

5/9/17
Week 20: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Living Amazed #2

James: It is such a joy to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I are just thrilled to be here. I'm James Robison.

Years ago, Betty, God led me -- and I was doing the crusades, the coliseums, football stadiums -- and the Lord led me to become a servant spokesman, to serve other ministers. But one of the things he said that was so clear and I want to be sure you hear this, he said, "I want you to call the family in the family room and help them get to know the Father."

Well, we've been doing that for so many years with many guests who talk about the incredible transformation that God's redemptive work accomplished in them, and we have helped them in all their ministries and we'll continue to do that but God really put it on my heart, when the book, *Living Amazed* went out that it is amazing that I would live amazed. I'm the least likely when you consider my background.

Here's the thing. If God can use me and I live amazed and see an amazing impact on people's lives with divine encounters, you can too. So the Lord led us to just call a family share time here; real special emphasis on how everyone -- you can live amazed in his presence. I think you're going to really be blessed by what we're sharing. Thank you for watching.

Begin video clip

James: I've really come to understand the love of God. And I don't think most of you, and even here, really understand how much he loves you and I think that breaks the heart of God. I remember even when Betty and I first started dating and I was a pretty effective preacher and she said, "I can't believe I got to marry you." She said, "God, you just don't know how much I love you." I'm getting it. And I love you so much.

Everywhere I go, I try to be a witness. And just in the last few days I was visiting with one of my board members. By the way, we're talking about living amazed. I'm actually in what is a series of teaching moments with people who came and said, "I want to spend several days with you, over several weeks talking about the Lord." That's what we're doing. And these are people that live

here in our area that just said, "James, we want to spend time with you in the presence of the Lord because we want to live amazed. And we believe you really do, and we don't think that there is just supposed to be a few people that live amazed."

And see, since I live amazed and I feel like I'd be the last one likely to live amazed, if I can live amazed, the shyest kid on the planet and be used, what can he do with any lump of clay that gets in the master's hands so he can shape us into a vessel of honor? When I think about that, I just think, well, you all could be this way. If God can use a kid that wouldn't even eat lunch in the school cafeteria because I was too shy and I wouldn't make a report in a class. If they said, you've got to get up and give a report. I got a zero. I was so shy, God called me to preach.

You'll read in the book, *Living Amazed* and I really hope you get it and read it because listen, the book, *Living Amazed* wasn't written to sell books, it wasn't written to talk about me, it was talking about the God that lives in this lump of clay that would seem so unworthy and unlikely, and he just flows his life through this vessel, this ordinary vessel that didn't have anything going for me. I mean I'm the kid when they picked teams because I moved 17 times in ten years so people didn't know me, I had some ability but nobody knew it. So when they picked teams -- maybe you've been there and you were the last one picked. Did you ever stand there, the last one picked and you wondered if you'd get picked? Hey, I didn't a lot of times. I walked off by myself. I didn't get picked.

God picked me. Picked me! It's unbelievable what he can do. Do you know what really opened my heart to know how much he wanted me? I mean I was working at a grocery store when I was 12 and I worked hard. I read a lot of books, little biographies for children of famous people. My teacher, I was competitive; my teacher had a bookworm class and she said, "If you read a book, you put a little circle up here on your bookworm and we're going to see who has the longest bookworm." Man, my bookworm went about halfway around the room. I passed everybody reading those books. I'm going to get a little -- I'm going to get a little appreciation. But it was good for me to read about great people in children's language.

So here I am, this kid that nobody picks and I'm in this grocery store and I go over and pick up a classic comic and it was a classic comic on the life of Christ. It was like yesterday; I remember standing there, I flip this thing open and there was Jesus being baptized. And Jesus came up out the water and there were these words, "This is my beloved son, in whom I'm well pleased." I stood there and tears welled up in my eyes and I thought, I've never heard that. Wouldn't that be great if God said that?

And the night I was led to Christ, when the teenagers gave their testimony at the pastor's request because I was only there for that night on a visit, and they talked about Jesus. And I heard the Lord say, when the pastor said, "Would you come and give your life to Jesus?" I heard the

Lord say in my teenage heart, "If you go and do that I'll be so pleased in you."

And I wanted to go so bad but I was so scared. I mean you're talking shy beyond description and I didn't even stand up. I just gripped the chair, the seat in front of me. And all of the sudden I was conscious there was somebody standing by me. I turned and looked up and it was the pastor's wife. She was holding her glasses because her tears flowed so freely her glasses would dislodge and she had to hold them. And trembling she put her hand on my shoulder and said, "James, don't you want to go to Jesus?"

I said, "Yes ma'am, but I'm afraid."

She said, "I'll go with you."

And that night I went forward and I gave this shy kid to the Lord and I had to go back to my broken home. It's a whole other story, so to speak about how I finally had to leave that home because the alcoholic that raped my mother, when she conceived came back in our home and turned it into hell and he tried to kill her. The only reason he didn't is when she passed out he thought she was dead. Then he came in to kill me. And I almost shot him in self-defense.

Now the God that filled my life when I became a Christian and then when I was called to preach lives in me. When I was sharing with this wonderful board member, trustee of *LIFE Outreach*, I'd been ministering to him since he was 20; he's 51 now, very successful. And we were just spending time together. And he said, "Let's go to this little country restaurant in central Texas and let's eat."

And we went to eat at that restaurant and as we were sitting there and the little waitress came over I noticed that she was tall and attractive. I watched as she waited other tables. There were the men flirting with her and she was so nice. And when we got to the time to get our receipt, our bill to pay it, I looked at her. I said, "Hey! What's your name?"

She said, "My name is Hannah."

I said, "That's a Bible name!"

She said, "I know it. That's where my mom got it."

I said, "Well, my name is James. That's a Bible name too. And I didn't have a father."

And I told her just a little bit of my story. And I told her about living amazed. I said, "As a matter of fact, I've written a book like that. I want to give it to you in a few minutes." But I said, "Can

I tell you how I've been praying for you ever since I saw you and I saw all these people flirting with you?" I said, "You know you're going to be pretty easy for guys to chase." And she is grinning. She's just as pretty as she can be. I said to Hannah, "Hannah, here's how I've been praying for you. And if you'll let me, I'm going to pray it with you in a few minutes. I'm praying that God will give you a man that will always love Jesus more than he loves you because that's the only way a woman, a girl can be loved the way she deserves to be loved. It is what every girl's heart longs for." And she had tears in her eyes. I said, "Can we pray?" And right there in that restaurant we prayed.

Now I'm going to tell you something. Glory was filling that restaurant. I went out to the car. I got the book, *Living Amazed*, brought it back in. I wrote her a sweet note and handed it to her. I don't think I've ever seen anyone glow like that. I promise you, all of that central Texas town, all over that restaurant, glory was flowing. Are you listening to me? Are you hearing what I'm saying? You are a priceless treasure and that's one of the reasons that I'm talking to you right now. I want you to know how much God loves you. I want you to know God wants to love through you. And if you will get to know his heart, he will love through you.

I want you to turn to John 17 right now and I want you to see what must happen in our life beginning right now. John 17: This is the Lord's Prayer. All right, look. I want to say it, the Lord's Prayer, the model prayer -- now listen to me how it starts: Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name." Next phrase: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Do you get that? If you don't really get that then we're not going anywhere. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." There is no way his will is done on earth period until his kingdom comes and we commit to the kingdom life.

And his kingdom is where? In us. We are not saved to get in that kingdom. The minute we're saved we're in that kingdom now. Not when we die, not when he comes. It is not the final kingdom where all opposition, pestilence, every disease, everything is gone, no more enemy, no more attack. But the kingdom presence of that Father and all the power of heaven, it comes in us right now in this temple, in this earthen vessel. And if you'll understand you weren't left here to get out of here, you were left here to be a witness for Christ of the reality of the kingdom.

Jim Hylton has written some great books about the kingdom. I will put your website up on the screen right now Jim, they can do it.

Dudley Hall has a website. There it is. He talks about the kingdom all the time.

Sheila Walsh, I think writes about a book a month. You are amazing, Sheila, and you are so full of truth. She talks about the kingdom. I'm telling you, there is so much there for you.

But get this. Here's the thing I want you to see. We're going to continue this. Look at the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Think about this a minute. By the way, if you're at home, wherever you are, get a Bible. In a motel, hope you've got a Gideon Bible there. Find a Bible. Get something to write on. Go to John 17. This is the Lord's Prayer. He's not only praying for those disciples where he makes it clear in the prayer, he is praying for those who become his disciples and become believers because of that testimony. So he is talking about us.

In the very first verse: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify the son that the son may glorify you. You've given him authority over all mankind that to whom thou has given him he may give eternal life and this is eternal life.

Eternal now -- eternal life starts the moment you experience a life of Christ in salvation and we're going to be talking about who is in that family, that's going to be one of the entire programs: How do you know you're in the family not just in religion, not just a part of religious group, but you're actually a child of God, born again of the spirit, redeemed, transformed, converted, a new creation? We're going to talk about that.

He's given us eternal life and this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Now he continues to pray for us. And one of the major emphasis here and I think this is so absolutely important. He wants us to know the Father and be one with the Father as he is. Now I'm telling you, that's a supernatural reality. You and I can be one with the Father as he is one with the Father.

Sheila, before we came out here, you pointed us to a verse in this prayer that really jumped out at you with power. I want you to share that with our viewers and the people here in this television audience.

Sheila: It is John 17 and it is verses 22 and 23: And Jesus said, "I've given them the glory you gave me so they may be one as we are one. I'm in them and you're in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me."

But this is the bit that blows me away, James: "And that you love them as much as you love me."

James: Why does that get you?

Sheila: The Father's love for the son -- there is no greater love than the love that exists between the Father and the son. But to think that broken men and women like us, that God looks at us and

that same love he has for his son, that's how he feels about us.

James: Does that say something to you, Dudley?

Dudley: Yes, it does because there is nothing that transforms us like being loved. We live in a religious world that is always trying to tell us to be better, to do things to get God to favor us. We carry our own little internal score card hoping we'll get better; maybe God will love me a little more and give me a little more blessing.

But the only thing that is going to transform us is to know that we are loved. God has so loved his son, eternally loved his son because the son is part of the Godhead. And yet, the thing that's unbelievable, the thing I struggle with every day is can I actually believe that God loves me as much as he loves the son? I find myself going, "No, but maybe I can get good enough that he might love me a little bit." But he loves me as much as the Father loves the son.

And when God talks to us, James, when God speaks to us, when we hear the voice of God, it will be the echo of what the Father said to the son, "You are my son in whom I'm well pleased." It always has that flavor to it. It will always sound like that. And if you think you are hearing the voice of God and it doesn't have that sound to it, you're not hearing the voice of the father.

James: You are hearing the deceiver. By the way, one of the things we're going to track toward in these coming times together, these days is for you to become aware of which father you follow. The father of lies or the Father of life, truth, and freedom. And what spirit controls you? The spirit of love, joy, peace? We're going to talk about that.

Even before we get to that point we're going to discuss how you can know that you have been born from above and that you are not just in a religious community but you are in an eternal relationship with the living God who is your Father and you have been born into the family of the redeemed.

We're going to continue to look at John 17 in the next program.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I don't think there is any question you're being blessed as were all the people that filled this studio. We're going to be communicating like this with you for the next many days and weeks. I really, throughout the year, you're going to learn what it is to live in the powerful presence and the divine enabling, the anointing of God, which is for everyone. And you can live

amazed.

You're going to see very clearly which father people are following and what spirit is controlling them. Also, what spirit is controlling the world? Which father do people follow? The father of lies or the Father of life and truth and freedom? What spirit? The spirit of dissension, strife, division and destruction and even death? Or the spirit of life and love and peace and joy and all the fruit of the spirit? You're going to learn that very, very clearly.

Here's the thing that happens in the life of a person who has been controlled by God. We want to release his life and his love to people all over the world -- not just talk about it but in action and deed. And this is an opportunity we have right now to put love in action and see lives totally changed by the power of that love. I know, I believe with all my heart you're going to be excited to participate in it, to release the love of God in a way no one can deny that gives life. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: War and conflict are predominant in the short history of the world's newest country, South Sudan. Villages are routinely attacked. Innocent families flee for their lives as their meager homes are burned to the ground. Those lucky enough to survive the ambushes have nothing but the clothes on their backs as they wander in search of safety.

Parents are desperate to find food sources for their children and often go without so their children can go to bed with a little food in their stomachs. As the years pass, surviving family members ban together and do whatever they can to survive.

In 2015, the *LIFE Outreach* mission partners working in South Sudan met one such family, Leek, along with his father, grandmother, and older sister Nayagut were living under this tree. The family's main source of food was the wild fruit growing in the tree. As the fruit in the lower branches was depleted Nayagut began climbing the tree higher and higher as needed. She bravely and sacrificially tried her best to provide for Leek and her family.

Recently, the missionaries returned to that tree and sought out Leek, Nayagut and the rest of their family. Although they now had a simple hut to sleep in heartbreak and tragedy still plagued this family. Nayagut had passed away a couple months prior; most likely as the result of malnutrition. Leek says he misses his sister and the mission team was heartbroken by the pain and the hopelessness evident in his eyes.

As famine and starvation sweep across South Sudan, families such as these fear for their future. The grip of this crisis is tightest on the children. Leek and many other children just like him need

food and they need it now.

End of clip

In the studio

James: That is so powerful and so true! Betty, we have to have the love not only of that little girl, his sister, that precious daughter but the love of Jesus that put him on a cross.

Did you know she was climbing through long thorns; very dangerous to get up there? You have to wonder if she may not have actually been giving her very life trying to keep the rest of the family alive. Her brother was actually wearing his sister's dress there at the end.

You know what we can do? And I believe every one of you watching me right now are going to want to do this. We can express the love that she was sharing, gave her life because we have a savior who gave his life to give us life. And the life that he gave us is to flow like a river of love all over this world. That's the power of the good news of the gospel. So it is not in word only but in demonstration.

Would you please right now give that family and thousands -- we found 400,000 in similar situations. There are 20 million people right now, the largest number in history, the U.N. says, facing starvation. We can't touch all of them but each one of us can touch some. \$30, \$50, or \$100 enables us to touch three, five or ten children with the love of God and give them a chance at life.

Would you right now go online? Would you dial that number please? Would you say, "I'm going to help save the lives of ten or five or three? There is a level you can help us with. Some of you will want to sponsor a school. Once we get them stabilized, we start feeding them at school so we can help train their little minds and give them a great future.

Love changes everything. But God is looking at a vessel through whom he flows that love. You are one. Would you release it right now? We have some gifts to bless you but you're going to be sharing the greatest gift, the life and love that God offers through us. Please go online or dial the number, make the gift God puts on your heart and thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and even now famine-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face death by starvation.

LIFE's Mission Feeding program is ready. With your support, we're able to feed and care for

children in famine areas of Sudan, as well as Angola and Mozambique. With all of our previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding facing the worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

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

With your gift of any amount we'll send you My Daily Word Devotional. This boxed set of four seasonal devotionals will help you read, reflect, and renew yourself through God's word with space to journal your thoughts and reflect each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you'll also receive Kari Jobe's newest music project, *The Garden*, along with the story behind *The Garden* companion DVD.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, please be sure to request "Determined Eagle," our 2017 commemorative bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: You are going to be greatly blessed by Kari Jobe's incredible music, *The Garden*. The Daily Word seasonal devotionals just to get you in the word and the word in you, which is what we're doing with the *Living Amazed* sharing, which is going to go on for many days and weeks.

If you'd like to have the book, *Living Amazed* because God wants us all to live in his amazing grace and his supernatural enabling, all of us can. So if you'd like to have it, say, "James, I'm going to share love. Would you mind sending me a copy of that book because I do want to live amazed."

Well, Betty and I say thank you for joining and thank you so much for sharing life. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. I think they're going to begin to grow in grace and knowledge, love and truth even as they watch *LIFE Today*. God bless you!

Announcer: When planning your future keep their future in mind. Contact *Life*

Planning Services today.