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Week 18: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Andrew Wommack

James: Thank you. Thank you so much. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison.

I've got a big smile on my face because I'm holding the book of someone I really respect and have great appreciation for, it's Andrew Wommack. The title of the book is *Living in God's Best*. I think Andrew recognizes God's best and he certainly knows who knows best. And I believe because he has the love of God in his heart for you, for us, for everyone, that he wants the best, which God knows, for you. I honestly think God has gifted him to share it.

Would you welcome Andrew Wommack to *LIFE Today*?

Andrew, good to see you.

Andrew: Thank you, James. Thanks, Betty!

James: When we visited up in Colorado and we did some programs with you and they were wonderful, but you told me something that surprised me. You started supporting the outreaches, our evangelistic outreach when you were in the service. Where were you?

Andrew: I was in Vietnam and I would take my entire paycheck and send it to you -- all \$210 per month.

James: Is that amazing? That's how many years ago now?

Andrew: In 1970.

James: And why? What attracted you to what we were doing?

Andrew: Well, I grew up in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and I used to hear you preach. We went over to Euless and I tried to get a meeting with you. I got turned on to the Lord in 1968 and I met with Jeanne Rogers. You weren't available and I met with Jeanne and just said, "How do I get in the ministry?" Because I felt called to the ministry. I used to attend your crusades. And then when I was in Vietnam I'd just send my whole paycheck to you.

James: Well, I want to thank you.

Andrew: It wasn't much.

James: That's huge! It was more than the widow's mite, that's for sure.

Andrew, you've really been blessed. I know we're going to talk about the book but do you even think as you look back as a young man and you just had that heart going out toward the Lord and you immediately wanted to support what you believed God was doing, do you think that actually played a part in directing you the way you've gone?

Andrew: You know this. And of course, your viewers know it, but when you give, man, it is more blessed to give than to receive. You start a supernatural divine flow of blessings towards you and it's phenomenal what God has done in my life.

James: When God finds a channel through which he can flow his love freely he is real committed to doing it. I think it is wonderful.

Now I want us to talk about the book because I feel like you've put a lot into this. You and I have had enough interaction in the last few years to where we kind of know God is doing some deeper things in our lives. You don't become so mature, and so long in the faith that you know suddenly it becomes less important, it actually seems to be bigger. Do you feel like God is moving more mightily in your life right now than ever in your life?

Andrew: Absolutely! I feel like everything up to this point, I'm in my 50th year right now of ministry and I feel like I'm just now got enough sense to know what I'm doing.

[Laughter]

And I'm just now getting started. The things that we've done have been phenomenal but what God has put in my heart is much, much greater.

James: All right, talk about the book. What do you want people to get when they dive in? Give us some insight.

Andrew: There is a lot in that book but the number one thing is that most people don't experience God's best because they're satisfied with less. I believe that a holy dissatisfaction is a very godly thing. Many people have just adjusted. Like I use in this book that they've adjusted to sickness, which I'm not saying that you're sinful or anything if you've got sickness but I'm saying that they don't even see living in divine health. They have accepted having all kinds of allergies,

just every kind of thing and they accept it as normal. And yet that's not what God created us for. As long as a person is satisfied with living below the standard then they will.

Then the same thing applies to finances. I'm not against anybody taking out a loan. You know I've got some things but we have been building everything debt-free. Debt-free is by far the best and yet the average American today doesn't even desire that. They are satisfied with paying for things two and three times over.

James: So now our government is doing it for us; they're putting us even more in debt and putting people in debt that haven't even been born yet.

Andrew: Giving us a very wrong example to follow.

But as long as people embrace that and think that this is normal, then they won't trust God for more. The Lord spoke to me in January, the 31st of 2002, the second most important encounter I had with the Lord, and he told me from Psalm 78:31, it says: In their hearts they turned back to Egypt and they limited the holy one of Israel.

When the Lord spoke that to me I just hadn't thought about that. I could limit God. I thought God does basically what he wants to but that made it very clear that you can limit God. When God spoke that to me, I mean I started changing dramatically. That's been 15 years now; our ministry, there is not even a comparison. We were covering three percent of the U.S. population at that time with television, now we cover 3.2 billion people around the world. We are seeing things happen. It's just phenomenal what God is doing.

I realize that I was the one limiting God. And James, this is what happens. I mentioned this to you before the taping, most people don't understand this but you did; that one of the things that was limiting God. See, if you're living in sin, most people know that that's not going to -- God doesn't flow through that. But I wasn't living in sin. I've been seeking God my entire life and I was serving the Lord and good things were happening. But the number one thing that I was doing to limit God was fear and it was fear of success and what it would do to me. Because I had a relationship with the Lord that was more important to me than anything else and I saw people that succeeded and it destroyed them.

David is a great example. When he was running from Saul and hiding in the caves, he was seeking God with his whole heart, wrote these great Psalms; but when he became king and fulfilled his vision he was so lazy he was sleeping during the day and getting up at night -- and he got into sin.

James: He did. And that happened to me, in my book, *Living Amazed*, I tell the story many

people are familiar with, I experienced incredible defeat because I failed the success test and most people do and Americans have.

Andrew: See I knew you during that time and I knew this and I actually had a fear of succeeding because I had seen it destroy people and I didn't want that. I had to overcome it. Finally, the Lord just spoke to me and said, "I've spent 34 years preparing you for what I've called you to do." And he says, "You're going to have to trust me."

It became a matter of am I going to continue to let my fears dominate me or am I going to do what God called me to do? A lot of people don't understand that. But it's just all kinds of things. It doesn't have to be sin. It can just be all kinds of things.

Betty: Don't you think a lot of times that we don't feel like we deserve to live in God's best? We've made so many mistakes, we've failed God, we've failed maybe in our relationships or in life itself.

Andrew: I've often told me, I said, "If I was God, I wouldn't have chosen me." I don't know why God chose me but I'm so glad that he did. I feel so privileged and honored to do it. But honestly, Betty, that was one of the things. It's like, God, I'm not equipped to do this.

James: Everybody feels unqualified. That's a lie of the devil. Then we know we have things in our life from time to time that are out of sync so we automatically see ourselves disqualified. We don't see the sufficiency and the adequacy of what he did; it's because of him in us that anything wonderful happens.

Andrew: And I actually teach in our school that that is a godly attitude to feel disqualified, as long as you don't stop there. You've got to go beyond yourself to where I can't do it but I can do all things through Christ.

We've got a man that started our Australian office over there and the night that we were opening up the office I was there holding a meeting and right before we walked out on the stage and we were going to promote it and announce it, he came to me and he says, "I can't do this. It's bigger than me." And he just panicked. He says, "Don't announce it!"

I said, "Are you going to stop there or are you going to go on and trust God?"

He says, "Well, I'll trust God. I'll do what I've got to."

I said, "Then you're the guy that I want."

And I went ahead and announced it. And it has been the best office of all of the ones we have all around the world. He is doing a phenomenal job.

So a holy dissatisfaction with your ability is I think is a positive thing as long as you don't let that dominate you, as long as you can go beyond yourself.

James: Have you been amazed how God's used you, honey?

Betty: Oh absolutely. I never thought I would be sitting right here. I'm not one that likes to carry on conversation a lot or anything. James told me, he said, "Okay, I just want you to sit here with me. I will not put you on the spot. I will be there to fill in."

Andrew: Like he just did.

[Laughter]

Betty: Like he just did. Yeah!

[Laughing]

But it is, if we can have that trust in God and say, "I know that I'm not able to do this without you, God."

Andrew: But see, it doesn't have to be sin. I'm not saying that sin is good but I'm saying that's obvious to most people. But there's fear just like this that God, I'm not qualified. You could have gotten somebody who's so much better. Like I'm a hick from Texas. You guys, it may not sound so bad to you, but I go anywhere else in the world and say "hi" and they say, "What part of Texas are you from?"

[Laughter]

I mean immediately!

James: Andrew, God has given you such a winsome demeanor, such an honest, open communication style. Don't you all appreciate the way God uses Andrew? He's communicated God's love and his ways.

If somebody gets the book and I'm really praying they will and get one for a friend, you want them to have God's best. What do you think they're going to see right off the bat? And what is the conclusion you hope they come to?

Andrew: Well, the first thing is I try to get them really dissatisfied with being normal -- that God made us for something special. So the first half of the book is just basically to stir people up and let them know that God's got more. Nobody has tapped God out.

James: Don't settle for less.

Andrew: Absolutely! And then the second half of the book is surprising to most people but I show that a miracle is not really God's best. Now sometimes it may be best for the situation you're in but God -- a miracle is a superseding or a suspension of God's laws. And God created all of these natural laws and he doesn't want to suspend that -- and it is not long-term. If you live for miracle to miracle you're going to live from crisis to crisis because it takes a crisis to get a miracle.

James: You don't need a miracle without one.

Andrew: So if you live from miracle to miracle you're going to live from crisis to crisis but if you can tap into the blessing of God and start cooperating with the laws that he created, physical and spiritual laws, you'll get to where you never need a miracle.

James: Betty and I started, when we started in our marriage, we always lived below our means. Now whoever taught anybody to do that? This is something God put in our heart. We didn't even know you could take a credit card and charge it and not pay it the minute the bill came. We didn't know you could do that. I didn't know that until --

Andrew: I didn't know you could have a credit card.

[Laughter]

James: But it is a bankcard though. And you don't even have a plastic check; right?

Andrew: No, I do now. But I'm saying when we started, man, we would have died. We didn't even have a phone.

James: When we got one, we stared at like it was something magic. But the point was we didn't make a fool of ourselves by digging that huge interest debt. We didn't even know it was there. We thought you lived that way. You paid your bills. You didn't run up debt. But why don't people --

Andrew: See you didn't settle for what the world has said, that this is normal. It is abnormal to

pay for something two and three times what it is worth! But yet the American public has bought into this. And as long as you can settle for being in debt up to your eyeballs you will be. But when you decide I'm going to change and I'm going to live in God's best, it just starts a supernatural flow of God's blessing towards you. But it really starts with us making the decision.

James: When you find *Living in God's Best*, being a yielded vessel, being soft clay in the hands of the master potter, to be created into a vessel of honor, I see it as a channel through which God flows freely his love, his grace, his peace, all that he is and I see you becoming a well-watered garden bearing beautiful fruit, not a bunch of briars but the beautiful fruit. Do you think if people see that in living God's best and knowing God's best that they're going to become excited about every day because they realize that he is just releasing his life through them; they're a yielded vessel.

Andrew: God's never made a piece of junk. He's never created a single person to be a failure. He never created us to have depression, discouragement, death, fear, all of these kind of things. None of that is God's plan for us. And yet we have grown up in it so much we settle for less than God's best. That's the biggest hindrance to God's best coming to pass.

So what I was sharing was, I had come to a place where I had been in the ministry for 34 years in 2002. We were on television, we were reaching people, we had money in the bank, we were surviving. There was light at the end of the tunnel, and it wasn't a train; it looked like we were going to live. And I had finally reached a place to where I was satisfied. And then the Lord spoke to me and said, "You are limiting me by your small thinking."

James, I'm only saying this to glorify God, not myself, but we had 28 employees when the Lord showed that to me and the last figure I heard was we had 638 employees.

James: Tell everybody what's up on the mountain right now. We know they can come there for conferences. But you've built something that God's people have built, miraculously, and you see what -- tell our viewers all over the world what is it that's going on there.

Andrew: Well, we're building a Bible school there. We have about 800 students on campus in Woodland Park, Colorado, just outside of Colorado Springs. And we're building that to accommodate 4,000. I just am in the process of building a 3200 seat auditorium, and with the night school and stuff we can do that.

James: Is it primarily a ministry school? Is it primarily like a Bible school and a seminary?

Andrew: It is a Bible school but in the third year we have a media school which teaches people how to get involved in television; and all my television crew teaches in that, teaches

website, design, and puts people back into the church doing these things that they often aren't qualified to do.

We just started a school of practical government with David Barton. He is the one that writes the curriculum and he teaches there, and we are putting people into politics. We have the best -- I know that everybody is going to think I'm prejudiced, but it is the best business school on the planet. We are the only place in the world that uses Harvard's core curriculum outside of Harvard; they gave us permission. But we teach it from a biblical perspective.

James: You need to send it back to them and they'll understand it better. That's my prayer. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Andrew: We are already putting people out there that have patents and have businesses. We've just started a creative arts thing that right now, Quentin Tarantino, Mel Gibson, are taking some of the things that we're doing and they're putting together a musical that will be coming out in the next couple of years in Hollywood and they've invested millions in it. And we are raising up people to go into all seven of the mountains and it's awesome.

James: Do y'all like this? So you've got to say praise God, to God be the glory! Where would someone find out all that you're doing, how they can be involved, go to the school? What website to go to to get the information?

Andrew: A.W.M.I.net. And that will have a link to Charis Bible College or you could go to CharisBibleCollege.org.

James: All right, all that is on the screen. Our prayer center will have it. It will be on the *LIFE Today* website; tell you how to get there. I hope you will get Andrew's book, *Living in God's Best*.

Andrew, let me just say thank you for sowing seed in our ministry. Are you pleased with what you're watching God do with *LIFE Outreach* and your friends of LIFE right now?

Andrew: Absolutely! We're seeing God move not just here but I think that we're entering the best hour of the church. Especially in America, we got a reprieve. We got a chance.

James: Arise and shine with the glory of the Lord on us and the church today knows a whole lot more about that glory than Isaiah talked about. Because we know where the glory is, we know who the glory is and I believe that the body of Christ is adorned in that glory, I believe Jesus will be drawing people all over the world to himself.

Andrew: I know you know this but even though we've got a reprieve in the political realm at the moment the answer is not political. It is the church that has the answer. And unless we change the hearts of people, we're headed for like a civil war.

James: Yes, we are. And even if we got blessed and God prospers us as a nation, we would become even more idolatrous if we don't live under the control of Holy Spirit power, and that's what the church inspires people to do.

Would you just say thanks to Andrew for being here and being such a faithful witness? The book, *Living in God's Best*, it is in the bookstores. You can get it online.

Andrew, one of the things that has given us great joy is just meeting needs, just with love. And we find so many missionaries that have planted their life in the midst of suffering and they're so ready to pour out the love of God in demonstration power.

Mission Feeding is the first mission outreach that *LIFE Outreach* established and in so many ways it changed everything. I want you to listen to very closely. I believe that Sheila Walsh communicates God's heart as beautifully and clearly in the midst of a situation of need or that needs to be addressed. Watch closely and prayerfully, but I believe you're going to be moved in a very profound and positive way. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Sheila: I woke up this morning in this village, this is my first time in Angola and I honestly don't know what I expected but I didn't expect what I experienced. I didn't expect to see a child who is a year and five months old and weighs six pounds. How does a child like that even survive?

I think one of the things that surprised me most was the profound affinity I felt with the moms. If you're a mom, all you want is for your child to be healthy. You want to be able to put a meal on the table at night and know that your children go to bed with a full tummy. But here I've seen what the ravages of malnutrition do.

This morning, I'm sitting in my tent and I open my Bible. I'm just doing one of those going-through-the-Bible-in-a-year and here's what I read. Isaiah 58: Share your food with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, give clothes to those who need them. Then your salvation will come like the dawn and your wounds will quickly heal, your godliness will lead you forward and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. Then when you call the Lord will answer, "Yes, I'm here." He will quickly reply, "Feed the hungry, help those in trouble; then your light will shine out from the darkness and the darkness around you will be bright as noon."

Mission Feeding is not some great idea we came up with. It's simply living out the gospel of Christ. And when we put one simple bowl of food into the hands of these children in Africa, it changes their lives forever -- thousands and thousands and thousands of lives, one life at a time.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Lord, Jesus, I thank you for the way Sheila communicates your heart. Thank you, Lord!

And Sheila, I know you watch the program, thank you. Thank you for sharing the love of God all over the world as you've done for so many years. Thank you for working at our side.

Betty, when I looked down and saw those long lines and God knows you and I have been watching them now for 25 years when we went there and we saw what love can do. She talked about thousands being changed. With no exaggeration, the governments of Africa and the people who report have reported to our mission workers that we have saved the lives of over 10 million of their children. But in that same period of time, far more than that number-wise have come to give their lives to Christ because when people see the love of God they're ready to listen to someone talk about the love of God.

When you hear Sheila talking about what she saw with that little child, and you know what love can do, what do you want our viewers to hear and sense in their heart?

Betty: As I was watching and listening to Sheila and I saw those precious little ones, I could see, you could see in their bodies life is leaving them. Their life is being taken away from them; unwillingly, but it is being taken away. I think we can make the difference, James. This is a solution that is simple if we will all, together, reach out and give the food to these children so the mothers don't have to see their little ones put in the ground because they had nothing to eat. Their mothers don't have to say, "I'm sorry, I have nothing to give you."

The desire of a mother's heart is to care for their babies. Let's help these mothers have the food they need to feed their babies. Please help us!

James: I wish you could understand that these children are the joy of their life. They don't have entertainment like we have in advanced countries. This is their joy and they're losing that joy and they love their children.

But here's the thing, the great miracle. Betty, you said it and prayed it so well that I will never forget it and you won't either. Betty said, "Lord, please let the line to feed the children always be longer than the line to be fed." Because we saw what happened when we ran out of food.

And I believe God heard that prayer and you became an answer to that prayer. Think about it. You are the answer to that prayer because if you will help us feed those children in all the different areas -- in southern Sudan right now it is an unbelievable, indescribable crisis -- and love shared freely, with compassion, changes everything.

Would you right now go to the phone or go online, take your bankcard, use it like a check but would you help us feed ten of those children for the next months? \$100, we can feed ten children, \$50, we can feed five, \$30 we can feed three. There is a level at which you can participate.

You know what we're doing too? We're advancing not only their physical health but their minds. We're feeding in schools. Once we get stabilized in an area the kids are able to go to school but we feed there so that they have the nourishment they need. It takes \$1400. There are some of you who can do that.

Father, I pray every person watching who can help will do it and will do it joyfully; in Jesus' name.

Would you right now take your card, dial the number, make the gift God put on your heart please? We have some gifts to send you, a wonderful, seasonal devotional. I'm telling you, it is fabulous! And Kari Jobe has a CD that is amazing and a DVD that tells the story of what they put together. And then we have the beautiful determined eagle, soaring on the turbulence of the times and meeting the challenges of the day in God's power.

We want to say thank you for your help. But please, right now, you make the gift God put on your heart. You're giving a great gift, the greatest of all, you're giving life and the love of God. 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: I want to thank you in behalf of the mothers, the families, the children, the miracles, the schools that you will help with. If you can help us feed a school, please do that. We're feeding them every day, and feeding their little minds. If you will help us, any gift, and you'd like to have Andrew Wommack's book, *Living in God's Best*, we'll send you that also just to say thank you for sharing God's love. And there's no question it's going to be a blessing to you.

I'm really grateful. Andrew started a long time ago sowing seeds of life in our ministry. So grateful! Would you join Betty and me in just saying thanks to Andrew Wommack for his friendship? Thank you for your leadership. Thank you so much for following him.

Thank all of you. Thanks for watching. Thanks so much for helping us share life. We really do appreciate it. God bless you!