don't think maybe this is not that I'm maturing. Maybe I'm just goofy or spacey but when I'm praying he talks over me. And I can be praying with people and he talks over me. And then it gets to where people are talking to me and he talks over them; and it is really hard to listen to them and him because he gets my attention and they think I'm spacing out and leaving them. But I really can keep up there but I find myself being anxious to say, "Let me tell you what I heard while we were talking." And they seem to enjoy -- it is not like an intrusion. Is it okay? Am I weird or is it okay that I pray and hear him?

John: It is really good that you hear.

James: Give me five!

John: John chapter 10, four times in that passage alone Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." It is your right as his son, his daughter, it is your right to hear his voice.

So two kinds of prayer: The prayer of intimacy and the prayer of intervention. I think just that category will help folks a lot. There is a whole lot of the praying that gets done in the Psalms. It is just a pouring out of your heart to God. Just honesty, intimacy: This is where I'm at, this is what I need. O God! "I remember the day when things were good," David says, "and it is not good anymore." He's pouring his heart out. Intimacy prayer.

Then there's a whole other kind of prayer, the prayer of intervention. You start praying thy kingdom come, like you invoke the kingdom of God into a marriage, you invoke the kingdom of God into a school, like things are going to happen.

James: How about a country?

John: Exactly!

James: Do we not need to pray that, audience? Do we not need kingdom weight on this planet and on this nation right now?

John: So here's what I want to do. I want you to demonstrate this right now by praying for the country. Like show folks how you pray.

James: Father, I'm glad that I can come to you in a relationship that is so intimate that I know you are my father; it is not some title. I know that I experience your love continually; you pour it out on me faithfully, no matter where I am or what I'm done. I'm amazed at how you just don't seem to express disappointment over things that I just know anyone ought to be disappointed over. You just seem to love me so much no matter what and I want to tell you right now how grateful I am.

Lord, I would like for our country to realize how much you love every one of us on this planet. You not only love this nation of America that we've been blessed to live in but you love all the nations of the world. And you've told us that you want to bless our nation and you want our nation to be a blessing to other nations. Lord, I really wish we could get that.

Father, I wish everyone in America that's ever been blessed by you could see that the blessings that you have poured out upon is not only because of your love for us but love for others. That if you have blessed us, God, and you have, it's so freely you have poured it out, God, would you please help us, Father, this nation, all the sheep who could hear your voice and recognize it and respond to it, would you let them know how much you love them and how much you want to pour your love out through them toward others?

Father, please, whatever you need to do, and sometimes I think it is just going to take a crushing blow to get us on our knees because we won't simply get on our knees. God, I don't want us to be knocked on our knees, I want us to get on our knees. I want to live on my knees before you.

So in behalf of this nation, would you somehow tune their ears so they'll not be dull of hearing so they can hear your invitation to come into your presence in brokenness and humility and cry out for you to begin the healing process and begin it in each one of us?

Whatever you need to do in me as preacher, do it, God. You are so merciful and graceful. God, thank you for your love. Continue to change me. Change all of us. Shape us like Jesus. Shape him in us for your glory and your praise. Thank you, Father! Thank you!

John: So what you heard in that, you heard the intimacy; right? But you also heard the intervention. There was the intimacy of "Father," like you trust that he loves you. You believe he loves you. So you have the intimacy and the prayer but you didn't just stay there. It wasn't just I love you and you love me. Then you moved into intervention, God come, intervene in this situation.

One of the coolest things about prayer in the scriptures is that it is actually a partnership with God. God sends Elijah on to Mount Carmel to end the three year drought, famous story. The fascinating thing is Almighty God could end the drought; right? But he chooses to use Elijah's prayers and he literally tells Elijah that. He says, "I'm going to end the drought but I want you to pray." So Elijah goes up on the mountain, and he begins to pray. Everybody remembers the famous story. He has a go at it and he sends his servant to say, "Any changes on the horizon? Anything happening in the weather?"

James: No cloud -- nothing!

John: Nothing! Sunshine! But what does Elijah do? Does he give up? Does he lose heart? Does he say, "O God, where are you now? You're not coming through!" No way!

He takes his coat off, rolls his sleeves up and he's like, "Okay, this is going to take a little work." It doesn't throw him that it is going to take a little work. So back at it he goes. Two times, three times, four times, five times, six times, seven times he sends the servant back.

James: And there's a little bitty cloud.

John: I don't know where we got this idea that prayer is like shooting up bottle rockets or something where it is just a quick little, "O God, please help us today; in Jesus' name. Amen." It is like yeah, those prayers don't work. Can we just name the elephant in the room? Those prayers don't work.

So when people say, "Gosh, I don't feel like God is hearing my prayers." I want to say "pray for me. I actually want to hear you pray right now." Because if you're just kind of taking a quick little whack at it, and Elijah tries one thing and then he says, "Oh, well, I guess God wasn't speaking to me." Of course, that's not going to work. There's a sticking with it. There is a passion.

James: Pour your heart out to God. It is totally appropriate. It is absolutely appropriate to be determined in it.

John: I don't know where we got this idea that repetition is bad.

James: Vain repetition is bad. That's where you're trying to make people think you're holy: O Gawd! You are this great and mighty Gawd! And you have to change your voice.

[Laughter]

[Lowering voice] O Gawd! It makes him want to say, "Blech! You make me sick." He doesn't like that stuff. He doesn't like "Gawd!"

John: He doesn't.

James: He likes Father -- Dad.

John: Jesus was not a real big fan of religion.

James: No, he never was.

Betty: I think God wants that time with us, that intimacy. There are a lot of times when I'm just being with God. I say, "God, I don't know what to say."

I think he's saying, "Oh, good!" Because he wants to say some things to me. And if I'm talking all the time I can't hear him.

But if I'm still and I wait upon the Lord, he has yet to fail me... in pain. I don't always get my prayers answered like I think they should be answered but God is faithful. He is just. He is loving. And he says, "Let me pour my comfort and my prayer and my grace upon you as you wait upon me."

John: And you see the countenance right now on faith. Countenance, it is worth it. Like some of those prayers were not answered but you got something else -- you got God.

Betty: I did! And I found out that he's so much bigger than I ever thought he was.

John: And it was more than enough.

Betty: That has stayed with me.

John: That's huge! That's huge!

James: And I watched this because I've never seen anyone pray for a child more than this

precious mother prayed for our daughter when she was fighting for her life. I can honestly say that Betty is as great an inspiration, not only in the fact that I know she loves the Lord and seeks him, but watching God work with this yielded clay of your life, when she would cry out to God, and might not see exactly what she asked for or even close, and yet I would just see the glory of God in her, and get up so many times and she would just pour out glory, John. She's been talking to God, and the glory pours out because it's pouring into her when she prays.

Would you spend another program with us? Let's do another program where we talk a little bit more about prayer.

Would y'all like to learn a little bit more about prayer because of John in another program?

[Applause]

By the way, *Moving Mountains*, you go online today and get a copy and get a copy for a friend. You might even just say, "I think I'll get a copy for some of the friends that pray with me every now and then" or "they prayed for me" and maybe we could actually see some mountains move. So we're going to talk to John if another program.

John, our viewers, I think they're a special group of people as you can identify on the planet. You know they've prayed for you. You've been coming here since you wrote *Wild at Heart*, and you've been a blessing to so much people. Has *LIFE Today* been a blessing to you and your family and what you do?

John: Absolutely!

James: You can tell our people do pray. They care; don't they?

John: They do. They care and they give.

James: They do and they give to alleviate suffering and pain. You do continually what I've encouraged you to do. If you want your own prayers answered, seek to be an answer to someone else's prayer. Watch what happens.

Now I want you to hear our mission director. I want you to hear Ralph. He's sharing the heart cry of many people who are saying, "We wish we could see an answer to our prayer." The same way you do. But here's the neatest thing in all the world. The answer to the prayers he's going to reference and the need he references, it's as simple as a phone call or going online and saying, "I love you." That simple! Watch! See if you don't want to be part of a miracle.

On the mission field

Ralph: I have to say when I walked into the clinic today and I saw Pedro, my heart was just broken. Malnutrition has been known as the silent killer. It seems to slip into a society unbeknown and the next thing they know they can't find food. They all seem hopeless.

Announcer: A silent killer is responsible for the look of quiet desperation on each of these African mother's faces. This killer has robbed them of their joy and left them with a feeling of hopelessness.

Ralph: I saw Pedro's mother, you could almost see in her eyes wondering is there any hope? Is hope running out for my child?

Open captions:

>> When I see my child sick all the time my heart hurts and I wonder if he will survive. It really hurts me when my child wants food and we have none. I ask my neighbors to help when they can.

Announcer: The silent killer that is stealing their children's lives is called malnutrition. Malnutrition can greatly compromise a child's immune system making them more vulnerable to infectious diseases. And as their condition worsens signs of severe malnutrition can be seen in their discolored hair, skin rashes, frail bodies and in time, a child will lapse into a coma and eventually die.

Ralph: Without food these children will not survive. They're not wondering what are they going to eat tomorrow, they're wondering are they going to eat tomorrow? So mission feeding is critical. Your generous gift will save a life in this part of the world.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I can actually say, Ralph that our gifts will save many lives. Ralph Done has gone all over the world with *LIFE Outreach* hearing the heart cry not only of desperate family members on behalf the children but missionaries and relief workers saying, "These people are so precious."

Betty, you and I pray for our nation, and the nations of the world, to have the wisdom of God. One of the things I'm praying for here in the United States, just so you'll know, and I am not only praying for it, I put feet to my prayers and try to address the people that can make the difference; I want the people who create wealth, who create jobs and opportunity and who meet needs, create things that we need or we want, I want those great minds and what we would call an entrepreneurial gift of creating incredible things, I want that mindset to focus not on just doling out the tax dollars and say "did it," and then that's doled out without any real love or compassion connection, I want to see the blessed focus their attention on blessing where there is suffering and loss and pain; not just a hand out but lifting them up with the wisdom and insight God's given you.

So this is what happens on the mission field. This is why we actually see nations totally beginning to change because love transforms. So when you put the ability to feed in the hands of those missionaries full of God, and God's love, you are releasing a river of life. It is amazing to watch.

We don't teach them to be dependent. We teach them when you get healthy, now you can go to work and you can grow crops, you can be successful. Many of the children whose lives we've saved now serve in official places and cities as leaders. Some are professors and colleges and teachers, and we help inspire the feeding stations at the schools, all over the remote parts of the world, and the World Food program adopted that because they saw it work.

So what you're doing is transforming lives. That's what love does. Right now if you'll reach out and say, "I'm going to help feed those kids," we've got 400,000 of them right now that are in need that we're prepared to feed if you'll give us the resources to do it. You just give the missionaries the food.

Here's what we're asking you to do. Go online or dial that number. Take your bankcard and make the largest gift of love you can. \$30, \$50, or \$100 -- and this is exactly what it can do, will feed children -- \$30, \$50, or \$100, three, five, or ten children for the next months. That's amazing what love does. And it changes everything!

Think of this. A few of our friends said, "We're going to match what you give." For the first 50,000 children that we touch, we're going to match it. Which means as you give, what you give will be doubled in its impact.

So would you go, please, right now in love and in prayer to LifeToday.org or dial that number? It's always there if you need someone to pray with you and agree with you, but right now you're going to be an answer to prayer. Make the best gift you can and thank God it will be matched

by love and the number you reach will be doubled today. Thank you for doing that. Thank you for making that gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Angola, Africa, families are suffering, crops have failed. There is no food. And those hit the hardest are the children.

In response to this crisis, Life Outreach has received a 50,000 children challenge that with your help will feed and minister to 100,000 children over the next few months. With previous food reserves gone and Angola facing a severe food shortage due to crop failure, this challenge could not have come at a better time to help replenish supplies for the feeding programs touching the lives of children across Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

The 50,000 children challenge means more children can be saved and your gift will have a double-impact helping to feed twice as many children. Your gift of \$30 to help feed three children will now be doubled to help feed six children! Gifts of \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save ten. And gifts of \$100 for 10 children will be doubled to help feed and care for 20 children.

With a gift of \$1,000 or more you can double your impact to help feed 200 children. And also request the "Majesty" bronze sculpture featuring a beautiful buck in regal stance reflecting God's presence and majesty in all the earth!

Please call the number seen here, write LIFE, or go online today to LifeToday.org and make your life-saving, double-impact gift today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I want to say thank you so much.

I do hope many of you will give \$1,000 to help 100 but now it will be doubled to 200. Ask for the beautiful bronze, "Majesty." It is something that you will treasure in your home, and becomes a conversation piece; people ask where you got it and you can tell them love made that possible.

If you'd like to have this incredible book, *Moving Mountains* because there are a lot that need to be moved and prayer does move mountains, and this will help you learn to pray with passion,

with confidence, and with authority, you just simply give something to eat to a child. You help us share love. And you say, "Will you send me that book?" Yes, we will to say thank you so much and let's pray together.

John's going to be back to another program. We're going to talk more about prayer because we do need to pray. Jesus said, his disciples asked, "Teach us to pray." And Jesus said, "I will show you how to do that." He gave us a model but he gave us so much more. He gave us an example, especially in John 17.

Would you thank John Eldredge? And he will be back for another program. The book is in the bookstores. You might go online or go to the bookstores and get it.

Thank you so much for watching. Don't miss the next program. John will be back with us.