

7/04/16
Week 28 Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Dodie Osteen

James: Thank you! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have this beautiful lady. It's really kind of interesting that you have to kind of mention that when you're talking about a wonderful woman named Dodie Osteen that you just have to say, this happens to be Joel Osteen's mom. The thing about it is Joel never would have dreamed -- he was John and Dodie Osteen's son and he was always behind the scenes. And all of the sudden we've got that smiling face out there and he does reference not only Victoria and the family but he references with great gratitude not only his dad but Dodie.

Dodie is here. I want you to look, it is a beautiful picture. She is a beautiful person. But I want you to look at what she says, *If My Heart could Talk*. Wow! I can't help but wonder if God ever thinks I wish they could really hear my heart. I know Dodie is saying yeah, I want my heart to talk but I know she would want it to be expressing his heart and I think you'll find it does. Would you welcome Dodie Osteen to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Dodie, it is a joy to have you. We love the family. I want to say to you that I came to be with you years ago at Lakewood when you were still in a metal building. John was so kind and gracious. You reminded me when we were eating before we came out here that I forgot my shoes and I preached in -- what did I preach in?

Dodie: In tennis shoes. People didn't care. They just loved you.

James: Well, I had just gone through what I called a wineskin stretching or where you set your sails to catch the fullness of the fresh wind of the spirit and the love of God that lifted me above all the boundaries and walls that we tend to put up in a sectarian or denominational point of view -- and I was lifted above those barriers. Some people didn't particularly like it. They wanted me to stay right there in the confines of our safe traditional fortresses too often but God stretched me.

John Osteen invited me to come and I'd had some people so unhappy with me they quit supporting me. In that one day we were there, you gave James Robison and the ministry of

LIFE Outreach the largest gift that we had ever received in our entire ministry. It really was an encouragement to a kid that was being stretched by God. So I want to thank you. I love being at Lakewood and I love what's happening now. I want to thank you for writing the book. How are you doing?

Dodie: I'm blessed. I'm so blessed. 35 years after being diagnosed with metastatic cancer of the liver, a tumor the size of an orange and two almond shaped ones, given a few weeks to live, right at Christmas time, 1981, and John took me home because the doctors said I would die. You know what we did, James? The next day we laid on the floor in our bedroom and he prayed and he commanded cancer to leave. He said, "Jesus, I need her, the children need her, and you need her."

As far as I was concerned, in my heart, December 11th is the day that Jesus healed me. Now it didn't seem like I was healed because of the symptoms and all, but I kept saying it. I said it this morning. I say it nearly every day: Thank you, Father, that on December 11th, I believe I received healing of cancer. I have healing. Cancer will never come a second time, Nahum 1:9 because you've made an utter end of this affliction. I was 48 at the time, James and Betty. I'm 82 now. So that's a lot more than a few weeks that I was given to live.

James: Isn't that great? Don't you love it? I really believe one of the things, I think, if people hear your heart and heart of God, that's the way we take on anything the enemy throws in our path. Anything that gets through the filtering fingers of God to attack us, we take it on with an active faith, not a passive faith, "we know you can." But we go for it and we really take a stand believing Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever that he can do that and he did it.

Dodie: Amen! The good thing about it is I knew it was God's will to heal me. Some people don't. John was brought up in a denomination and went to seminary where they taught that it was not God's will to heal. "If it's God's will..." And that's the way we used to go and pray for people. But it is God's will. When the leper came to Jesus he said, "Master, if it is your will." Jesus just took his hand and said, "I can. It is my will." He wants us to be well. So if you don't know about healing get acquainted with it before you get sick.

James: Here's the thing people -- now think about this a minute. If you believe it's not God's will for you to be well, you believe he just wants you sick -- it doesn't mean he can't teach us in any battle, any struggle, however serious it is, however painful it is he can teach us and we can learn in those circumstances. But if in fact he wanted you sick would you then not be asking any medical doctor that you asked to deal with the sickness God wanted you to have? Would you not be asking that doctor to be fighting against God when that doctor is trying to make you well from whatever it is God wants you to have? It really makes no sense.

You see if you're a good physician, (we have the great physician,) you try to help people get well. Your body has built-in natural, even supernatural mechanisms of healing that resist disease supernaturally and naturally, so obviously God wants it. So we don't have to wonder if he wants it.

But how do you answer the question, John didn't get well. Your husband had a disease. How do you answer them?

Dodie: Well, you know what? People say, "I'm going to ask God when I get to heaven. I'm going to ask Jesus." When we get to heaven we're not going to care. I just know the number of our days God will fulfill. And he was just sick, maybe. I know he didn't want to go to heaven because he told me just a few hours before, "No, I'm not going to die. I'm going to live and declare the works of the Lord." I don't understand. I have to leave it up to God. God knows everything. So he just --

James: You can trust him with what we don't understand totally.

Dodie: The secret things belong to God. I don't understand why little babies die, why they're born with certain things, genetic things but you just leave it to God and keep on serving him. He knows and does everything well. His ways are better than our ways and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Betty: And it shouldn't make our faith waiver in any way when we don't get the healing like we thought it should be.

James: Then we have the healing of the broken heart. I just wish people could get this. There's really not a contradiction here. To want somebody well, that's the reason you would take them to the doctor. It's the same reason you take them to God. You ask God and you ask God knowing that he is able, that he is anxious to do good things. When you don't see what you hope for, then you ask God to fill up any painful spot. And by the way, that process sometimes of healing when we've had a loss, it is a process we walk through it. You don't get over it. You live through it with the grace of God.

You said *If My Heart could Talk*. I have idea your heart can talk. What do you want people to hear that you know they will get when they journey through the book. And there's no way in a few minutes in television time that we can cover the depth but what is it that you're praying people will get when they read your story?

Dodie: I dedicated the book to Jesus and I just want people to know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will never ever change. He loves us no matter where we've

come from, no matter where we've been, no matter where we're going. He loves us. If you think this he doesn't love you because of your past, that's not true because Jesus loves everybody. He has no favorites. He just loves everybody. I want people to realize that just because I got healed that doesn't mean I'm his favorite. He doesn't have any favorites. He loves everybody the same. And he wants everybody to be well.

He wants us to overlook people and their faults and all and to be an imitator of himself because Jesus loves people. He doesn't criticize them. He doesn't condemn them. He loves them no matter what they've done, no matter where they've come from. He loves them. I want them to know that Jesus has a good life for all of us. We can do whatever our heart's desire.

I asked Jesus when John went to heaven, I just thought, God, you've given me so much. You've healed me. I've had such a good life. I have five beautiful children. I said, "I wish I could get this out of my heart and tell it." And Jesus spoke to my heart and said seventeen years ago, "I want you to write a book and I want you to call it, *If My Heart could Talk*."

So that's what we did. It took awhile. Sometimes we ask God for things and they don't come immediately but they will come in God's timing and that's what that book did, it came in God's timing.

So I just want them to be encouraged by it and to know that there is hope and Jesus is that hope and he's always there for them no matter what we've done or where we've come from.

James: You had a challenge when you were a girl. I watched you walk in here. I know about what happened. Tell our viewers because you talk about it in here and what happened to you and what somebody said because you made it clear words really have an impact. Boy, do they ever! If you call somebody stupid and a child stupid, you have put a dent in them that without the healing of God is a lifetime point of damage. What happened to you when you were a child?

Dodie: When I was just a year and a half old I had polio. They didn't know exactly what it was at that time. They said it was a virus and I would get over it. But I quit walking for awhile, had a high fever and everything. Finally they diagnosed it with polio. So all those years one leg is shorter and one leg is smaller. I wear two different sized shoes; one of them is small and one is bigger. So all these years, through my lifetime, I was sad about the way my shoes looked and that I limped. But I was thankful that I could walk. And I would thank Jesus all the time. I had five children without any difficulty. But still I had in my heart that I don't wear pretty shoes.

So one day Dr. T.L. Osborn, who is a great man of God, great soul winner, didn't have much education but he was brilliant, he and John and I were walking and he said, "Look at Dodie! She walks like a princess." Those words came to me; they became so alive. That's probably 40

years ago that he said that and ever since then, when I see myself walking in a mirror or a storefront, I see myself walking as a princess. I still limp. I still wear shoes that aren't pretty but I see myself walking as a princess. Those words stayed with me for life just like our words stay with our children. If we beat them down they're going to remember that; if we say good things about them. I taught my children to say... I heard someone say, "Go make your bed" to one of their children. And I said, "Why don't you just say please? Please go make your bed. It will make a difference."

I used to say, "Don't dispute my word." I heard April who is here in the audience say to her sister, "Mother used to say this all the time and I would laugh at her. Now I say it to my children, 'Don't dispute my word.'"

So words mean so much. And to your husband or your wife, make them feel like you love them so much. I used to tell the women at the church, "Kiss your husbands often because if you don't the little secretary might start looking good to them."

[Laughter]

James: That's a wise woman right there. [Laughing]

Dodie: Just kiss your husband or wife.

James: Let me tell you what gets funny. As we've gotten older, I've got to show you this. This is how Betty and I kiss too much. [Smack smack] Clear across the room. It's communicating.

Dodie: Oh, and you fell in love with her at 19 years old.

James: I fell in love with her when I was 15 -- Vacation Bible School.

[Laughter]

Now we were the teachers in Vacation Bible School -- we weren't the little kids. But I told her I was the president of the Vacation Bible School. I needed a secretary. I wasn't the president of anything.

But you know what? We really did fall in love and we are in love and we've been married 53 years and we're still in love. You said you would have been married to John if he was still here how long now?

Dodie: Sixty-three this year.

Betty: What you said was so important about the words that we speak; how we can encourage someone or discourage them. I have to say my husband has always been my biggest encourager. He's always -- I will say, "I can't do that." He will say, "You can do all things through Christ." He just always has been a big encouragement to me. So our words are very, very important. I think when Dr. Osborn said that about you, that you walked like a princess, you were hearing what God thought about you. If we can see ourselves through God's eyes, it makes a difference.

Dodie: That's sweet, Betty. Thank you!

James: Don't you think that when you sit up front and pray for Joel and you pray for people he's preaching to, that you are really longing for him to hear the heart of God? And that when you said, *If My Heart could Talk*, isn't that really what you want them to hear? And when they read this book, don't you sense they're going to hear God's heart speaking to them?

Dodie: I trust they will.

James: Because that's what I feel. I think the hope that Joel offers them, the love he extends to everybody, it is so important. You know what I wish my preacher friends would cease doing, trying to shape each other in one another's image and appreciate the unique design and the unique gifting and the unique way in which God's preachers and people communicate and do things. Why can't we pull together? That's one of the great longings -- that's the longing in the heart of Jesus. And it is the last part of that prayer in John 17 that we would be family, supernaturally in unity. And he said what? The world will know you're what? -- My disciples. Not just church folks or Pentecostals or Baptist or Catholic but you're my family. Isn't that what you long for in your heart to see?

Dodie: It is! Love overcomes a multitude of sins. I see people that are so unlovely and then God just speaks to my heart, "Well, go give them a hug or something." Back in the hippie movement when long hair and all that, and you've got a guest, after awhile with long hair, I love him, he's so sweet.

James: We have Brian Welch this week.

Dodie: But I didn't want to hug him because I just maybe felt like they weren't clean or something. [Laughing] God spoke to my heart and said, "You go hug that man that you don't want to." I did and I'm telling you, it just did something for him. He couldn't believe that I would come and hug him.

Homeless people -- I don't care what they look like, I just go hug them. Jesus would do that. He never turned anybody down. Sinners, Jesus went to them and loved them -- the scum, whatever.

James: I walked through a hotel lobby and a young man there was with Bill Gaither, part of his band, and he came over and he said, "Do you remember? Do you remember in a Howard Johnson's restaurant down in Florida one night, probably midnight." He said, "You walked over to a guy with a red bandanna and long hair and scraggly looking and sat down in the booth with him?" I said, "You know what? I think I do." He said, "Well, I was that guy." He said, "I was strung out on drugs and you sat there in that booth and you loved me. And I gave my life to Jesus and now I'm one of Bill Gaither's musicians."

Isn't that a great story? Isn't that the way it ought to be?

Dodie: Nobody else would take time to do what you did.

James: But see, we've got to. This is what you're trying to say, if we will just notice. And you do notice and your prayers -- I opened this program thanking John and thanking you for reaching out to me when I was going through a stretching process in my life that some people didn't understand. Maybe I didn't explain it the best way and sometimes I can be a little bit zealous about some things, and maybe I even over spoke or didn't always speak the wisest, but God did something in my life that did lift me above the walls and barriers. I said to all my friends, I want to preach to the whole church in the whole earth so the church can be made whole. Do you think that is a good hope?

Dodie: I think that's so good. And you do that.

James: Isn't that your hope too? I want all of you to get this book. Would you thank Dodie Osteen for the gift she is? -- And the gift she and John have given all of us with their beautiful family? I want to say this to you, it is in the bookstores, you can go online, isn't it a wonderful thing?

We just had something delivered when we left the house earlier today and it came from Amazon where you ordered something that you needed. I mean they are amazing. If the church would deliver the goods like Amazon does we might really get on with the gospel. People can do amazing things. Well, you can go on any of the online ordering places, whether it is Barnes and Nobles or wherever you want to go or go to the stores but get this book and get it for somebody.

Dodie, what we're going to do, we're going to actually let all of our viewers have a copy. I'm going to send it to them to do what your husband said not long before he died. John called me

and he said, "James, I'm a mission-minded pastor and I want to thank you and Betty for bringing the mission fields of the world into our homes. Thank you." And we've done that. You know what? Our viewers have responded.

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to look right now and see if you don't want to be the hands of Jesus in the situation you're about to see. And you be the answer to the challenge. Watch!

On the mission field

Jeanne: This is Melinda and she is a grandmother who has lost three grandchildren to the malnutrition needs that are in this village.

Open Captions:

>> It is hard to live in this village with children. There is no food, nothing to eat. The children just have to stay hungry until I can find enough food for the day.

Jeanne: She is very concerned about her youngest now that she takes care of. His name is Ventalino. She's concerned that she won't be able to provide for him and that he will die just like the other three that she's lost.

Open Captions:

>> I am trying to raise Ventalino the right way. I want him to get enough food so he will grow up. I was trying my best to help my grandchildren but I could not do enough.

Jeanne: I can't imagine what it is like to lose a child because you don't have enough food. It's heartbreaking. My heart hurts for her -- that she feels so helpless to be able to do anything. I think we can help her. I think we can change that for this grandmother and for the moms that are here in this village. We can help them get the right food that's going to make their bodies healthy. They will be able to fight off disease. We want that for these people. We want that for this grandmother. I know you want to help too.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Jeanne -- I'm looking at Jeanne Roger's, that mission heart. Jeanne accepted Christ nearly 50 years ago where I was preaching and traveled with us as Jerry Falwell said, "the greatest singer in the world." And what a singer she is. But she is a missionary too, but she is also grandmother to 11 beautiful grandchildren.

So when she is sitting there by a grandmother, then she knows what that grandmother feels. We know what it is to pray for our family when they have challenges. And if you have the answer, which she is asking, I want to take care of this other little grandchild, I want to see all the children live.

Betty, we really do have the opportunity to be the answer to that heart cry.

Betty: We really do. These precious mothers and grandmothers as you saw there would do anything as she said, "I want to see my little grandson grow up." But without food he can't do that and that grandmother knows that. She's done all she knows she can do but she has no way to get food for her grandson.

So that's where we can step in and make the difference. What a joy to be able, when you see a need like that, that can save the life of children, we jump right in -- you jump right in and help us. And we thank you so much for that. Let's do it again. We're showing you the opportunity and it is an opportunity to bring life to these precious little children. Let's feed them.

James: We've been asking you to do this now for some 25 years. You've saved, and we know for a fact from the reports from the governments of the continent of Africa and the nations there, over 10 million lives saved. Did you hear what I just said? Ten million little children like that saved. Why? Because of Betty and James? No! Not even because of the missionaries -- but because of you. Because you didn't change the channel, walk away or look away. You looked in and you saw I can answer that heart cry, I can answer that prayer.

Here's what we're asking you to do. Several times a year we will ask you to make a gift that will give for several months food: \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five, or ten children for the next months.

Let me tell you what we found. Once we stabilize, we get everything where they're on a good footing, if we will then start feeding once a day at schools we can keep those kids coming to school and so it changes everything -- their little bodies, their little minds and their future. So we're asking you to do that. Would you please? If you could help us feed three, five, or ten children you go to LifeToday.org or you dial that number, you take your bankcard and make the gift you can.

If you will help us support a school feeding program for three months it is \$1400; it's \$5600 for the year. Some of you can say, "I'm going to feed kids in a school setting for a whole year." Or "I'm going to feed them for this feeding period where we're helping the children in all the different feeding areas where you're reaching out in a crisis situation. I may be giving \$30, \$50,

or \$100 but I'm going to also give the \$1400 to take care of a school for this same period of time." There is a level at which you can participate.

We have some wonderful gifts that we're going to send you from some of the most truly blessed women who are teaching you how to walk in the presence of the Lord and literally live out your destiny: God's Design for You. We send this to you just like we send food to save their lives; we send you spiritual nourishment to help you grow in your life's journey.

Would you please right now go to LifeToday.org or dial that number and use your bankcard to make the gift God puts on your heart? You're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation and those hit the hardest are the children. Life's mission feeding program is there ready to feed and care for these children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

With all of our previous reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months. Please also consider a special gift of \$1400 to help sponsor a school and help feed 140 children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you the brand new audio series, Living Your Destiny. Hear five outstanding Bible teachers and women of faith share how to live the life God destined for you. With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive The Longing in Me by Sheila Walsh, and Unashamed by Christine Caine. And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, be sure to request "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to also mention to you, Dodie Osteen is our guest, and you just simply help us

feed some of those children and say, "Would you send me Dodie's book, *If My Heart Could Talk?*" Your heart just spoke when you reached out and said, "I want to share God's love and give you life, give you a chance." We'll be glad to send it to you and to say thank you.

I'd like all of our audience to join me and Betty in just saying thanks to Miss Dodie. You're such a blessing! We love you, the whole family, and we love the Lakewood family. We pray for all of you. God bless you!

Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Thanks for sharing life.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In his new book, *The Stream*, James Robison charts a plan for spiritual revolution in America. *The Stream*, available now online and at retail bookstores.