

1/23/17

Wk 5: WFL

James & Betty Robison

Kerry & Chris Shook

James: Thank you! Thank all of you. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Kerry and Chris Shook with us, at the Church of the Woodlands.

Betty and I were greater Houston area young people and that's where we in Pasadena, a suburb of Houston, we fell in love and married. I was called to preach there before we got married. We love the Houston area. We are a little concerned about some things going on there, a little bit that should cause some concern and I know Kerry and Chris are concerned about it. The beautiful thing that I've seen is this young couple touching so many young people; I mean just thousands have found their way not only into the church but they found a personal relationship with Christ. And in a day when there is so much attraction and distraction from that which really matters, when you find Christ lifted up by a couple in such a way that young people are attracted and they fall in love with a person this couple points to, and that is the person of Jesus.

Now this book is called *Find Your Miracle*; the miracle of Jesus. Everybody needs a miracle. They actually list several of these. They talk about the source of miracles: Jesus is healer, He's provider. This is interesting: He's the storm chaser. No doubt He can calm storms. I have an idea they're alluding to that; but "the life giver."

Well, we want them to literally share with us why they wrote the book and what they want you to hear. Would you welcome Kerry and Chris Shook to *LIFE Today*? We're glad to have them back. I think it's been a while since you've been here.

Kerry: Yes! It has. It's so good to be back with you, James and Betty.

James: Is the church a lot bigger now? Has it grown a lot?

Kerry: It keeps growing, thank to the Lord. God just does it. We have to blame God for that one.

James: I want you to talk to us about this book because I believe in miracles. God still works miracles. Talk to us about it.

Kerry: Well, a survey just came out. This is 87% of Americans believe in miracles. I believe it is 78% of millennials believe in miracles. But we wanted to really give a biblical perspective of miracles because we believe God works miracles in our lives. So we studied the miracles of Christ, and in it, James and Betty we found that there were so many principles in His miracles that were the same. One was He always starts with a miracle you need most; the miracle you feel you need most. Jesus always comes right where we are to meet us at our point of need and I love that about the Lord; that He knows what's on our heart.

Blind Bartimaeus in scripture, He came up to him and said, "What is it that you need? What do you want me to do for you?"

He said, "I want to see."

So I'm thankful for that but the other principle that God really gave us was that not only does He meet us at our point of need but He also wants to take you to what you need most, a deeper relationship with Him.

James: When you touch on these different chapters that I referenced, pick up on one or two of those that we referenced and just touch on it. Would you tell us what you want people to hear?

Kerry: Definitely. In the first chapter we talk about a miracle map. The miracle map is really that embedded in the miracles of Christ, James are these principles that are all through scripture. We list them; that Jesus starts with the miracle you need most; then He gets you to the miracle you really need most, that deeper relationship with Him, but the third one is He does it in His time and in His way. That's where we struggle a lot of times. We're at this dead end or we're going through a time of delay or God's not answering us the way we think He should and He does it a different way. It doesn't make sense to us this side of heaven.

Betty: Maybe not as fast as we want it; our timing is so different from God's. I've learned that miracles I've seen in my life personally, sometimes it seemed like it was a long time before I got what I had asked for. But it was because God wanted to show me some other things along the way that I would have missed maybe if I had gone straight to what I wanted.

Kerry: We feel that all the time but it is our limited view, our perspective. We want things instantly. Chris and I have prayed for miracles and sometimes you see God answer it just like that. We love that! [Laughing]

Chris: Sometimes, it doesn't happen that way but like you said, it's so true that we learn through the process. I would like to just have a quick fix most of the time but instead, usually, there's something in my character, something that desperately needs to be changed, even if I don't see it it's directly affected somehow. And I get a chance to grow. God has a chance... He

shows other people His love; maybe it turns out it wasn't all about me anyway, the miracle. It was a way that God can use to show His glory and share His love with others.

Betty: A lot of times it is the journey to getting there. I know many times I look back on the journey and I say, "God, thank you for not letting me miss this or that" because it added character and relationship with Him.

Kerry: And He has that eternal perspective that we just don't have, that we can't really grasp. I think so many times we get to a place of dead end and we think it's over but that place of dead end is just the phase He takes you through to get to deliverance. It doesn't feel like that at the time yet over and over again in our lives He's taken us to a place of dead end and it feels like the dream has died or that there's no way through the brick wall but it's really just the place right before deliverance where you're totally depending on Him. Sometimes the deliverance comes in ways that we weren't expecting.

Many times we think we're in a storm and God is punishing us or He's trying to get us for being out of His will. But a lot of times we're in the middle of God's will and we're in the middle of a terrible storm and the good news is He has the power to chase that storm away. Sometimes He just allows us to go through the storm to chase things out of our character that shouldn't be there. We always say He'll either take the storm out of your life or He'll take you through the storm and make you a different person. But I know every person who is watching is going through a storm of some sort in their life and it may be the most difficult storm they've ever gone through. The good news is He's right in the middle of a storm.

James, when I think about Jesus walking on the water, it says He came to them in the middle of the night in the storm and they got scared. They thought He was a ghost or what is this because they weren't expecting Jesus to come to them in the storm. We don't expect God to show up a lot of times in the storm. We expect to meet Him at church or when we're having our quiet time or when we're having a wonderful time in the Lord. But when we're in the storm, He shows up. He's in the middle of that storm if we're looking for Him.

James: I think it's interesting. I'm glancing over here at the side while you're talking and I know you're going to see some close-ups. This is called "A Determined Eagle." When we had this sculpture designed we wanted this bronze to be painted, and it is magnificent. But you can see determination in his eye. I want to pick up on what he was saying because I think this is going to prove to be perhaps the most treasured bronze we've ever offered you when you give life to others.

Now think about this. An eagle seeks turbulence to rise higher, and he gets a greater, higher perspective. The other thing is that this magnificent bird is designed for speed it cannot generate. It catches the winds, at jet stream speed on occasion and travels far faster than any bird could travel by his own strength.

We need to see, Kerry and Chris that we are designed for speed and life that we cannot in our strength accomplish, the spirit-filled life, the Christian witness, the overcomer, the more-than-conqueror, the ambassador, the faithful, fearless witness. So God gives us His indwelling spirit. But we don't need to fear the storms. We can actually soar on the turbulence of the times.

And that's what's actually written about this. I think it's very significant that you see this. We send a little parchment like this about the determined eagle that actually soars on the turbulences of the time and the challenge of the day. People need to learn that because that in itself is a miracle. Because when you've had everything taken out from under you, like what's happened to a lot of our friends in Louisiana. They're trying to recover. They're going to have to be lifted by a greater power that's greater than the water that took out a lot of the things that were their treasures and their possessions and their comfort. We're living in turbulent times and I think we need that miracle.

When you talk about miracles, I really need to ask you this because there are a lot of folks like us, we just have been ministering to one of our friends whose best friend just lost a little two-year-old. It's really tough. Then of course, we lost a 40-year-old daughter, our daughter. As Betty and I were thinking about this even with the loss of this two-year-old, every birthday for the next 38 years they're going to be thinking... We watched our daughter sow life. She sowed life every day of her life for 40 years. This little child didn't get to live very long but we all had to have a miracle.

I've got to ask you, when you don't get the healing miracle and you don't get the expected raise or job or whatever it was you consider that's so important, what kind of miracle does it take to live without the expected miracle? Where does that come from?

Chris: I think that's a great question. In our lives we found that a lot of times we're looking in one place for a miracle – we want a big miracle in a certain way at a certain place at a certain time. In doing that we miss the miracle we weren't looking for. We forget to even look, to turn our heads, to change our focus and see that God is working a miracle in a different place – maybe a different place of our lives and someone else's life, in a different area we weren't expecting.

Kerry and I have learned that instead of asking why did this happen to me or why did this not happen to me, it's recognizing the flip side of that. What have I been given? God, what is in my life that You are expecting me to use for You?

The miracle of the fig tree, I think is really interesting. In the bible, when we talk about this in the book because it's not what you'd expect. Usually we think a miracle is something that is adding value but in the miracle of the fig tree, Jesus is hungry, He's walking on this dusty road with His disciples and He saw a fig tree and it had leaves on it and so he was hungry. So He went over to have some figs and there was no fruit on the tree. In fig trees, the leaves appear the same

time as the fruit. So if there are leaves there should be fruit – and there was no fruit. The bible says He commanded that the fig tree would wither and die and be no more because it wasn't producing. It gave the appearance of having fruit, it gave the appearance on the outside of being something that should be very life-giving and full but there was nothing. It was only leaves.

So Kerry and I have learned in really studying that miracle that we need to be careful of having the appearance of having fruit; just having all the leaves in full bud but not having the fruit there. And that there's a lot that God expects of my character in accordance with what He's given me, the things I have been blessed with.

Instead of looking at what do I not have, is there anything else in this life, Lord that I don't have? Lord, what have you given me? What am I responsible for? And how can I cultivate this orchard that you've given me? To me, that's where we've seen maybe the greatest miracles in our lives.

Kerry: I think, James that when you go through that time where God doesn't come through like you think that He should, I think it's okay to express your anger to God. I talked to a young man whose wife was diagnosed with cancer and they'd just been married, stage 3 cancer. He came to us. We prayed with him and he said, "I'm really mad at God. And everybody tells me, 'Don't get mad at God.'"

I said, "That's okay because as long as you pour it out to Him. Because He loves you and He's big enough to handle it. Pour out your anger and your hurt and your grief. The only thing you shouldn't do is turn away from Him" because that is kind of what we want to do when He doesn't come through; we're disappointed.

I know in scripture Mary was disappointed when He didn't come right away to heal her brother Lazarus. She didn't understand. She believed in Him so much and she knew He was going to come through and He loved them, and then He didn't. It says that she stayed at home when Martha ran out to meet Him. Then Jesus asked for her. Martha came back and said, "The teacher is asking for you."

I love that when we turn away from Him He's still coming to us; He's still asking for us. There are so many questions we'll never be able to answer until we get to heaven but the good news is He is the answer. His presence is with us.

So that's what we hope people get from the book is that the ultimate miracle is Jesus. It's not the presents that He gives us, it's His presence. That's the only way we can make it when it doesn't happen the way we think it should.

James: I don't know where... Did you want to say something about that?

Betty: No.

James: I don't know where all our viewers are right now but there are not many people who don't need a miracle of some sort. Let me just pray for you.

Father, I pray for everyone watching right now. I don't know what's going on in their life but I know you are the miracle worker and I know you are the presence of a calmness and a comfort and a peace that goes beyond our ability to even comprehend. We know there are people that need that right now. We also know, Lord there are people that just want to reach out and touch You and be healed. I pray Lord that just this moment that many who are battling and struggling in some way would just say, "Jesus, touch me. I reach out to you. Work a miracle in my life right now. Heal me. Heal the relationships. Heal the broken heart." Do it, Lord! In Jesus' name.

You see the phone number there on the screen? It's always there for you if you want someone to pray with you, someone to care, someone you can share your heart with, your concerns, someone to agree with. Many times when you talk to one of our prayer partners you'll talk to someone who understands exactly where you are. So please feel an open invitation to say, "I'm going to reach out and just come in agreement with someone."

If you'd like to have the book that Kerry and Chris have written, it's *Find Your Miracle*. It is in the bookstores. You can get it online.

But I'll tell you what. If our viewers will actually help us, and I'm going to refer back to this because I want to really impress upon you when we set our wings to soar, to be carried not only by the spirit and the grace of God but even the challenges and turbulence of the very times we live in, we can soar like an eagle.

I'm believing right now as we face these challenging times and we ask God to be a miracle in our lives that we're going to come to understand more fully than ever that the best way to get our prayers answered is seek to be an answer to someone else's prayer, be the instrument of God, be His hands, be His love right now and reach out and touch someone.

Isaiah 58 is so appropriate for this moment that when we allow the power of God to break the bond of oppression, affliction, defeat, set captives free, and then we begin to look beyond ourselves and meet the needs of others, he says, "I'm going to answer quickly." He says, "I'll be your rear guard. I'm going to look out for you."

And then the miracle, you'll be a well-watered garden. You talk about soaring! And you'll repair the foundation – freedom's foundation, the future. That's what we do. You know where it all starts? God set me free to do your will, to soar, and to be an answer to someone else's prayer.

We're going to ask all of our viewers to join us. I want you to look into an area right now that is just filled with heartache because there's been no water, no rain, and because they have no clean

water. Let me tell you something. You're going to be a miracle! You are going to be without any question someone's miracle. Watch this.

On the mission field

Ralph: We're here today in the heart of Africa and we walked upon this water source. Personally, it almost makes me nauseous just watching them collect it and drink it. But this is their life. Yumbu!

Open captions:

>> This lady here has lost two of her kids.

Ralph: What's her name?

Open captions:

>> Emeline.

Ralph: She's lost two children from the bad water.

Open Captions:

>> My first child who died was Valente, who say 5 years old. The other was Osta, who was 2. If I think of them I can't eat. I'll just spend the day sleeping.

Announcer: Tragedy -- it's a word we use for an unbelievable loss, like the deaths of Emeline's two children. But Emeline's tragedy goes beyond loss of life. It's her helplessness to change what precipitated it: Contaminated drinking water.

Open Captions:

>> There is no day we don't bury a child because of bad water.

Announcer: God has blessed our efforts to provide over 5,000 water wells around the world but we shouldn't make the mistake thinking our work is done. As it stands today, in this village, Emeline can either give her remaining children the same filthy water that killed their siblings -- or even worse, withhold water altogether and that's a decision that no parent should have to make.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Can I just say thank you to those of you who are watching now?

Betty, we found sometimes we want to be ministered to and rightly so. We want to receive spiritual food and water.

And then when you look and you see something that breaks your heart, it's easy sometimes to look away. You didn't look away so I want to say this to you. I believe God caught your attention and I believe He wants to move your heart to where a real legitimate need captures your heart and you identify with God's heart just like that mother. She's lost two children. She doesn't want to lose the others and she's representative of so many.

As a matter of fact, our missionaries have just reported that in places like Burundi and other places in Africa, seven specific nations, the drought is so severe that unless we drill wells immediately in those areas, there's no way to describe the devastation.

We've got to drill 188 wells now. We're also going to have to find a way to get some water in where there is no way to drill a well. So when we see a need, Betty that seems impossible, then we believe that God, the miracle-working one who provides through yielded vessels, the miracles, I believe our viewers are going to be the answer to every mother's cry for her children and I believe we're going to have the water wells because I think the people who are watching are either going to be able to help or they're praying and God is going to answer their prayers.

Betty: Please help us with the water wells! You know what really touched my heart is when she said, "Every day a child dies from the water" – the diseased water that they go to every day because they have to have water just to survive, James knowing that it's killing their babies. That has to be the heartache of a mother that you cannot explain with words, for her heart is broken.

Let's please reach out to them and let's drill the water wells. Let's give them a well to go to that will not run dry, of fresh, clean water.

James: I believe you're going to do it. With all my heart I believe it. I think that the people that watch our program have found indescribable joy releasing the water of God's life and love to others. Right now in a very tangible, a very specific way we can be the miracle they long for. We can drill the wells. Would you please ask God what does He want you to do. The wells cost \$4800.

Betty, I'm being told this may be the last time we're able to keep the cost at that level.

So please, let's right now, if you can drill a well, do it! \$4800 will drill a well. I pray you'll do it. If you can give \$1200 and pray three join, or \$2400 and pray another joins, we've got a well. Most of the money – now please don't think I can't do that. How important is a cup of water?

\$48 will give 10 people water basically the rest of their life. \$144 will give 30 water the rest of their life.

We want to send you for any gift, *5 Minutes with Jesus* by Sheila Walsh; *A Fresh Infusion of Joy*. You know what a blessing she's been. This devotional book will be such a tremendous – tremendous blessing to you. We have got the “No greater name than the name of Jesus” as a gift for you to hang on the wall. And the beautiful, beautiful “Determined Eagle” bronze. I think the prettiest we've ever offered, and what a message it carries.

Would you go to the website you see there and use your bankcard like a check? Or you can dial the number, use your bankcard like a check but make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it. Thank you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

Our teams have recently located remote villages in southern Africa where children are dying from contaminated, disease ridden water. The situation is desperate. They need clean disease-free water immediately.

With your gift today you can help drill 188 water wells in remote villages across seven African nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we'll send you Sheila Walsh's devotional, *5 Minutes with Jesus*, a fresh infusion of joy to help you find perspective in the midst of daily life and experience a deeper connection with God.

With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive our No Greater Name canvas, a beautiful artistic expression of our savior's name and a daily reminder of his presence in your life.

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 beautiful new hand-painted “Determined Eagle” bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

James: Disease is the chief killer of children before the age of five caused by contaminated water. I'm standing by the answer. I'm standing by the solution.

A well I can operate very easily with one hand. Any child can do it. You've got clean water coming here and this is life – this is life! That's what you're providing when you help us drill water wells and give these simple pumps that any child can work. Thank you for helping!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, we've asked God for the miracle in your life.

Father, I just pray whatever the need, you'll meet it. But thank you for our viewers who became a miracle for someone today, an undeniable miracle; in Jesus' name.

From the bottom of our heart, in behalf of so many we thank you. If you'd like to have Kerry and Chris' book, *Find Your Miracle* and you'll read specifically how Jesus works, there is not a formula but there are patterns and He is a miracle worker.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Kerry and to Chris? God bless y'all! And bless Church of the Woodlands. Y'all visit sometimes in the Houston area. Thank you for watching. Thanks a lot for helping us give water and give wells.

Announcer: In his new book, *Living Amazed* James Robison shares how divine encounters can change your life. *Living Amazed* -- coming soon to online and retail bookstores.