

9/5/16
Week 37: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Jack Graham #1

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, we've got somebody out here hollering. They must know our guest. It couldn't have been for me or for... maybe Betty. But Jack Graham is with us.

I want to hold this up. I don't know if you can get a close-up of it but this is absolutely a beautiful cover. But it's on an incredible subject; he's talking about angels. Now I want you to listen to just these little introductory phrases:

Who they are, what they do. And then this: Why it matters. Why do angels matter?

Jack Graham is the pastor of Prestonwood Church and it is truly a great church. I just told the people here to go to their Christmas pageant every December. I'm telling you whatever it takes to get in it, go. You will be grateful. You will see the Lord high and lifted up.

Would you welcome Pastor Jack Graham to *LIFE Today*?

Jack, good to see you.

Jack: Thank you! Always good to see you all.

James: I am really interested and by the way, let me just read -- now think about this -- this is Max Lucado. And boy has he impacted a lot of people and written a lot of books and people have read them.

"I consider Jack Graham to be a key voice for the church in these turbulent days. His commitment to Christ is unshakable." And indeed it is. "His clear teaching is inspiring."

If you've not heard him, he's on television: Find him or find him online.

"And his leadership is desperately needed." I think in the whole church, I think in the United States and the impact around the world -- now that's what I think.

"This book is yet another valuable contribution from a dear saint."

I know you appreciate that.

I know something about this. Sometimes preachers get something on their heart and so a publisher will talk to them and the pastor or the preacher or the writer would really like to see this get out. You were actually approached about angels; right?

Jack: I kind of resisted. I said, "Well, there's a lot to write about besides angels." But I had a conversation with a dear friend who just reminded me that angels, the purpose of angels was to introduce people to Jesus. Angels always step back and give center stage to Jesus. And the more you study angels, the more you see the grandeur, the glory, the greatness, the majesty of God.

The question is why would you study angels? Why would it matter? Because when you see the angels and what the angels do you see the glory of God in ways that I'd never seen before. Just the fact that there are over 290, right at 300 references to angels in the Bible; so the Bible is full of it, especially around the time of Christ.

James: They announced the birth; didn't they?

Jack: There are more about angels around the time of Jesus and he spoke about it more than anyone else because he knows them of course so very well.

But yes, from Mary; the angels announcing to Mary the birth and to Joseph in the dream; to the angels outside of Bethlehem to the angel that spoke to Joseph. Said, "Take the child to Egypt" and then told him when to come back with the child, when everything was safe.

And then when Jesus was tempted. After the baptism, he goes into the wilderness and he struggles with Satan; this powerful warfare that takes place and he overcomes with the Word of God. But he's exhausted; 40 days without food and water and the angels come and minister to him. So Jesus knows the angels well and he spoke of angels often in his teaching.

When you get to the Garden of Gethsemane when he is pouring out sweat drops of blood, preparing himself for the cross and laying his life down, surrendering his life to the will of the Father. He's already so weakened at this point physically; but mainly emotionally, what was in that cup that he was about to drink. The Bible says an angel came and ministered to him.

James: Isn't that great? To think that Jesus would have that -- significant!

Jack: And then of course, Jesus said on one occasion that he could call 70,000 legionnaires to come and deliver him. At the cross, we know what happened. He could have spoken and said the word and the angels would have come and destroyed the enemy.

James: It's a great song: He could have called 10,000 angels! More!

Jack: But he bled and he died for you and for me. And then he dies, and then he is in the tomb, and then the angel rolls the stone away. And then the angel tells the ladies that he's not here, he's risen. Then the angel ascends with him and says, "He's coming back." And then when he does come back the angels are coming with him; the shout and the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. And then in heaven he's worshipped by angels, "Worthy is the lamb."

You can hear almost the brush of angel wings every time you turn the pages of the Bible.

James: I think I hear people sitting out here right now saying, and probably, Prestonwood, "How do we get some of those around us? And do we have them?"

Betty: That's what I want to know. Tell us how important it is for us to be aware of angels today?

Jack: Very important! Knowing first of all how they inspire us because as I view the role of angels it is first as worshippers of God; 24/7 they are worshipping God, around the throne of God right now. This magnificent -- and we don't even know how many there are.

James: Should that inspire us as believers?

Jack: Because we're going to join the angels in singing the songs of salvation. They sang songs of praise. We're going to join the angel band in singing.

James: We've got a song to sing they don't have; don't we?

Jack: We do! We have the song of salvation, the song of redemption, of course.

But to think that they are worshippers. The first thing I want people to know in our study here is just how important they are to describe the character and the greatness of God.

Then I say angels are witnesses. They always come with a message. The very word angel means messenger. So in that sense they are always delivering important messages to people whether it is the announcement of the birth of Christ or an announcement of judgment. We often see angels as executors of judgment, especially in the book of Revelation.

So we don't really need to see angels as a little cuddly cherub or a fairy godmother or a Disney princess. These are powerful beings created by God. I try to deconstruct some of the myths about angels. People think, oh, do people die and become angels? Or is my little baby in heaven now an angel?

Certainly there are great promises regarding heaven for the believer but we don't turn into angels. Angels are a unique distinct creation by God for a purpose. They existed before humankind existed. Before creation the angels were created by God in eternity past. In fact Job tells us when Job is arguing with the Lord about his condition and God uses some sarcasm with him and said, "Where were you when I created all of the heavens and the earth? And where were you, Job when the morning angels sang and the sons of God?" And he was talking about those angels that were present at creation. Of course, they're going to be present in the new creation when we worship God.

But do they interact and do they engage us today? We know they are in the Bible. What I do in this book is take angel appearances, times in the Bible when they showed up for a distinct purpose to deliver someone, whether it was Daniel being delivered out of the lion's den.

James: Did they comfort sometimes?

Jack: To bring comfort to people like Paul when he was going down in that shipwreck and God encouraged him but he sent an angel to do it. Delivering people from death like the apostles who were in jail.

James: I actually stood in the home with Johnny Cash and his mom, Momma Cash, and Johnnie told me this story but he said, "I want you to hear it from momma."

Jack Cash, his brother was going to be a preacher and was cut with a circle saw in shop, and he's dying. They can't even give him water. This is so moving to Johnnie because he told me it affected him his whole life.

By the way, God did some great work in Johnny Cash's life. Not only delivered him from the drugs but just so much in his heart.

He said, "James." And then Momma Cash is here so he said, "Momma tell him." They're in the hospital room and Jack suddenly looked up in the corner of the room. He said, "Do you see them? Don't you see them?" And they were looking around; Momma Cash and Johnnie were looking. "Don't you see them?" And they said, "What son?" He said, "It's the angels, mom. They're coming." And he left right like that.

Jack: I've heard stories like that through the years. My own grandfather as he was dying said something similar to that. And that is one of the beautiful things about angels. Jesus told that story of the rich man and Lazarus and said, "When the poor man Lazarus died the angels carried him home." It's a great old song: Come angel band to carry me.

We know Jesus is going to be there and he's going to carry us home. He said, "I'll come." But angels are going to attend us. I've got stories, not only biblical stories, and I tried to make this book about real life and real stories.

James: Have you ever seen an angel?

Jack: I've never seen an angel. I've felt angelic activity, for sure. I've sensed a presence of angels.

I actually fell out of the car when I was three years of age. I opened the door; it was going 40-50 miles an hour. I opened the door. It was silly. I was trying to... my mother had told me not to throw away... She wanted me always to eat that crust and I never liked the crust. I'd always peel it off. So I had it in my hand and I'm thinking what am I going to do with this? So I'm thinking in my three year old mind, I'm going to throw it out the window. So I'm going to roll the window down. But I got a hold of the door and it just sucked me right out before she could slow down. I remember now; I remember thinking as a little three year old, it seemed like forever before I hit the ground that I said, "You know I could be dead." I remember a soft landing. I've got a little scar here and that's it. I'm convinced to this day that someone protected me; what I know is it's the angels.

Dr. Ken Cooper, who is in our church, the father of aerobics, an incredible physician, the Cooper Clinic; obviously, a man not given to wild stories and yet he was on a climbing expedition in east Africa, Tanzania. They were going to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. And he ends up illegally in the country. It is kind of a long story and he gets called away for an emergency. He realizes as the car is taking him back to the airport that he's illegal. He's thinking I'm going into a jail. I'm going to... he's sweating BB's at this point. He's really nervous because they don't fool around over there if you're in their country illegal. So he just prayed and asked the Lord to help him.

When he got to the airport someone walked up to him, a female and said, "Dr. Cooper, follow me." He said he followed this person through right through passport. The passport control people didn't even see. She put it out, they stamped it. He walked and when he turned to thank her, of course, she was gone.

Sheila Walsh, her story is in here, from right here on *LIFE Today*. When she broke down on the set of the 700 Club and was in a psychiatric ward, she was just in a fetal position there. A stranger showed up with a little lamb -- a little lamb. Put that little lamb in her hands and she was just so broken. Put the little lamb in her hands and said, "The shepherd knows where to find you, Sheila." Somehow that sustained her and she woke up the next day and wondered if it was all just a dream, just a hallucination of some kind. And there in the corner of that room was that little shepherd -- I mean that little lamb that had been left behind.

James: You're a shepherd and I feel like what happened to you is you started doing the angel book because you love people when you see what the loving Father does to oversee and bless his people.

Did you get excited about all comfort because you've seen the broken heart -- you've seen the broken heart. You wish you could comfort adequately and you never feel you can and then you see the angelic host or you see just the Spirit of God.

Jack: Just to know that we're not alone -- that we're not alone. We know we have the Holy Spirit. We know the presence of God is in us. We know we have the hope of heaven. We know God is real. We have God our Father but to think that he would add on to that, the blessing of angelic beings that would minister to us in times of spiritual battle and warfare.

James: When the pastor is not there, sometimes not a neighbor.

Jack: We told the story Sunday in our church. There is a man in the church by the name of Tait Cruse, Tait and Joy Cruse. I think they've been on your program in the past. Connor, their little son died of brain cancer.

The first day they were in there, when they got the news, he's by himself. Tait is with the boy who is asleep. There's a lady there mopping the floor. This person says, "Hello."

And he said, "Hello." Because he'd never seen her before.

They have this conversation and she says, "How are you?"

He says, "Well, I'm not good. My son is dying."

She said, "I know. But he's good. The question is how are you?"

So he thought nothing of it. And yet this being showed up several -- now this is a very successful businessman. This is not a guy given to wild stories. So this person showed up. Then Connor gets a little better, gets a little better and to make a long story short he ends up, they're sending him home to die two or three years later. They're packing everything up. There's a crowd there.

Tait goes down the hall, Mr. Cruse goes down the hall to get something for his son. He comes back, the room is empty. He turns around and there she is. Everybody had cleared out. He said, "Stay right there! Stay right there!" -- Because nobody had ever seen this and he's thinking he is crazy himself. He goes to get the nurse five feet away and she's gone, of course. But before she left she asked him the same question, "How are you doing?"

He said, "I'm not good. My son is going to die."

The angel said, "Well, he's good. He's great. But God's given you a light and you need to show it." And comforted him and gave him that message in the middle of that darkest hour to be a light in the world.

That's when he said, "You stay right there! You stay right there!" And he went to find the nurse, came back and of course, gone. That's an angel.

James: Let me just say that I've -- I know what it is to see people suffer. Some of you watching right now, and as far as I'm concerned you feel like you're the only one, I'm talking to you. Our God, our Father, our Creator, he really wants to comfort you.

Lord, you just send an angelic presence of peace that passes all comprehension. And you comfort the way this pastor would want to comfort every person in his church and he can't do it adequately but you can right now. Start something, Father, in the heart of every person right now that's bearing a tremendously heavy load. Lighten the load, brighten the day, illuminate the way; in Jesus' name.

Now listen to me. The reason we sit here talking is not because some pastor wants to write a book to sell books. That's great. Well, we've got a message. Angels are messengers and the more we are a witness for Christ the more we become a messenger of God. We have a greater message than the angels because we have redemption song and Jack points that out in the book beautifully. This is a fantastic book.

You can go online and get it. Maybe get one for someone who needs comfort. We'll send you the book. You just say, "Could you send it to me if I just help give a cup of water?" You got it! We will.

But Jack, you know what we do. One of the greatest excitements for our viewers is they become an answer to someone's prayer. I've actually begun to pray, I want to be an answer to Jesus' prayer in John 17 because the only way that prayer is answered is for we the people to be what he prayed us to be. And I know how much you long for that. So we're going to give you an opportunity to reach out and touch someone with love. I know you're going to be excited about it.

Would you like to, before we show people how they can actually be someone's miracle, would you like to say thanks to Pastor Jack Graham and his wonderful church at Prestonwood, and all the people for the incredible deposit of love that he's made even in this book.

I want you to look. Betty and I found our way to the mission fields of the world by angelic direction; it was miraculous for us and it changed our lives. It changed millions of people's lives and eternity for them. Watch closely. I think you're going to want to be a part.

On the mission field

Announcer: With your help *LIFE Outreach* has drilled over 5,000 water wells in villages around the world for children in need. But the sad reality is that many still lack access to clean and safe drinking water. Out of desperation some people have dug their own wells to try and quench their thirst.

James: Here is a well right here for a family, it's a hand dug well. They've got a container like this that they lower down into the well. Again, you look at this water and it looks pretty clean but it's actually got sewage in it.

Announcer: The problem with these hand dug wells is that they're exposed to outside contaminants which threaten their very lives. The proven solution is to drill a well that's sealed off from this contamination but it can't be implemented without your help.

Betty: I would not want to give this dirty water to our beloved little pet, Princess. They drink it because it's all that they have. You know as a mother I want to fix it right now but we can't do it by ourselves. We need your help to join with others and let's give these people some fresh water; to give them a chance to watch their children grow up.

Announcer: Clean water is more than a luxury. Clean water is life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You just can't imagine what I consider the joy of being able to show people a situation that love is the remedy for. Some say, "Well, let's just pray." No, no! They've been praying. Let's be the answer to prayer. See, they want clean water. You talked about not wanting to give that water to our pet, Princess, our little dachshund. So what do you want our viewers to do?

Betty: This is something that's a big problem to them. But it's an easy problem to solve for us if we join together and we drill these water wells; and the difference they can make for a lifetime for these people! They can go to a place -- a mother doesn't have to worry about giving her babies the diseased water because you see, they have to have water. They will drink the diseased water if that's the only source they have. We want to give them a choice.

I can guarantee you, we drill the water wells and that's the choice they're going to make. They're going to go to those wells for water because they know it brings life to their children. So please join with us. Every time we issue a need to you, you bless us by reaching out and joining with us and we make a difference. Together we can.

James: Well, I tell you what. When you think about just a cup of water and we're actually -- he says, Jesus, "You give a cup of water, you won't lose your reward." I always try to remind all of you, the reward is not something we get in return. The reward is knowing we've done the will of God, and the will of God so blesses people; that's our reward. We just rejoice in being a blessing. That in itself is blessing enough.

But we're going to send these little coffee mugs to those of you who just make a gift because we just want to say, "Here are the Promises of God." We want to remind you of those.

But here's what's going to happen. When we drill those wells they're going to receive the message of God's love in Christ because they've already seen love in action. They've seen the demonstration of it. We're going to talk about the water of life because we've provided Water for Life.

It's real easy to believe the story and the message of love in action. So here's what we want to ask you to do. It's very serious. We want to ask you to participate at some level to drill and it's still this cost which is quite miraculous. Sometimes a drop in petroleum makes the costs of

doing things a little less. The average cost of a well is still \$4800. Some of you will drill a well, individually or as a couple, sometimes a small business, sometimes a church or a Bible study group.

Many of you cannot do that. You might be able to do \$1200 or \$2400 and pray one other person joins you or three join you and we've got a well. Or think about this now, this is the way most of the support comes. We've broken it down. A gift of \$48 will give 10 people water the rest of their life. \$144, there's a level you can participate, 30 people water the rest of their life. So at what level can you help?

And then there's one other thing and this is a biggie. The missionaries have told us, "We've got to have one more drilling rig, \$380,000." I want to talk about this as a side note. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 380 people today gave \$1,000? Or what about several people giving \$10,000? There may be someone watching today who can do far more than that. Now wait a minute. If you can, know that if it is on your heart then it fits in the purpose of God so do it. And I believe you will. But most of the support is going to come one well at a time, one \$48 gift with another and another and we've got a well.

We have some gifts to bless you with. We're going to send them to you to bless you but you just know that you're giving the greatest gift of all, you're sharing life. Thank you for doing it. LifeToday.org -- go online, take your bankcard or dial the number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check, the way you should always use it. Thank you for doing that. God bless you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink 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 proven demonstrations of God's love today.

Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today you can help drill 500 water wells in remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. And \$144 will help provide fresh water for 30 people for a lifetime!

Additionally, just over \$378,000 is needed to replace an old and failing drilling rig in Africa. Please consider an additional gift of \$100 or more to get a desperately needed new rig in place as soon as possible.

With your gift we'll send you *The Stream*, a powerful new book by James Robison that charts a clear path for your personal revival and a spiritual revolution.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Promises of God" coffee mugs.

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 you may request our "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I want to say thank you.

By the way, if you get a busy, I don't think you're going to get a busy online, LifeToday.org, but if you get a busy on the phone people could be calling for prayer. That's wonderful! Love pays for that call. But be persistent. Call and tell us, "This is what we're going to send." If you write a check, make it to LIFE, call us and tell us you're sending it.

We're going to send you the book *The Stream*. This was written over five years. This is five years of blood, sweat, and tears. You know, don't you, Betty because I'm not just a gifted writer. I may be kind of a gifted talker but I'm not a gifted writer, and the thing is I pour, I don't think, just my heart out I pour the heart of God out in behalf of the church and the nation in our day -- and even freedom. If you want a quick education or why things matter and how you can effectively address them, here it is and what to pray about. Get it!

I pray every friend you've got, family member and church member gets the book, *Angels*. You saw and sensed a moment ago just the Spirit of God's comfort reaching out to you. That's what this is about. God wants to comfort you the way no one else can, not even a pastor. So we're going to send it to you. I'll tell you what. You can get it online. You can get it in the bookstores but you help us give a cup of water, Jack, we're going to send everybody that gives a cup of water the book *Angels*.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Jack Graham again for being with us, for writing the book and for being a great pastor/shepherd? I'm going to talk to Jack again. We're going to talk about what a pastor wants to say to America and to the whole church. Don't miss it.