

10/27/16

Week 44: Shoes and Smiles

James and Betty Robison

Your Freedom, Your Future: The Transforming Gospel

John Meador, Jentezen Franklin, Tim Clinton, Bill Bartlett

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I consider it an honor to share this time with you. We've been bringing together and presenting to you over the last few days the heartfelt concern, and I believe the love of God, expressed through some of the most respected church leaders in America. What these leaders share, it really is the kind of wisdom that leads us to make the decisions that heal the nation.

The healing of the nation according to Second Chronicles 7:14 depends upon "my people called by my name" doing certain things. These leaders came together understanding that. And they're sharing the kind of wise counsel that I find myself praying. Every opportunity I have I encourage candidates and leaders to listen to the wisdom that comes from above that secures our future and our freedom and gives us the best chance of security and peace and opportunity to achieve, to succeed, to not only see our dreams fulfilled but His dream fulfilled and freedom is essential for that. That's what these leaders are talking about. Let's don't lose it.

We've got a lot to pray about and we've got to take action, we don't opt out. We cast our vote, we take our stand together, and we make a kingdom imprint right now on this planet for the glory of God and for the good of everyone he loves -- everyone you love too.

Begin video clip

John: I've heard so many things in this room that encourage me that I can agree with, that I say amen to. But I believe that we're all going to get around to the same thing when we come to the bottom of it all. We'll have to conclude that everything we see happening in America today, everything that our nation has suffered today is because of a gospel-less culture. Because we have not gotten the gospel into the hearts and minds of our population, therefore they haven't been transformed; therefore they have these values that do not align with God's Word or with us.

Dr. Zacharias, you said something in your fourth point today that was so important that I just kind of picked out all four of those and it was such a big deal for me to hear that. You said it is

the gospel, "the beautiful story," you called it, the gospel. Then you pointed to us as pastors and you said, "That's your job to get the gospel to the people." I have to be honest with you, over the last 40 or 50 years we have not done that well. We may preach it from the pulpit, we have not gotten it outside the walls of our church.

I agree we must get people to vote. We must get our people to vote. But we also have to get entire communities to transform the heart of the voters, the other voters that are not part of the church, and the only way that we can do that is the gospel. All these other things we talk about are part of the head of that spear but the gospel is the tip of the spear. The gospel is what pierces the hearts and what changes the hearts of the people that we need to see life-changing in our communities.

Last night I was driving down the highway and decided to text a man in our church whose name is Andrew. Andrew is a service worker; he owns an air conditioner company. He's just your average ordinary guy who came to Christ a few years ago. I asked him this question. I said, "Andrew, I was wondering about what kind of political leanings that you had before you came to Christ. Did it change much after salvation?"

He said, "I was very liberal and it changed quite a bit after salvation."

I said, "Why? Because of moral issues or what exactly was the turning point?"

He said, "Yes. Moral issues but I think more of a platform stance. I also was changing as well and the more I studied the Word of God the more a biblical worldview began to really matter so it changed everything about the way I thought and voted."

I really believe that we have to acknowledge that; that we must be sure that the gospel gets into our communities, not just to the people that come in the walls of the church but that we mobilize our people with the gospel into the communities themselves.

So what we have to do is make sure that we mobilize our congregations to take the gospel into the world where you and I will never really go. We have to equip them. We have to send them out. Not by the hundreds but by the thousands and the ten thousands because that is the only way our nation is really ever going to change. I believe that with all my heart. I believe that that is something that God has put on my heart to live by and not just to share today. When we do that, I believe we'll see bigger changes than what we can imagine right now. I pray that we'll be about that in the years ahead.

Jentezen: Thank you so much. It's a tremendous honor to be here. I have received so much strength and blessing just being with all of you. I need you in my life. We need each other.

But Judges 19 is what God spoke to me very quickly. There's a hideous crime that was committed. A man and his wife are attacked. She is brutally abused, raped and left for dead. And the Bible said she crawled... they left her and thought she was dead but she crawled all the way back to the house. The next morning when the family awakens they open the door and there is this lady with her hands on the threshold of the house dead.

The man was so moved when he saw what had happened to her that what he does next is unthinkable. The Bible says he took her body and cut it into 12 pieces and sent one piece to each tribe of Israel to cause a sense of outrage, an awakening to happen, to say you cannot treat this as normal. This is happening to our nation.

And then he gave in verse 30 three quick instructions. He said number one: Consider this. In other words, let the realization of what is happening to your freedom, to your nation, to your cities, to your schools, to your neighborhoods, let it set in. He said, "Consider this."

Secondly, this is why this is so powerful, James is because he said then, "Take counsel." I looked that up and it said unify, come together. That's why this is so powerful because we cannot do it unless we unify. You never hear of 50 demons splitting off and starting a new hell.

[Laughter]

They stay together. But we can't get together. If ever there was a time -- Jesus prayed three times the same prayer, "Make them one. Make them one. Make them one." He said, "Lazarus come forth" and he came out of the grave -- one time. It takes more prayer to unify the body of Christ than it does to raise the dead because he had to pray three times to unify the body.

He said, "Take counsel." He said, number one, "Consider it." Secondly, "Take counsel." And then the last thing he says in verse 30 is "Speak up. Speak up." Let the rage not be directed at flesh and blood but let your voice be heard in heaven and let your vote be registered here on earth and speak.

Lastly, when Elisha was on his death bed Joash comes in and God said to him, "Take arrows and go to the window." He said, "Beat the ground." And the Bible said that he just did it kind of mediocre. He hit the ground three times and he said, "If you would have been intense, if you would have taken this passionately and seriously, you could have shot because the arrows were the arrows of God's deliverance."

That's what I think God -- America has never been in more trouble but God has never been more willing to give us an arrow of deliverance than in this hour. I believe what he said is so

true. We have in our hands the arrow of deliverance. Pray, fast, and vote and be vocal. Speak up! Speak up.

Tim: It's been a special day. Through the years I've learned that brokenness begs for healing. I think the people that are out there that we're serving are desperate. They want relief. They want hope. And the greatest challenge in this phase of a person's life is not that they will believe nothing, it's basically that they will believe anything -- they will believe anything. They'll turn to anything for hope and healing.

We were in a meeting in New York recently and I looked at an individual and I said, "I really believe that there's been a modern day beat down of Christianity. There is confusion. There is this sense of powerlessness that's pervasive among the people. They want someone or something to follow. Would someone step up? Would someone become a voice? Would someone challenge them that there really is hope? And that the power really is in the church, the people of God?"

And it's like everyone is looking around waiting for something to happen. Waiting for some white knight to come blowing into town and say, "Follow me! Follow me!"

I've been challenging myself and my prayer, my earnest prayer at this moment is that inside of Christianity that someone, something would happen, that there would be a movement of God. That there wouldn't be just a conversation of God's people, of God's leaders but there would truly be a movement somehow that would come together, that would shake the foundations of this -- even this country. That Christianity truly would awaken and take a rightful place. That there would be an uprising among the people and the people would rejoice at what God is doing.

If this group, if 12 disciples would do it, if this group would somehow collectively come together under the banner of some mantra, some voice would overtake or overwhelm social media, that would send a message that the church truly is alive and well. It would echo to our children and to our children's children. That's what I believe. That's why I'm here.

My dad -- I'm just going to close with the story of my father. My dad pastored for nearly 60 years. But let me tell you about my dad. As a young boy he felt called to go into the military during World War II. Tom Brokaw called them the greatest generation ever. He signed up and joined the United States Navy, served on the U.S.S. Pennsylvania. And he told me stories as a young boy about how he served in the South Pacific and how terrifying it was as a young boy to be on that ship.

One time he had to take a shell that misfired out of one of those big howitzer guns or whatever was on that ship and had to carry that shell by himself, as a boy, how terrified he was. He talked about the kamikaze pilots coming at them. He said he literally kissed the ground when he got back to the United States of America. He loved America so much. He talked about the freedom. He loved America so much but he found a spiritual freedom. Someone led him to Christ and he became a pastor, and for almost 60 years he served as a country rural pastor, a circuit riding pastor.

Let me tell you about my dad. My dad loved God and country. He loved truth, Ravi, so much. He prayed with authority. And as a young boy I sat at his feet and said, "That's the gift that I want to give to my children and my children's children."

Will we rise up with a voice or will we simply have conversations? That's what I think we need to do. We need to move to a place where this translates into truly something that people see, something that people can follow because they want to follow. They're frantic for hope, for relief. If we can get that message of hope and power and strength that hey, it's like the uprising because my family matters, the uprising because my faith matters, the uprising because freedom truly matters, the uprising because our future really matters in these moments.

May God help us did that very thing. That's what I've felt all day here. And how does that translate down into what are we going to do tomorrow? What are we going to do tonight that sends that message to the world, literally? -- That something took place in Dallas, Texas. Something radical happened in these moments; God did something and all the people will rejoice. I believe.

Bill: Second Chronicles 7:14, which everyone in here could quote: "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Three things I want to say about that. Number one: The hope of America is in the hands of believers. It's in our hands.

Number two: Only God can heal America.

And number three gave us the action plan and that's to humble ourselves and pray, seek his face and turn from our wicked ways.

Then he took me to the book of Ezekiel chapter three and God said to Ezekiel, "I'm going to make you a watchman over Israel."

Everybody here understands a watchman in the Old Testament, they put him on the walls of the city and he was to look for the approaching enemy. When he saw the approaching enemy he was to announce it so the people could prepare themselves for battle. I believe I'm sitting in a room of watchmen tonight.

And in the third chapter of Ezekiel he tells you what the duties of a watchman are. You owe it to yourself to read it because it is serious -- really serious! The punishment for not announcing the oncoming enemy was death. That was a punishment.

As we leave here my question is what are we going to do? I think that's the question as watchman, are we going to sound the alarm? It's like Reverend Zacharias said, are we going to tell the truth? This is not a time for political correctness, this is a time for biblical correctness -- and truth. And we've got to share it. God is looking to us. He's not looking to anyone else. So let's go forth committed to this great nation to speak the truth, to share the gospel, and give ourselves a chance. Thank you.

James: Amen!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, you know we've had a lot of people say, "I wish you would put all the content on some kind of a presentation where we could hear the concerns that were discussed." We're looking at that because here's what I want you to know. That the concerns and the wisdom that was shared does not only apply prior to an election but so much more so even after an election. Many of our leaders find themselves circled by the influence of the Washington establishment and they're literally cut off from the wisdom that they so desperately need; that has been typical throughout history. So we actually just wish the whole world could hear everything that was shared.

I hope you've appreciated it because I sure appreciate these leaders. I know all of you tell us how much you love sharing God's love. In other words, the joy you get, the thing we hear more from people who watch our program, they all tell me they like you. They think you're beautiful. They wish you'd talk more. Would you tell them I don't silence you?

Betty: No! I have the freedom to talk all that I want to talk.

James: And I'm pleading with her to talk more. But here's the thing. The thing you tell us is, "James, you give us an opportunity to make all the difference in somebody's life with an

expression of love. And you let us support people who planted their lives in the midst of pain and suffering to share the love of God." So together we make that happen. It's a joy.

Right now, Christmas smiles and shoes, who comes up with these things that we're able to do? The missionaries and people like you. A businessman came to us and said, "I can get shoes like this that people pay a lot of money for, I can get them made up for children where they adjust in size and we can get them for \$3.60 a pair. Why don't we give them to kids for Christmas?"

It was a businessman that said that. But it took people like you to make it happen. Christmas Shoes and Smiles right now. I want you to watch and see if that's not what you want to be a part of. I think your heart is going to leap to be a part and you're going to rejoice because you're going to give someone so much joy by sharing the real meaning of Christmas, the greatest gift of love ever, we're going to pour out that love on somebody else. Watch.

On the mission field

Kathy: Well, that's awful! That is awful! I can't even imagine just walking around with this toe -- all the dirt and the gravel, it looks so infected. I'm afraid it's going to start creeping up his foot. The thing about it is if he'd just had this shoe on -- just the simple things that we take for granted -- if he'd just had this shoe on his foot, this wouldn't have happened.

Chris: One of the reasons these shoes are so important, walking barefoot, they can contract a lot of diseases so I'm looking at their feet right now and the toenails are completely gone. They feel like the bottom of your shoe probably does.

Announcer: This year, you helped *LIFE Outreach* provide food and water for children all over the world and they're eternally grateful. This coming Christmas season we'd like to put an extra smile on their face by giving them a pair of shoes for their very own. And for children who have difficulty smiling because of a cleft palate, doctors are available to perform corrective surgery giving them a chance for a healthy life.

Chris: Melanie. There you go, Melanie.

Announcer: This coming season, help us provide children Christmas shoes and smiles.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow, Betty! I want to see 150,000 kids get shoes for Christmas because somebody

like you loves them. I can't watch our grandson, Chris, with all those little children... I mean he is a coach of football, and a baseball coach. Now he is a full-time baseball coach at Lincoln Christian where he went to school and played quarterback and played baseball. Now married. But he said that trip, helping those children, he said, "Mimi and Papaw, it changed my life forever." He put that on Facebook. Those became the postings on his Facebook. There he is with those children.

That's what love does. You think it doesn't please us when our grandchildren love to share the love of God? But see, you make all that possible. There is no way those missionaries can be there. There is no way anyone could go and express the love that's in your heart, that's in God's heart if you didn't participate.

So, Betty, I'm praying everyone watching, every single person watching will give pairs of shoes for Christmas: \$36 ten pairs of shoes: \$180, 50 children get a pair of shoes for Christmas. And Betty, we're doing the cleft palate surgery.

Betty: That's so wonderful. What a great opportunity to give smiles to children that have never been able to smile and shoes on their feet to protect them from all the diseases they can get into their little bodies when they go barefooted and they step on all the garbage that's around and all the things that can cut their feet. They're going to run around, they're going to play. They may not have very much but they're going to play because that's in the heart of a child, James. It just brings -- I promise you, if you give a smile to a child and put shoes on their feet, it is going to bring a smile to your face and to your heart.

James: No question about it. We've got a great grandson, waiting for a second great grandchild. And one of the things that everybody looks for, beginning with mom and dad but certainly grandparents is the first time that little child smiles. I want to promise you this. When you see a parent look at a child that obviously is never going to be able to smile, if they don't have a miracle gift of love, you're not just blessing that child that can smile, you're blessing that mother that birthed that child and loves that child and that dad.

Would you please give some smiles for Christmas? Like Betty said, it will put a smile on your face. \$500 is the average cost of the surgery so \$1,000 will give two smiles. Is there any way you can do that? Maybe you can do more. I know if you can, I believe you will. But then keep this in mind, \$36 -- now listen to what I said -- \$36 ten pairs of shoes.

And if you'd like to receive not just one little shoe but you'd like to say, let me just hang up a whole lot of shoes, we'll send you this beautiful gift with all six of the shoes that have been made since we started. And you make a gift of \$180, really what that's doing, 50 children get a

pair of shoes. We're going to send you all six for your tree; wonderful conversation piece to inspiring others to share the love of God as we think about the greatest gift, the gift of Jesus.

Would you right now go to LifeToday.org or would you go to the phone and dial that number, take your bankcard, always use it like a check, that's how we should always use them but make the best gift you can? Please, would you do that? Would you do it now? So easy to forget. If you want to write a check, make it to LIFE but tell us, call us, tell us what you're putting in the mail. Please do it now. It really is that important not to put off and it sure will mean a lot not only to a child and children but to their parents. 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 150,000 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 \$180 will help provide 50 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount be sure to request this beautifully crafted blue metal shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$180 or more you may also request this keepsake boxed set of *LIFE*'s Christmas shoe ornaments.

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 "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, from the bottom of our heart we want to say thank. Thanks for being our friend! Thanks for being what we so often refer to as a friend for life, sharing the life and love of God. And we not only share the love, we tell them where that love comes from, and the source of love is Jesus Christ and a relationship with a loving Father.

Are you praying about the election? Remember if you decided not to vote you've actually cast a vote for the person you like least. That's actually what's happened. Please, starting at your local level all the way to the top, pick the wisest leaders; not just the ones at the top, but don't opt out of any of it.

Father, direct your people to pray and act; in Jesus' name.

Thanks for sharing God's love. Let's pray for and stand for freedom and the preservation of freedom's foundation. Thank you for doing it. Thanks for watching. Thanks for being a witness. Thanks for sharing love.

>> When planning your future keep their future in mind. Contact *LIFE* Planning Services today.