

**11/21/16**  
**Week 48: Fall mission feeding**  
**James and Betty Robison**  
**Dr. David Jeremiah #1**

**James:** Thank all of you. Thank you so much. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you watching *LIFE Today*. And all over the world I believe you're going to be impressed by the guest that we have and I think you're going to be impacted by what he is sharing.

Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor of Shadow Mountain in the greater San Diego, California area is writing -- it seems every book he writes is a bestseller almost the moment it comes out of the blocks -- and so it is. *Is This the End?* People are asking this. David Jeremiah answers, "Signs of God's providence in a disturbing new world."

I would say, Betty, in our lifetime the world has certainly changed. You and I have been married now for approaching 54 years and we would not have believed what we are watching today could have happened in our nation.

Would you welcome Dr. David Jeremiah to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

I'm glad you're with us. I know that right now your wife has had a little bit of a challenge. You said something in church that you said it actually led to today, "I've got to be sure I'm being really careful." Would you tell our viewers what just downloaded and you shared with your church because I thought it was amazing how these words fit together and then you said you got challenged on it.

**David:** Usually, James if you preach long enough one of these days you're going to get that sermon preached right at you and you're going to have to decide what to do with it. So I was telling you that I was preaching a series on being fully engaged and part of that was being fully engaged as parents and partners. And at the end of the sermon that I preached last week I said here are the priorities that God has given me that I've tried to follow since I've been a pastor after I got this all straightened out early in my ministry. Number one: I'm a person with a relationship with God. Number two: I'm a partner with a relationship with my wife. Number three: I'm a parent with a relationship with my children. And number four: I'm a pastor. I joke with our congregation that they're number four.

Many of them have said to me, "We don't want to be any higher than number four because if numbers one, two, and three aren't right you haven't got anything to offer us."

So anyway, I preach this sermon and I've got this tour that I'm supposed to be taking starting here, and Donna and I are looking forward to it, and she injures her leg. And I have to decide whether I'm going to listen to my own sermon and take care of my wife or I'm going to go on this tour. So I ended up cancelling everything except for you. And I'm not going to tell everybody the fear I have for you so I would never cancel you.

[Laughter]

So I told Donna, "I'm going to fly down to Dallas and be with James and then I'm going to fly home and I won't even miss one night." But I had to do what I preached. If you preach it, you better practice it; right?

**James:** I think it's great and I think your congregation answered so well.

I do appreciate the fact that I believe that you have a love and a respect for what God has allowed us to do on this life journey. I think you're a true statesman today. I think you are a great gift from God. When I find myself listening to you or reading what you've written and how it's affected people, I just say, "God, thank you that in my day in very challenging times Dr. Jeremiah is here."

And it looks like that you're doing now more than ever. A lot of people are talking about are these the last days? And they try to start dating things when the Lord made it very clear, don't date it. You don't know it. It's not for you to get all frustrated by it.

But he told them at the very beginning when he said that, "I'm leaving you here to be witnesses unto me starting at home, neighboring community to the ends of the earth." Would you say that somehow, in light of what's been going on in the world and in our nation, that Christians have not been as faithful and as committed to being the witnesses and as representatives of the kingdom of God in their own time right here and that's a problem?

**David:** Yeah, we've created our own comfort zone, James. We've got to a place where yeah, we want to go to church. We're involved in the ministry of the church but when it comes to confronting the issues that confront us, we wait for somebody else to do that. We think that's not our job; that's not what I've been called to -- I hear people say that all the time -- "I've not been called to do that." Well, somebody better be called to do it because if we don't do it we're going to be overrun by the secular humanism that is just taking over in our world today.

**James:** Now people that are totally deceived because people who know the truth have not held it in high enough regard to declare it, to demonstrate it, and even to defend it and we're watching people today exchange the truth of God for a lie. Lies are prevailing in the land in the last days because I think Christians have not really proclaimed and demonstrated the truth. So when you write this, tell me what is it that you want people to see? Is it looking just for a great escape or are they supposed to some God-given assignment for this moment in their life and in history?

**David:** James, when I started to write this book I was hearing questions from people as I traveled, what about this? What about that? How does this fit into the plan of God? I don't claim to have any special superior knowledge about that but I did know that some of the issues that were being discussed had some answers from the Bible. I wanted people to know that we're not left without a message, we're not left without a word from God.

Even in things as controversial as immigration. And one of the things that I've been very, very aware of in recent days is what is happening to the church, the persecution of the church. How the church is being -- one of my favorite terms in the book is the church is being squeezed, it is being marginalized and stereotyped and litigated. And more than ever before in any of our lifetime, any of us living today, the church of Jesus Christ in America is being pushed gradually but very firmly, a kick to the curb every time they can.

**James:** Out of the public square. Go undercover!

**David:** And every time you turn around there is new evidence of that. So in a chapter in this book on the persecution of the church I give some illustrations of what's happening. They're abundant. I didn't have to look very far. Then ask yourself what is it that I need to do and how do I stand up to that? What happens when those things take place? How do I respond to that? What does God want me to do? Remind us all that God says if we live godly in Christ Jesus we will suffer persecution. So don't be surprised by it. It is going to happen. How do you deal with it? How do you stand up for it? And how do you let God use it in your own life to purify who you are? And that's in that one chapter. So there is one issue that I addressed.

**James:** Well, you referenced immigration, the bleeding of our borders. What is it that you want people to hear there because we've got a real serious immigration problem? We actually have great threats, potentially of people coming in who actually want to do us great harm, who want to destroy all of the things that in essence have made us a great country, the land of the free.

**David:** There are many, many issues in the immigration discussion that I don't have a tremendous amount of knowledge about except I see what's going on. For instance, here in Dallas/Fort Worth at Parkland hospital the largest number of babies born in that hospital, and in just about any place in America, and so many of them are here illegally and it's driving the cost of everything up. That's one part of it.

The other part is that God has brought these people here. Here's kind of how I respond to that. I can't stop immigration. Who am I? I can't stand at the border and vet everybody who comes in. So what am I supposed to do as a pastor? Here's what I think. I think, James that God said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" and we've done such a sorry job, he's dumping them at our own doorstep. He's saying, "If you won't go where they are I'll bring them where you are."

So my main passion for immigration is to win them to Christ. We have a Spanish church, we have an Arabic church. We're trying to win these people that God has brought to us.

Then I go to the Old Testament and I realize that God has given us some insight into this because in the Old Testament, immigrants were called "strangers." And three things, strangers, how they related to Israel were number one they were to accept them, they were to assist them, and they were to assimilate them.

One of the most amazing things in that language is that whenever God spoke to Israel after that time he would always say to Israel "and you're strangers also." Everything he said to Israel he would add -- you can look it up. It's in Deuteronomy over and over again, "And you're strangers also." God laid upon the immigrants, the strangers the same responsibility that he placed upon Israel. That's where we're missing it in America because we're allowing people to come in here and not become a part of America but become their own people, start their own communities; sometimes even anti-American in their -- and that's not going to ever work and we're going to pay the penalty for that.

**James:** Create a nation within a nation. That actually sometimes can call for the overthrow of the nation they have come into as a sojourner.

Betty, when you think about the end times and you have had such -- you're such an inspiration to me because of your, I believe, God-given concern for what's going on in the country. It's not like you say, "Okay. Well, it's well with our children and our grandchildren." It's like you look out and you want it to be well with everybody. So what do you think is important that you know someone like Dr. Jeremiah can address? What, in your heart, your concern, and your love for what is going on?

**Betty:** Well, I agree with him and many others I think too that we have come to know and heard their views on that it's not a time to draw back as Christians. It is not a time to go into hiding. It is not a time to be intimidated. God has put a purpose in our lives. He's put his son Jesus in our life. He's saved us from our sins and that's the message we have to be bold about getting out there and doing what God's purpose in our heart is to do. And not to draw back and say, "Well, I'll just wait. I'll just wait. I'm saved. I know where I'm going." But God's got people out there that he wants to know him too. We must not quit evangelizing and reaching out and discipling people.

**David:** Well, I think what you're saying, Betty, is you can't trade in the cultural issues for the gospel because then you've got nothing. One of the things I think we can all learn from is the fact that when Jesus spoke he did it with grace and truth. It seems like today there is a little bit of erring on either side. We have some people that are so full of grace there is no truth. They just want everybody to be happy and they don't care what goes on. And we talked about that earlier, James that there's a lot of that in the church today.

And then there's others on the other side that are so full of truth you don't want to listen to them because there is no grace. You cannot be a Christian, you cannot conduct yourself as a Christian without a spirit of grace.

So the real challenge for all of us who speak in the public sector is how could I be faithful to the Word of God and to the message of the gospel in this decadent time and still show the love of Christ in my spirit as I do it, not be angry? I know some guys who can't preach unless they're angry. I don't think that does a whole lot of good for the Lord.

**James:** The Lord used the verse to convict me because I was pretty forceful, but sometimes I would come across angry. I used to say I was shouting at my own demons. As a matter of fact, we're going to talk about in the program later about --

**David:** I think I remember some of those days.

[Laughter]

**James:** I was scary. But the point is God did a great work. And one of the verses that convicted me is: The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. We're not going to get angry enough to fix everything.

I want to call people's attention to the way you broke this book out. The first part, "Is this the end for America?" And the second part, "Is this the end for the world?" But I'm going to touch on also, you just talked about the bleeding of our borders; you touched on immigration.

You talk about the increase of intolerance. The main thing that people are intolerant of today is people that have convictions that believe there are standards that are reliable. They don't want that. So the people who call for tolerance are totally intolerant of anybody who has a standard that they hold up and they believe is worthy.

Then you talk about the apathy of America and the remedy of revival. Apathy in America -- and I've been ministry now for well over 50 years and I've seen far too much complacency among Christians. It's like they may show up at the church and sometimes they don't even act like they love each other. There is apathy, there is indifference, and then they're not witnesses like you were talking about awhile ago. Well, how do you address that?

**David:** Well, one of the interesting things about apathy, the word is it's made up of two words: *pathos* which means passion; and then the little *A* in front of it cancels it, it means without passion. Americans without passion for their families, for their church, for their culture, for the freedom that we have. And when you don't have passion, when you don't have energy for what you believe is right the enemy wins. So that's what's going on in our country. Many people feel like, well, it is what it is. I hear this all the time. "It is what it is. I'm just going to live with whatever."

**James:** Things are just going to get worse and worse. That's like saying, well, you've got problems. It's going to come. My kids are going to be bad, my neighbors are going to be bad, my neighborhood is going to be bad. Isn't that nonsense? You don't have to give our garden we are overseers of to the enemy, to the trespasser.

All right, you believe, and it's hopeful, we can have an awakening? We can have revival. I believe that's our only hope. Now Betty and I have a firm conviction that the stage is set for perhaps the greatest spiritual awakening in the history of the world because nobody could have orchestrated all that's going on. And there is only one answer to the confusion and the dissension and division and the hostility and animosity that is prevailing, and that is a move of God and the love of God, not scrapping truth or sound principles upon which we build a secure life and a meaningful future, I believe the stage is set for an awakening like that.

People are saying, "We're fed up with all this nonsense! Political correctness, a biased media that is manipulating people, we've had it!" We're all agreeing on that. But if you get rid of all of that and you don't know what to put in its place you still have got a barren, weed-infested field rather than a fruitful field where people understand what that looks like.

I simply think the stage is set for the greatest awakening in the history.

**David:** In this book there is a chapter...

**James:** By the way, this is what you point at. No hopelessness! No hopelessness!

**David:** There are five great movements of revival in the history of our nation starting with the Great Awakening in the colonial period and ending with the Jesus movement that I lived through. That's the only one I remember. I don't remember the other four but I remember the Jesus movement.

**James:** Those California memories right there.

**David:** I do! The interesting thing about it is all of these great movements in our nation and around the world, one of them was a worldwide revival starting in Wales, all came at a time when everybody felt about their world exactly the way we feel about what's going on right now. It's never been like this before. We're clear at the bottom. There's no hope. And then all of the sudden they realize, there is hope. There is only one hope.

When we have exhausted all of other things that we try, ultimately we look to God and that's when God says, "If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves and confess their sins then I'll come."

Unfortunately we think that it's never been as bad as it is now. It's been worse than it is now on at least three other occasions in this nation. And then God has raised up primarily a bunch of young people and the young people have been the catalyst that God has used to bring revival to this nation.

**James:** I just want people like us, at our age to inspire young people to realize that the sky is not the limit, God is the limit in what he can do. And all we do is yield to him and he can work the miracle that literally transforms our culture before our eyes in a very short period of time. Nehemiah built the walls in 58 days. I believe if we'd get serious about doing the will of God and returning to his foundational principles and truth and we put up those walls of protection, and not prison walls but protection, I believe that we could see a miracle change in this nation in a very short period of time and amaze everybody.

You've written this book with that hope. It is in the bookstores. You can get it online and for all of you in the audience, we have a copy for every one of you here. Don't you appreciate the fact that Thomas Nelson says we want you to take it home?

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to look in and I want you to see a legitimate need that love and compassion effectively meets and changes everything. Here's what I want you to stop and ask: Can I be a part of that miracle? Yes, you can.

I'll just say this about the book. You become a part of this miracle, we want to send you Dr. Jeremiah's book, along with some other gifts to say thank you. You say, "Why are you doing that?" Because we want to feed you spiritually just like we want to feed people who are starving. I believe that people in America are emaciated spiritually. They don't have spiritual truth. They're weak and God sees them. You say you're rich, increase of goods and have need of nothing and you don't even know that you're wretched, poor, blind, miserable and naked. You're in need. We want to give you spiritual truth but we're going to give people the nourishment they need.

I want you to watch, I'll tell you what I believe, your heart is going to be moved but then it is going to leap into action and you're going to become the hands of Jesus. Watch closely.

### **On the mission field**

**Sheila:** We've met a lot of moms on our trip to Angola. I have to tell you, Mariana's story has touched me so profoundly.

### **Open Captions:**

>> I have lost two of my children. They both died because of hunger. There was nothing I could do to save them. I have nothing. My heart aches when I have to put my children to bed hungry.

**Sheila:** She said that when she goes to bed at night she just lies there. She said, honestly, she wishes she could just give up because she feels such despair. But she said, "I can't give up because I've still got three children who need me." But when she only has a little bit of food she makes sure she gives it to all three of her children, and many nights this mom goes to bed with nothing. Nothing in her stomach and just a prayer on her lips, "Lord, please send me some help."

### **Open Captions:**

>> I am very worried about my children because I know their bodies are not healthy. I know they're not getting enough food.

**Sheila:** Maybe you think, well, how can we change her life? It is really easy -- through

mission feeding. Can you imagine the burden that it will take off of this mom knowing her kids get one good meal every single day? It's not a lot to ask.

### **End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** No, it's not. It's not a lot to ask. And we are the answer to her heart cry. I would like to hold her. Sheila, when you were with them I could tell, it affects you like it does me and Betty, you just want to hold them. It's kind of like you want to hold them forever. God does and he can. But he uses us to start the process of healing. 400,000 little children like that, already, our missionaries have located in crisis settings. If they don't get stronger because we don't get to them early enough they end up in what we call "malnutrition settings" that your love also pays for, and that's where they go to try to stop death that is right there at the door.

Betty, I can see the concern that Sheila shared and the concern that mother has. She has already lost a couple of kids and she is trying to take care of the others. We really are the answer. Let me tell you. We've got a lot of people watching us who just care about others. This has been an election year and a lot of our donors have tried to support good candidates in the local level all the way to the top so they try to have the best people possible and the best principles supported. But they've given money. I'm going to tell you something, we felt it. And I found myself saying, "God, if we don't get a miracle..." We've got 400,000 kids the missionaries have located that really need help, many of them are dying. We can turn it around. Love will turn it around immediately because that's what we do.

You know what God did in answer to that heart cry? I mean I've been asking God. Some of our friends said, we got a \$400,000 grant, several came together and said, "We'll match \$400,000." You give and your gift will be doubled. And for \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. Well, now that will be doubled -- it will double to six and ten. If you give, let's say \$100, it will take care of so many children, it's doubled immediately and it will just keep going. It's like a gift that keeps giving. You make it once, it's doubled, and then it keeps giving for the next months -- ultimately years -- it's life.

Would you right now be a part of the miracle that mother is crying out for? Betty, I've asked God, please touch the heart of every person watching us to do something to be an answer to the heart cry that we've just heard.

**Betty:** I believe you will. To understand that your gift is going to reach out so much further than what you thought it might. There are so many more mothers like this precious mom that her heart is hurting. She is going without food herself so that she can give what little morsels

she has of life to her children. And there's so many more that need our help. So please join with us. Let's feed the little children, the children that God loves so much.

**James:** I'm believing that many of you will do that and see your gift doubled. But also, we're going to feed in the schools when they get healthy enough, we want to keep them going to school, their little minds be bright. And \$1400 will take care of a school for three months -- a whole school! I'm praying many of you will do that and it will be doubled, it will get two schools.

So if you can make that special gift, we do have some gifts to send you to say thank you that is going to be a beautiful gift. One of them is a children's Bible that's illustrated. It's absolutely beautiful for your children or your grandchildren. And Lisa Bevere's book, absolutely fabulous! I'm telling you, you're going to be inspired. What you're doing in love ought to be one of the greatest inspirations you'll ever experience.

Go to LifeToday.org online, take your bankcard, use it like a check. Or dial the number; use your bankcard like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to LIFE but would you please call us and tell us what you're mailing? Because the missionaries will be waiting to hear from us; are we going to be able to reach the goals? I want to tell them "yes" because you helped. Thank you for doing it.

### **Begin video clip**

**Announcer:** In remote and impoverished villages of Africa children are suffering, desperately in need of life saving food, facing death by starvation.

*LIFE's* mission feeding program is there, ready now to feed and care for children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With all of our previous reserves gone, and Angola facing a record food shortage due to crop failure, we need to immediately replenish our funding and supplies for our feeding programs.

As an answered prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$400,000 matching gift challenge for mission feeding! This means your gift today could have a double impact! \$30 for three children will be doubled to help feed six children! \$50 to help five children will be doubled to save ten children! And \$100 for ten children will be doubled to help feed 20 children! And don't forget, your \$1400 gift to sponsor a school will now be doubled to feed children in two schools!

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Without Rival* by author Lisa Bevere. With your double impact gift of \$100 or more please request *The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1000, which will now be doubled to help feed 200 children and you may request our beautiful Majesty bronze sculpture.

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

### **End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Betty and I say thanks to God for the love that he pours and expresses through you. Thank you for being a release of that love. Lisa Bevere's book, *Without Rival*, we're sending to those who help us; beautiful complete illustrated children's Bible. But also today, Dr. Jeremiah, he is such a blessing. I just think this could have a transforming effect not only on your life but on our nation and touch the world with the love and grace and truth of God. You help us feed someone, Dr. Jeremiah is going to feed you in your heart and your spirit and help you with the future, all of us together. Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Dr. Jeremiah?  
[Applause]

**David:** Thank you!

**James:** Thank you all for watching. Tell your friends about the book because we don't need to be afraid about the end. We're ready!