

5/22/17

Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Living Amazed #4

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm so excited for you to be joining us. You are going to love today's program. It is something new that God's put on our heart and James is going to be able to share it with you. So thanks for joining us.

James: Well, we're really talking about living amazed; not just the book, *Living Amazed*, which I'm told has been as great a blessing, many tell me, as anything they've ever read. The thing I feel like you're going to see is that I'm the least likely person, so shy, fatherless kid, absolute poverty, nobody ever picked me for anything but God chose me, called me, and he's done the same for you. I don't care how limited you may feel, he is able.

We just had, literally, a several week sharing time with people filling this studio that wanted to grow and live amazed and that's what I think is going to happen with you over the next days and weeks. Be blessed! We join that time now, a time of sharing.

[Applause]

Begin video clip

Sheila: I wonder if those who are watching from home or even in our audience who maybe they do have a broken marriage, maybe they have been through a divorce and suddenly they stopped at hearing this, shaking this fist and I wonder if you could even expound on the fact that Christ came for those who are broken. I would just hate any of our people watching to feel --

James: No, I hear you. You, of all people, would understand that well. By the way, to me, that is an absolute reason God says -- when God says something to somebody let the one who is speaking stop, first Corinthians 14, and honor them. See, what we've done is we've made light of covenant, we've made light of commitment, we've got no fault divorce. We're actually divorcing in our relationships with one another just in friendships and relationships which makes the other easy too.

But let me tell you what divorce is and this is such a powerful thing. "God hates divorce," you say. Listen. Divorce is something he granted. There are reasons that he granted it. It was not his

perfect will. It is not what he wanted as best but he granted it. And it's not the divorce paper and the divorce act that God hates, he hates what is happening in a relationship that leads to that divorce. It is that tearing apart, it is the no longer being one with one another and with him in that relationship. That destructive force is what God detests. Not the individuals that have had the catastrophic accident.

Sheila, years ago, the Lord showed me when I saw how many people had been devastated by divorce, the children -- of all people, perhaps more than any, the children, but when you see that, what you actually witness is a catastrophic collision. It is like a massive car wreck and the damage is undeniable. You don't start lecturing those people that have been hurt on all the mistakes they made or someone made, oftentimes it is totally someone else's fault that brought it about.

What you do is you start ministering love and life and restoration to those people who have been damaged by it. This is what I hear your heart crying out for. When so many people have experienced this, they don't need to feel like they've been thrown on the trash heap, they're no longer a citizen of the family of God, they're no longer accepted because you know the importance of that. So since you have experienced that as part of your testimony, say a word to people who have had their heart torn by that experience to all of us in the church. What is one of the best approaches you believe we can take to heal the wounds that come from that catastrophic event?

Sheila: When I think of how the Father is with me, with each one of us, I think he says, "Come as you are." Luke 19, verse ten where the crowd criticized Jesus because he went to Zacchaeus' house and they know that Zacchaeus is somebody who has been ripping off his own people, he is tax collector. They've no patience for him. But Jesus said this, "The son of man came to seek and to save those who are lost." And that little word *lost* in the Greek means: Ruined, devastated, broken beyond repair.

I think the heart of the Father in a nation that is so broken is to say, "Don't clean yourself up to come to me. You come to me as you are and let me heal your broken heart."

James: Beautiful! Dudley, you want to add anything to that?

Dudley: God loves to demonstrate his nature. In the prayer that you're studying there in John 17 he talks about "my glory" -- "I want you to know my glory." His glory is his nature revealed. Well, God's nature is mercy, compassion, love. So what's the best way for God to get to express mercy and love and compassion? Well, somebody that needs it. God loves sinners. He loves broken people. He loves people who need mercy and help. He shines there. His glory is magnified there.

We live under the lie of that father -- the other father, the liar father who says, "God loves good people who never have problems." So we hide our problem when we have it or we feel disqualified when our problem gets exposed. And that's totally upside down. God loves the broken, he loves the sinner.

Sheila: Can I add one more thing?

James: Sure!

Sheila: I just want to take it to another level. You remember the woman who was dragged in front of Jesus because she was caught in the act of adultery? And Jesus says, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

And eventually they all wander away. Christ asks, "Where are your accusers?"

And she said, "They've gone."

But I think what Jesus says to her is fascinating. He says, "Neither do I accuse you. Now go and sin no more."

So often within the church we want to reverse that and say, "Go and sin no more. Neither do I accuse you."

When you do that, you've changed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ says, "I don't condemn you either. But go and live differently. Go and live love. Go and live whole."

James: Do y'all hear the voice of the Lord and the heart of God in what you're hearing with these two people right here?

[Applause]

This is just such a healthy way for us to function.

I want to talk to you about who is in the family. Not everyone in churches are part of the church. The church consists of born-again, blood-bought, transformed people; new creations in Christ because of the power of the gospel. They have had an encounter with Christ, a relationship with Christ and their lives have been changed. Many people are in churches. They're affiliated with it, they're members but they don't know the Lord. They just don't know the Lord.

Many people will try to pin it on a particular type of experience and that's why you'll see so many different people, everybody doesn't have a Damascus Road experience. But if they have the encounter with Christ they will have the transformation effect over the period of time; the same that Paul of Tarsus had who became the Paul the apostle.

I find sometimes if we will really pray and trust God and be faithful witnesses that he sometimes will step into the situation almost like in person in a divine encounter. I actually think if we Christians would be faithful witnesses for Christ which he's left us here to be. He actually said, "It is necessary for you that I go away and send another like me to live in you. I'm going to send that Holy Spirit, the paraclete, another like me to live in you."

He also said to those same disciples that they were to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. He has told them in his departing words that they are going to be his witnesses, beginning at home, Jerusalem, neighboring cities, to the ends of the earth. So we've been left here not to get out of here but to be witnesses here of the kingdom. Now they tarried.

Now remember this. One of them that tarried was the very man that boasted so much about how "If everyone else forsakes you, you can count on me."

Also, the one that when Christ said, "Who do men say I am?"

They all answered that "You are John the Baptist or one of the prophets and so forth."

But then he asked the pertinent question, "Who do you say I am?"

By the way, you need to answer that. Who do you, with your testimony in your life say he is? Of all people Simon Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus said, "Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jonah. Men of flesh and blood did not teach you this but my Father in heaven. This has been revealed by the Father to you. And upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell not prevail against it."

Now we can get into a lot of discussion about what all that meant. Let me just simply tell you what it means to me. I believe what he was saying, the ability for the family and the children to hear the Father's heart and the Father's voice and know his word and know that it's communicated to them from the Father the ability to hear the Father's voice and the Father's heart in relationship with the Father, this relationship upon this reality upon this I build my church; a born again new creation, royal priesthood, these individuals born again, these are the ones that are in the body, these are the family and the gates of hell will not prevail against those who hear and heed the Father's voice in fellowship as a family and we grow in grace and knowledge.

Now, this same great confession in the next sentences, when Jesus told him some of the things that were going to happen they didn't want to hear. The same man who made the great confession said, "Far be it from me! It won't happen."

And Jesus said, "Get thee behind me, (capital) Satan." This is all in Matthew 16: "Get thee behind me, Satan."

He wasn't rebuking Peter but Satan now who is speaking through Peter; where a while ago God spoke through Peter -- not flesh and blood, not Satan -- God the father. Now he is quoting pure Satan, the father of lies. So he rebuked him.

This just simply says, and I want to warn you, at the same level you hear the Father's voice you'll hear the enemy's voice. He will come as an angel of light, he will come as a minister of righteousness and he will deceive and he is deceiving the multitudes and most people follow the father of lies rather than the Father of life. We will get into that more in the coming weeks as we show you what that looks like and you see the spirit that is controlling the nation and the people and too much of our leadership and too much of the people in our churches.

So you can have a membership and not know the Lord. Simon Peter knew the Lord. Now while boasting you can count on him, he fell asleep when Jesus asked him to tarry. He cut a man's ear off because he ducked, he got the ear. You know he wasn't after the ear, Simon Peter was after his head. He acted like anything but a Christ-like person. Then in all of his boasting Jesus tells him you are going to deny him, you're going to be sifted by the enemy -- and he was. He denied Jesus three times.

Now think about this. Here Jesus has said in his parting words, "You're going to be witnesses unto me. Right here in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth."

They are filled with the spirit. The power of God fell on them. They came out and preached, speaking the language of all the people. There are a couple of characteristics I want to point out here and I personally believe in the spiritual prayer language. I believe that.

I don't want to argue with you about it. I'm so tired of Christians arguing about the gifts of the spirit instead of living in the fruit of the spirit and let the power of the spirit utilize the gift of the spirit for their intended purpose, the glory of God and his intended purpose. So please don't get in an argument.

But what happened there is they began to speak the language of the people where they understood it. They spoke it with the dialect of the people and they spoke it with great God-given boldness. Guess who the keynote speaker was? The man who denied Jesus. The man when

Jesus encountered him after his sin couldn't even ultimately say not only that I agape you, but do you even like me? And the answers "thou know" -- you know. What does Jesus say to this Christ denier? "Feed my sheep." You want to know why? Because the Lord, who is our shepherd loves sheep and he wants the sheep fed. He wants them to be fed the word and grow. So he's saying to this one who fell so far, so miserably, "Feed the sheep."

So I don't care where you are, I don't care what you've done, you yield your life as a totally yielded vessel to be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit of love and joy and peace. You let that meekness, that kindness, that gentleness, that self-control, you let that flow through you and you're going to be amazed.

Simon Peter was a keynote speaker at Pentecost. A miracle occurred, 3,000 people were born again. You look in detail at the first four chapters. I'm going to ask you to study this on your own. You look how many times they talked about amazement. The book that I wrote, *Living Amazed* and people commenting on how they want to live amazed and how few people seem to is one of the reasons why I'm trying to talk to you about how every one of us are intended and divinely enabled by God to live amazed in the power of his spirit and his presence in us, and the fruit of the spirit, not the flesh, being manifest through yielded lives. So this is what God wants.

Now, are you part of that family? Have you been born from above? I didn't ask you have you ever failed? Simon Peter failed. But if you know him you want to live in his shadow, you want to live in his presence. When Jesus said, "I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves," he didn't send us to the slaughter. He sent us out there with the watch care and the shelter and the shadow of the ultimate shepherd, the Lord who will scatter the predators, will kill a lion and a bear just like David, as a shepherd exemplified in his own life. Jesus did not send us out here to be destroyed. He sent us out to be more than conquerors in his name. And we've got to go in that confidence together.

If we're Christians and we know the Father and we yield our life to him and our body to fill us with the Holy Spirit, then we become an expression of his life. So the question is have you met Jesus?

I gave a boy's life to the Father through Christ and he saved me. My beautiful wife, Betty, who is sitting here glowing always. You look at her smile; go ahead and flash that smile for me, honey. Everybody out here will fall in love with you.

[Laughter]

That beautiful girl, I always tell her she was the original "church lady." When I was dating her I said, "Have you ever had a bad thought?" She couldn't tell me. I said, "Well, let me give you

one."

[Laughter]

She wasn't going to hear. Listen to me. You just can't imagine how sweet. And one night she says to me, because I had just said to her, "Honey, Jesus is so real to me."

I held up my arm; I had a short sleeve shirt. I said, "He is as real as the hair on my arm. He's that real to me."

She just stared at me and she said this, "He is not real to me. He is just someone I've always heard about. I joined the church because others did."

You say, what did you tell her? I just prayed. And one night we went to hear a young man give his testimony. When we got to the house she repeated those words, "I don't know if I'm saved."

You say, "Did you tell her you just need to get saved? Let me talk to you."

No, I said, "Betty, I'm going to pray for you honey."

I went home and I prayed for her. I got down on my knees and prayed for the sweetest girl I ever knew -- still the sweetest girl I've ever known. The next morning she got up and she taught her Sunday school junior girls class. She left the junior girls class, she went to the choir room and put on her choir robe, came out with the choir. Then she left her seat in the choir with her sister and she and her sister sang a duet for the special music. Went back and sat down in the choir. How much can a sweet girl do on one Sunday morning for God?

The pastor preached a simple message on knowing Jesus and trusting him. And that beautiful teenage girl, Betty left her seat in the choir, walked down front, dropped down on her knees for a moment, stood up, put her hand in the pastor's and said, "Pastor, right over there I just gave my life to Jesus."

He said, "Betty, you're the best girl in our church."

She said, "Preacher, quit telling me how good I am. I'm tired of trying to be what I'm not. Right over there I gave my life to Jesus and he saved me."

Did he save you honey?

Betty: Amen! Amen!

James: Are you still saved?

Betty: Yes!

James: Let me tell you something. A lot of people who are associated and connected with religion have never been born from above. You see that telephone number there on the screen? Do you notice that it is an 800 number? Do you know why it is? Because love pays for it. What kind of love? God's love for you.

If you don't know that Jesus is in your heart and that you've been born of the spirit, then right now you can invite Jesus to come into your heart as the Lord and Savior that he is. Would you just pray this right where you are?

Father in heaven, I want you to be my Father. I believe you love me and you gave your son Jesus to die for me, to pay for my sins. Forgive me Lord. Come into my heart and save me. I trust you; in Jesus' name, Father.

You don't have to be a beggar. You just ask and you'll receive. Jesus said, "Confess me before men; I confess you before the Father. If you're ashamed of me, I'll be ashamed of you."

Would you right now, would you dial that number? By the way, many may call. If you get a busy, you be determined. You call until you get through. You just tell someone, "I gave my life to Jesus." I want to send you a book called *Knowing God As Father*. So please call. Give us an opportunity to bless you knowing God as your Father.

In the studio

James: There is no question in my mind, Betty, that everyone watching, everyone in this studio was in the presence of God. I'll tell you what. Over the next days and weeks, I believe you're going to find yourself in the family room really getting to know the Father and begin to live amazed.

One of the things that Betty and I discovered in our life and that all of our viewers have discovered that gives them so much joy and that is -- now think about what Jesus said in Acts, "It is more blessed to give than receive." One of the things that Betty and I have enjoyed is focusing on blessing others. God looked for a family through whom he can bless the nations, the people of the world. When we individually participate in blessing others who feel so overlooked, we have given God joy and his joy is our strength.

You're going to have an opportunity to totally change something for someone that feels overlooked and you're going to experience that great joy. I know you're going to want to. This is a real key to living amazed. Watch prayerfully but just know, you're going to be part of a miracle.

On the mission field

Announcer: The world's youngest country is in crisis. South Sudan was formed in 2011 and has been mired in civil war and ethnic violence ever since.

Open Captions:

>> In the middle of the night I heard screaming. Bad guys were attacking our village. One of them stabbed a knife into my shoulder. I was able to run away. But I was only able to carry one child. I don't know what happened to my other four children.

Announcer: Hundreds of thousands of families were forced to flee their villages in search of safety. The usual crop harvest has been affected and the resulting food shortage has left parents with very few options to feed their children.

Parts of South Sudan are currently facing the U.N.'s first declared famine since 2011 and it is only getting worse. In the coming months nearly half of the country's population will be dependent on emergency food aid.

For years, South Sudan's children have been living in the shadow of violence and now the most vulnerable face another deadly challenge: Starvation. They need our help and they need it now.

[Weeping]

>> Oh, baby!

End of clip

In the studio

James: There's one of our mission team members, Janice Meyer. She's actually been with our ministry since she was a teenage girl and she's gone all over the world putting the arms of Jesus around the suffering. And that precious little child that you can tell Janice is not only praying for and caring for, but she wants to see that child's life saved.

Betty, she can have deep concern but unless the missionaries who share that concern have the resources, they can't change everything for that child.

Betty: James, it breaks my heart to see them in such danger in the first place. They're trying to escape from the enemy and that that mother had to leave behind four of her children, it just breaks my heart. But then she escapes with one and they're trying to stay alive. And then they face another enemy, malnutrition for her precious children.

We have to help them. We must help them. This is a need that we can take care of. So please join with us and let's get the food to these children that so deserve a chance in life.

James: Betty, our viewers are watching and I've just told you that over the next days and weeks you're going to be so blessed to learn how to live amazed. But you know when you look at that little child, that little child just would like to live -- and that mother would like her child to live. The mother that doesn't know about the four children she had to leave, she is desperate.

You know the only answer is the love of God through a yielded vessel, a person. But that person having the resources, not just compassion, but the ability to help and that's what we give them. You become the miracle answer to that need and to their prayers and support the missionaries: \$30, \$50, \$100, 3, 5 or 10 children for the next months.

Take your bankcard, go online, or call the number. Please do this. Please be a miracle blessing. You'll be blessed in doing that; that should give you joy just as it does God. You may want to be a sponsor of a school. You'll see the opportunities; just very prayerfully respond.

And we have some gifts to send you to help you grow spiritually, which is what the program does. We give you water and life, food, spiritual food to bless you. Thank you so much for sharing life. Please, please go online or make that call. Use your bankcard like a check.

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: Thank you so much for your help. I want to remind you that if you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but would you call us and tell us what you're sending? Every gift is so important. We're going to be sending the Daily Word devotional, seasonal devotional; beautiful music by Kari Jobe. If you would like to have the book, *Living Amazed*, we're talking about that, and everyone can live amazed in the power of God's spirit. If you'd like to have it and you say, "James, we're sharing life. Would you share the book with me?" We'd be more than happy to. So just ask for it.

Betty and I say thank you so much for watching. Tell your friends that we're going to be talking every day now about living amazed. Sheila Walsh, Dudley Hall, Betty, all of us together, pouring life all over you for the glory of God and for your benefit.

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