

5/11/17
Week 20: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Living Amazed #3

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: Boy, y'all are great! I tell you what, now you see, you just listen here. You've got a little -- I'm James Robison, just glad to be with you. We're talking about living amazed. These folks have been here forever. They're going to be here like for days. We locked the doors. We've got cops.

[Laughter]

They really don't want to leave. We're just here in the presence of the Lord and we're inviting you in.

Now I'm teaching on *Living Amazed* because that's how Christians are supposed to live. You read those first four chapters of Acts and we're going to get to it. You've got to remember something. When I start going scripture by scripture, we're going to be in trouble because I can preach ten minutes on a period. You got that?

[Laughter]

So we'll be here a while. Here's the deal. We're going to do that and man, I mean it may be for weeks and you don't even want to turn on... look, *Wednesdays in the Word*, Sheila's there, Sheila Walsh, she is going to bless you. Got your Bible and your notes but you're going to need them every day, even if we have a guest. The guest is going to be coming in and showing you how we live amazed.

Because God wants you to live amazed. He doesn't want you to watch people live amazed. He doesn't want you to just get your Bible and read about people living amazed. He doesn't even want you to carry the word in this binder, he wants you to get the word in this binder and then he not only wants you to have the word in this binder, he wants you to start writing epistles. You see, you write epistles, you write testimonies of truth of the transforming power of God in the fleshly tables of men's heart; that's what Paul said. So you write everybody a letter.

By the way, when you witness for Christ, when you witness for Christ the effectiveness is not just your testimony but the real power for deliverance and life and fullness and freedom is the word of his testimony. The word of his testimony is here. So every time you read a verse, see, look at how marked up it is in here. This is Betty's Bible; I borrowed hers because mine, the pages are falling out and it's been rebound once. You say, "Why don't you get you a new Bible?" I've got a bunch of them. But when you've studied for hours you'll remember where a verse is on the spot on the page. If you can't remember the exact chapter and verse you remember the spot in the chapter and you go to the spot and you find it. So that's the reason I bring this.

So we've got the word of God that we're going to be getting into continually over the next weeks. So when you watch *LIFE Today*, get your notepad. As a matter of fact, we've given all the people here and you can get them, it is the *Amazed Journal*. Y'all have it out here? And they're taking notes. And then we've given them a lot of Bible study passages about their relationship with the Father that we'll pass on to you.

I really believe we need to mention this. I kind of referred to it the first time we started this series. Seated next to Betty, Sheila Walsh, and then seated next to Sheila Walsh is Dudley Hall. I've got to say, Dudley, you're just outmatched here with the ladies because you've got these two ladies and then you've got your wife, Betsy sitting down here on the end. Now this is Betsy right

down here on the other side of Betty and she is absolutely precious. She just won a tremendous battle, praise God, against a disease that horrifies people. Betsy, we love you so. You know what I've watch you do from the time I've known you? Even while you were fighting your battle, you were spending most of your time trying to comfort people in their battle. Isn't that beautiful when you can do that? When you have your own plate full and you notice somebody else with a need?

[Applause]

Let me tell you why these three are here together. Betty and Sheila and Dudley. In the Corinthian letter, Chapter 14, I believe it's the first Corinthian letter or is it the second? Which is it, Dudley, you're the Bible student?

Dudley: First Corinthians.

James: It's first and 14 where he talks about spiritual gifts and he says, "I wish you all would prophesy." Now that doesn't mean tell the future. That doesn't mean necessarily you can be a prophet. He says, "I wish that you would all prophesy." He said, "I wish you all spoke in tongues but I'd rather you all prophesy." Does that mean everybody in the whole church full of all the prophets? Prophesying -- and I really believe this -- I believe prophesying is speaking words of life. Now it can be predictions, but it's always instructive, it's always redemptive, even when it is exposing problems that need to be corrected.

But when you prophesy, if you're all going to prophesy, it means you open your mouth words of life come out. Let me give you an example. You're headed home and the wife says, "You need to be real careful, honey. You're not paying attention." That's prophecy; isn't it, Betty?

Now Betty says I say, "Why are you over here backseat driving? You front seat drive over here on the right?" She said, "Because it is a matter of survival." So she is helping me.

You know what she is speaking? You can cut it any way you want to slice it. She is not nagging, she is speaking life. Let me tell you kids something. You go out on a date, mom or dad says, "Hey! You need to be careful. You need to remember who is there with you?" That's prophecy.

A kid goes off to drive somewhere and dad or mom says, "Hey! Keep your eyes on the road!" That's life! And you know what? When you reject words of life, often what comes is death. Be real careful.

Dudley, these three people sitting here I've asked to kind of fill where the 14th chapter goes on to

talk about if someone is speaking and someone is seated and they hear the Lord, then let the one who is speaking honor that person listening to him. I've told Sheila and Dudley and Betty, "If God speaks to you at any moment something you want to expand, you want to clarify, you want to let's say reach beyond where I did and make a stronger point or even correction, explanation, feel free to do it."

Now I know and I understand it, not many people are going to be comfortable doing that in your church and I suggest you don't do it because unless you know the people, I'll tell you who is going to do most of the talking out in the crowd, the devil through whatever little instrument he can get and he'll start spouting off his stuff. So when Paul was talking in the New Testament church he understood that they understood that recognition of spiritual gifting and gifts.

Dudley, you said you wanted to add something when we were talking the other day in an earlier program about something relating to the father and the family. Expound on that; would you?

Dudley: Yeah, thanks, James. Let me just say in regard to what you just said. One of the reasons we can do that in this atmosphere is because this is a family meeting, and in a family meeting everybody in the family can speak. You can't do it in certain formal meetings but we are able to do that here and recognize the different giftings.

But a few days ago you mentioned and did a very good job. I'm giving you anatta boy on that. You did a good job on talking about how all of us are valuable to God. You're not the only chosen one and it's not just the elite that are chosen. But sometimes I notice that people get to thinking since you're the preacher or I'm the preacher or whatever, our illustrations are, okay, God chose me and so therefore I spoke to people or I witness to people or I minister to people or whatever. And they're thinking, you know, I can't do that. I'm not a minister and I don't have a lot of money that I can support ministries. I do all I can but what about me? Am I kind of second class because I'm working in the secular world?

I'm just going to say that some of the most influential people in my life have been folks who weren't ministers; they were special though. One is my dad. Then another lady that used to ride with us to church, she was a widow, never learned to drive and lived on the way to the little country church that my family and I went to. And we would stop and pick her up and give her a ride to church. She never did anything really all that spectacular except that every time we'd pick her up, I'd get out, open the door for her, help her in and when we took her back home I'd help her get through her gate. And every time she would pat me on the head and say, "I'm praying the Lord will call you to preach."

[Laughter]

And every time I got in the car and said, "God, don't listen!"

[Laughter]

But that lady had a fantastic impact in my life.

James: And that preacher man over there, there isn't anybody has touched this preacher's life anymore than that one. Dudley has been, in many instances, the brother on the scene, and many times, although younger than me, a few years, he has been a father figure and you have really, really blessed me.

In the 17th chapter of the gospel of John, Jesus is praying for the Father to keep us in the center of his will, and in verse 11 he emphasizes that. And then he talks about the word that he's given us in verse 14, and because he has put his truth in us the world and those controlled by the spirit of the world and the spirit of deception will hate them because they hold truth and light and people who do love darkness rather than light it's because their deeds are evil. They are not of this world, the believers aren't, even as I'm not of the world therefore I do not ask you to take them out of the world but to keep them from the evil one. They're not of the world even as I'm not of the world so sanctify them in truth -- sanctify them in truth -- your word is truth. That's why it is going to be so important for you to stay in the word.

I want to reference something about Jesus sending us out into this world of evil. He put it in these very succinct terms to those who understood sheep and shepherding in the agrarian world in which Jesus lived, and we don't know enough about the fields of opportunity and the fields of labor that bring forth fruit. Jesus said, "I'm sending you." Now I want you to get this. "I'm sending you as sheep in the midst of wolves."

Now here's the problem. Many people seem to assume he sent us into such a dangerous realm that it is impossible to make it. Jesus said, "I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves." He didn't say, "I send you to the slaughter." He said, "I'm sending you under the watchcare of the ultimate shepherd, the Lord who is our shepherd and I will not want." He is the sufficiency and the adequacy for me. He will take care of me. He will lead us to green pastures.

What does that mean to those of you who don't live in a farm community? A green pasture is a fertile pasture, it is a productive pasture. He will lead you to fields of opportunity. That is what our nation's crying out for. No president, no congress can actually give us that with the sufficiency God offers it. And if our leaders would listen to that counsel they would be able to indeed open up again the fields of opportunity. Because if they will listen to the Lord who is our shepherd and the wisdom that is freely offered from above to all who will ask and receive, he can lead us into the fields of opportunity to be productive and create meaningful fruit that meets

needs one thought could never be met. But as Jay Richards, who is here tonight and who co-authored *Indivisible* with me, Jay Richards said one of the most powerful sentences I've ever heard in my life, "There is not a challenge, there is not a problem that man, people created in the image of God cannot meet. Not one!" The United States does not face a single challenge or issue that people created in the image of God can't deal with effectively.

If we would begin to trust this God, the God of nature, the God of creation, he will reveal to us the solutions to the multitude of problems we face. Please pray for that to happen. I think the stage is set for it to happen. Pray for our leaders to begin to have the heart of the Father for the whole family and understand that the guidance we need comes from God. Only God can make America great.

Now in this 17th chapter, this is absolutely one of the most important parts of Jesus' prayer. He's prayed that we will be sanctified in truth in the word and then he's praying not only for those with him but in verse 20, not for these alone but for those who believe in me through the word, through the testimony, through the gospel, through the message they left, the message that's delivered beginning with the New Testament church.

He's praying for us and look what he's praying: That they may all be one even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may also be in us, so that the world may know that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I've given to them that they may be one, just as we are one. I in them and thou in me, that they would be perfected in unity and the world would know you sent me, and loved them, even as you love me.

Boy, Sheila nailed that great love, that he loves us. The other day she commented on this, "He loves us just as he loves the son."

But now look at this miracle. Jesus is praying for a supernatural oneness. It's not only possible it's important; Jesus prayed for it. I believe we can be one. I don't think any of you here in this room, and I don't think any of you out there, if you walked in here and we sat down together, we might find some points of where we differ but if you understand what the Bible says in these wise words, "iron sharpens iron." If you know what that implies, if you've ever seen a knife blade sharpened, it takes friction but it takes friction at an angle, and the keener the angle and the more frequently the oil, the sharper the edge. You don't sharpen it like this. That's how most leaders come together; that's how congress comes together, both sides go away dull. That's how most church leaders come together, iron sharpens iron.

If I sat down with you, I want to tell you something, I won't compromise the word of God. If you see it from a different angle, I'm going to seek to not only hear your heart in it but his. And I'm going to say, "Let's both of us learn."

You say, "What if you're at an impasse? Same way you're married, you're in covenant relationship, you don't split, you don't get a divorce. The rapid divorces that are occurring are occurring because Christians have decided to split up in all their fellowships including their leadership every time they disagree. So if you have a disagreement, you just split. It is sheer nonsense. It is a clinched fist in the face of a holy God. It is breaking covenant and it is destroying relationships and destroying the effective ministry of the church.

So please know we can come together, have fellowship, and supernaturally become one. Ask God to give you the opportunity to be one who inspires, encourages supernatural unity because the unity he prays for is supernatural.

Father, let us see it in our day. Father, we ask you to answer our prayers. Let me just say, we would like to be an answer to your prayers, Jesus. So let us see it in our day; in Jesus' name.

When the church comes together, not in sameness, but supernatural unity, we will see the beginning of perhaps the greatest awakening in human history. We need it. Christ in us is hope of glory. His glory in us is the hope of that supernatural unity to take place in our life time.

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 band 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!

>> I wish I could do more for *LIFE Outreach International*, but I'm saving for retirement.

Announcer: We have a plan that can help you do both. Contact *Life Planning Services* today.