

7/24/17
Week 31: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Emerson Eggerichs

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, we are just really blessed that we get to spend this time with you. I want to say to you that we recognize there are plenty of things you can watch. And one of the things that I really hope you know, if there is any way that we could touch any area of your life with something we share or maybe just a prayer that God impresses us to pray or maybe you send in and say, "Pray for me," if we can in any way bless your life, benefit you in some way, lighten your load, brighten your day, with all our heart, we want to do it.

One of the things that God led Betty and me to do is call people in the family room and help them get to know the Father. One of the ways you get to know the ultimate Father is by knowing his family, and especially those family members who love the Father and love one another and you begin to see the Father in them. We try to bring those guests.

I'm holding a book here by a writer that is blessed to write. I do believe God's given me somewhat of a gift to communicate. God's definitely giving you a glow and a smile that is healing to people and you're such an encourager. Okay, I can communicate it seems. I don't have the gift to just write. I've written a lot of books but some people have a gift, and Emerson Eggerichs has a gift. He's written a book here, *Before You Hit Send*. Wow! Send on what -- iPhone, iPad, computer -- what? Before you do, what do you do?

How about you welcome Emerson to *LIFE Today* and let's see what he has to say? Would you welcome Emerson Eggerichs?

Emerson: Thank you, sir!

James: Do you like your smart phone? Do you use Apple or are you a Samsung guy?

Emerson: I don't promote some --

James: You're not a Blackberry or something? You're an Apple. So the young

people -- okay!

Now do you think that what you observed happening in this cycle is what inspired you to write this? Something set you off to make you do this.

Emerson: Well, I think all of us are aware of the fact that people are hitting "send"; it is kind of like we all have that moment in an email or anything, should I hit "send" on this? If we are asking that question, maybe we shouldn't at that moment in time.

But it is a metaphor. Not only is it the digital world like texting or emails but it is also face-to-face and voice-to-voice. It is the idea of thinking before you speak. In fact, a woman said, "You know that little thing in the back of your brain that tells you not to say something before you say it?"

"Yeah."

"I don't have that little thing -- I don't have that little thing." And all of us can relate with her.

We all say things we regret. It really raises that question. We all know since we've been four and our parents told us, "Think before you speak" We all know this but it's important, sometimes to revisit. You know Vince Lombardi, the great football coach of the Green Bay Packers.

James: I've heard of him.

Emerson: Exactly! Right! He realized he needed to return every season to the fundamentals. Opening day of football camp he would begin with the basics. Do you know what he did? He would hold up a football and say, "Gentleman, this is a football." We all know we ought to think before we speak, it is so basic we've learned it but sometimes we need to revisit this.

But then we also need to say to ourselves, what should I think before I speak? Because a lot of times I do think before I speak and I get even more angry and I'm more offended and I get worked up. So we've written a book with four little things we need to ask ourselves before we speak.

James: Let me read them and then you kind of expound on them. Is it true? Is it kind? Well, is it true? It seems obvious, a lot of the news, they never do that. They just lie, distort. Somebody called it fake news. One of my friends calls it "snake news," from the serpent, the father of lies. So okay, is it true? Media, press, writers -- excuse me, New York Times, is it kind? I don't know if that was kind to the New York Times right then.

[Laughter]

Since I didn't write it, I just -- but you know what? I was really thinking about it. I want to know is it true? So I'm asking a very serious question. Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it clear?

Emerson: Correct. Those are the four. Is it true, is it kind, necessary, and clear? I learned this back in college and this really set the stage for me because it was attributed to the Socrates, the first three: Is it true, kind, necessary. And the person speaking said, Socrates said that. There is no direct quote from him but that just resonated within my heart because I wanted to be effective in communication. I didn't want to discredit myself. I wanted to do this right.

I thought, wow! That just stuck with me. Is that which I'm about to communicate, whether it is in writing or interpersonally, is it true? And is it this going to come across in a way that sounds and feels kind? Is it going to be loving and respectful to the other person? Do I even need to say it?

Over the years I thought I did those first three but people were confused so I've added a fourth, is it clear? Because I had a good heart, I was trying to do what was right but they were confused. "What did you mean by what you just said?" And I always worked hard at being clear in what I was trying to communicate.

But I say to people, if you just ask these four things then hit send -- hit send. We're not trying to keep people from speaking, we're trying to insure that they are really heard.

And to your point, even in the political or the newspaper area, a lot of times it is not that what people are saying is a lie, it is just not the whole truth. Our courts say, "Tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God." I used to think that was redundant. But the point is, you can say something that is true but it is not the whole truth. And when you say something that is true but not the whole truth it is equal to a lie and the courts have said don't do that because you mislead people.

So the challenge for all of us is do we really want to be reputable credible people who when we communicate people are really going to hear us. We're at a point, I think in many places where people believe if you tell a lie, if you're unkind and bully people and you're not even clear but you're evasive that you're going to succeed. So there is this tipping point in the culture, many of us are asking, "Are these principles really worth it because you won't get ahead if you abide that way." If you tell the truth, and not lie, if you are kind, you are not going to be listened to. If you only speak what's necessary or if you're clear, it is not going to lead to credibility. I say on a personal basis, I believe long-term, you cannot violate those and have a reputation and be viewed as a trustworthy individual. You cannot violate them. Short term you can get what you want.

Long-term, you cannot.

James: One of the things I think, Betty and I are grandparents.

Betty: Great grandparents!

James: Yeah! We're great grandparents. You don't have to tell people how old I am. And then she says, "Well, you don't have to in just the next sentence and say you're only one month older than me. You don't have to say that." So okay.

Betty: But you do anyway.

James: We're grandparents, and as grandparents, I think we find it a little bit -- I don't know, we'll just say raises concern that it's difficult to talk to our grandchildren. They just text. They won't even answer the phone.

Betty: Yeah, if they text, they will get back to you pretty quick but if you leave a voicemail, it may be a week before you hear from them. I use to tease our kids when we first started the texting. I mean I'm old school; okay? Typewriter, they say, what's that, now? They don't know what a typewriter is. But anyway, I started learning how to text and my grandchildren, I would text them a short little message and I would check my spelling to see if everything was right. Everything was long hand so to speak, no abbreviations. So I would work so hard at it. Then before I could almost send it they were answering me back. It kind of made me nervous. I'd think, oh no! It's my turn again. Here I am.

Emerson: Yes! Yes!

Betty: And they probably wondered what happened to me.

[Laughter]

But then they started abbreviating things. I'd have to say, "What does this mean?" I didn't know. I always spelled everything out. So they stay a little bit ahead of me. But I like to communicate with them in the way that they like to communicate just to hear from them. But sometimes it does not take the place of hearing their sweet voices. I still need that one-on-one communication.

Emerson: And to that point, this is what we're up against because there is more to communication than just a word. There is tone, there is facial expression, all these non-verbals that are so fundamental. That's why I say people are now emoticoning themselves through life

because they want the person on the receiving end of the text to see the happy face; right? Because they don't have enough confidence that what they said is perhaps going to be heard in the tone that they intended for that to go.

We cannot compromise this. This is why we're finding a lot of misunderstanding and people are getting things out there. Every grandmother with grandchildren needs to get this because we set forth not only these principles but the temptations that we have, there are about 20 under each of those categories of why would I not be truthful? Why would I not be kind? Why would I not say what's necessary? Why would I not be clear? And we unpack in this book the underlying reasons that tempt us, that cause us to go in a direction that ultimately is not wise.

I think many who are aware of the social media today and I say social media means social and worldwide web means worldwide, that nothing really can be deleted. That everything is out there. People are losing jobs. Professional athletes are saying things; wives are saying things. This has become a real problem. That's why HarperCollins asked me to address this because of my interest in communication. So it's a felt need. There are generational differences but the young people coming up, if I don't talk to you over the fence I feel like I can say anything I want. I can take up offense. I can cuss you out. And I'm going to say there is a price to pay when we do that. We lose civility and we lose our reputation, ultimately.

James: But don't you just see an awful lot of that? I mean just in the press, with newscasts, with all of the tweets and the Facebook posting and everything else. There just seems to be a lack of sensitivity. Certainly, doubtless, a lack of legitimate love. And there's a harshness. I see something else happening with the simplicity of texting. I know it can make something quick where you don't have to get bogged down. But I don't think it is positive not to hear the voice and the tone and the expressions to where all of your communication is strictly by the letter or in a sentence or two or brief statement. I think we need to hear each other. I find myself sometimes wanting to say to all the grandkids and our children, "I want to hear your voice. I want to hear you say hello. I want to know what's going on."

Do you think we're just going to move more and more away from that where it is just all this abbreviated abrupt back and forth and so forth and abbreviations? You look at all the abbreviations there, you also have a new dictionary to try to get them all to understand. B.T.W. What in the world? Oh! By the way. By the way? I didn't know we were getting a little chapter here. The point is, how do we keep people understanding the importance of verbal communication?

Emerson: I think the challenge is going to be everybody has to relate in a marriage, in a family, there are going to be these interpersonal face-to-face encounters. These principles are fundamental. The book title, *Before You Hit Send* is a metaphor for all communication, but these

have to be applied. I believe this, if you're not applying it on an interpersonal basis that you just gave voice to, we're probably going to violate those text-to-text and even voice-to-voice. These cannot be compromised.

The upside those with all the texting and all things going on, I think in some ways people are communicating more. They're instantaneous and so we're really at a precious moment too, it's a positive moment where there is a lot of interfacing going on. And if people have a relationship, as I said, relationship determines response kind of thing, so that people will be more forgiving and more accommodating. But once we get beyond those relationships and now we're into the social settings, whether it is Facebook or wherever and we're beginning to give voice to these things and we're angry, we're hostile, we're not asking ourselves, is that which I'm about to say true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it clear? There's a price you're going to pay because you're going to offend somebody. And we have all these thousands of testimonies of people across the country who have lost jobs, relationships have been ruptured, there is resentment toward each other and we don't have to do it that way.

In fact, some people think, well, if you do this, if you're nice or you're kind, you're going to undermine your influence. No! Truth will carry its own weight; it will carry its own weight. And when we deliver it in a respectful, loving way, we speak what's clear, you're just going to be so far ahead. But you've got to go through this checklist.

Some people are now saying, "Dance like no one's watching but write emails as though you're going to be under a deposition." And the challenge for us today is to make sure there is -- many experts are saying, "Ask yourself if what I'm about to send, my boss reads it, the Attorney General reads it..." We have to be conscious of this because it's a new day. Nothing is deleted, everything is out there forever.

Betty: Well, it wouldn't hurt to have a pause button; would it? And think about what you're going to say and how it's going to come across.

Emerson: Just that 24 hours. Exactly.

Betty: Is it coming across like you mean it? Or is it going to be misinterpreted?

Emerson: And then we who are Christ followers, Jesus said, "Every careless word we have to give an account." This is very important. The Lord is listening to us. No matter what generation we are in, we who love Christ have to speak as though we have an audience of one.

But in the book I also talk about the fact that Jesus said, "The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." At the end of the day, my communication, whether it is interpersonal, whether it

is on text, reveals my heart. This reveals my heart. This other person is not causing me to be the way I am, they're revealing the way I am. And we take the position that my response is my responsibility and you don't cause me to be the way I am. You reveal the way I am. You reveal my heart and I talk in each of these chapters about the heart of communication because it is basic.

Years ago there was a young African American being sold on a block of wood in the 1800s and the slave owner came up to him before the auction and said, "If I buy you will you be honest?" He said, "Sir, whether you buy me or not, I'll be honest." See, that's integrity, that's heart. And it has to begin with heart. A person makes a decision. I'm not going to lie because that's not who I am. I'm going to be kind because that's who I am. I'm going to speak what is edifying and necessary in the moment because that's who I am. And I'm going to seek with God's help to be as clear as I can be because that's who I am.

James: I just think that God has given you a wonderful gift to help people stop and think. You have written on many subjects. I think you probably are like Betty and me, you're experiencing phenomenon for something we never thought would happen. Who ever thought we could have a phone that's smarter than most people? I mean it is amazing!

[Laughter]

I mean they correct our writing and tell us how to spell words. Siri doesn't under Texan very well, but Siri knows how you spell words. And your phone will correct a word. You can get it and you get through spelling it and it's red. Well, just bump that little dude and it will tell you how to spell it. This is a little bitty phone.

Emerson: And a point on that, and Siri is going to make mistakes and we end up sending texts to people that -- oh yeah. I didn't even say it.

James: I tell them Siri is stupid.

Emerson: That's right! But I think one of the points that I make and end the book with: What about those moments when we've said what we shouldn't have said. The thing that's so powerful about this country is that we are humble and we seek forgiveness. Most everyone will forgive us. The beautiful thing here is if we had blown it, we said, "Boy, I just made a mess of it." Just go. This is where that personal -- if you can sit down with that person in humility and go to them and say, "I was wrong for that. I was having a bad hair day. I was angry at my dad." Whatever the case may be, try not to make too many excuses. But if we say, "I was wrong. Will you forgive me? I was wrong." Ask the question, don't make a statement. I'm sorry, I don't care really how you feel but I'm sorry. No. I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? And then just go quiet after

you've done wrong, don't justify it.

The beautiful thing is there are very few people in this culture who are unforgiving when they see that. So there's a new day -- there's a new day!

James: Do you appreciate what Emerson is sharing and trying to tell us to stop and think before we hit send? This is not a very complicated read. I think it is inspirational, instructional read. You can get it online or in the bookstores.

Emerson, our viewers, I think they have got to be some of the most amazing people on the planet because when they watch Betty and James and our guests, they know James, you know. I'm going to ask these viewers to really be a part of putting the loving arms of God around people who hurt. And so many of our guests really minister to the brokenhearted. But what our viewers do, you become the miracle that someone only hoped for and most never even thought possible. Now I'm not going to ask you to do something difficult but I'm going to ask you to do something miraculous. I'm going to ask you to be the miracle in someone's life -- and you can be! Absolutely! You can be. Watch and listen.

On the mission field

Sheila: So she's going to take us and we'll get to see with our own eyes the kind of water that is her only choice to give her children.

Oh my gosh! This is what she comes to. This water is filthy. I notice the mom, she kind of tried to clear it as if somehow that would get rid of the germs or would get rid of the disease. But you can see, this water is -- it is absolutely filthy! Look at what she is pouring in here. And this is all they have. I asked them, "Do you drink this?"

And she said, "Yeah. We wait until the mud settles and then we drink it."

So that's why so many children in these villages are dying because there is so much disease in this water and that's why Water for LIFE literally means that. When we put a well in a village we give life to the whole village for their whole life. And the need is urgent and the need is now. Will you please stand with us? Will you help us to give life to children who otherwise are drinking this and dying?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, one of the things that we're going to do with an expression of thanks is we're going to offer you *The Words of Jesus*. And in those words where it talks about love, he says, "If you just give a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward." I don't think any of us need to try to guess or suggest to God what that reward or blessing might be.

For you and for me in our journey and our discussion, the blessing has been the ability to watch what that gift does because clean water to a thirsty heart, like pure clean water to a hurting thirsty heart, I mean it gives hope. And for these children that Sheila just referenced, in the 400 areas right now that our mission workers have targeted as not only in critical need but we know the water is accessible, where you can't get the drilling rigs in because of the terrain. In answer to prayer we now have the ability to give a filter system to families where one gift of \$100 takes care of three families from now on, with their own filter system. But if we can drill a well in these 400 areas they've located we can.

So God has given us an opportunity to be a miracle. I'm going to ask you to help drill a well, perhaps you'd give \$100 and take care of three families or you give \$48 toward a \$4800 well and basically we know, that you're going to be giving ten people water for the rest of their life -- \$144, 30. And Betty, the \$1200 or the \$2400 some people give and three people join them or another joins them but we've got another well. There is a level at which everybody can help. Really address the need that Sheila Walsh was talking about.

Betty: Wow! We will always ask you to help someone in need and we never apologize for it because we see the needs out there and we present them to you. I was watching Sheila as she was talking about the need where she was at that time; and talking about the mother said she waits until the mud settles in the water then they drink it. Well, that doesn't get rid of all the disease. She's just trying to make it a little bit better for her children that she loves so much.

Have you ever gone to your sink to turn on the faucet and get a drink of water and say, "Oh I've better wait until the mud settles." No! We don't even think about it. We just drink it and trust that it is good for us. Well, they don't have that choice right now but we can give them that choice with the water wells and the filters where we can't drill the wells.

Please join us. Do this with us. You are always such a blessing when you help us reach out to others. Help these mothers be able to give their babies fresh clean water -- safe water.

James: Do you realize, Betty, what a miracle it is that somebody is actually still watching? When we're not just feeding you spiritually or encouraging you, which we'll always do. Right now while we're talking to you there are hundreds of people calling for prayer. And that call is paid for by love from people like you. But you are watching. You've seen a need.

Now the question is, will you rise up and give that cup of water? Will you meet that need? I believe you will. If you will help us drill a well, if you can drill a well or part of a well or give toward it or give those filter systems, go online right now, go to *LIFE Today*, or dial that number, that's a prayer line but you make it a life line and say, "I want to be an answer to prayer. Here's my gift." Would you do that right now?

We have some gifts we want to send you to bless you and to encourage you but you are going to be giving some people hope and a miracle of clean water. Thank you so much for doing it!

Begin video clip

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

The good news is there is a solution. **Mission:** Water for Life is one of the most proven and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 15 nations. A gift of \$48 will provide disease-free water for ten people, \$72 will provide for 15 people, and \$144 will help provide clean water straight from the ground for 30 people.

Please also consider an additional gift of \$100 to help provide three families with water filtration kits in emergency areas where our drilling rigs are unable to reach. As our thank you, we'll send you the books, *Words of Jesus* and *Words of Healing*. One contains only the words of Jesus and the other scriptures for healing in your body, mind, and soul. With your \$100 gift you can receive both hardbound and softbound editions of these scripture promise books.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people. Or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our beautiful hand sculpted "Determined Eagle" bronze. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I just say thank you. I'm so excited to send you *The Words of Jesus*, the *Words of Healing*, the "Determined Eagle." If you'd like to have Emerson's book on *Before You Hit Send*, would be happy to send it to you. You give a cup of water, you help us and we'll be so glad to just send it to you if you ask for it. It is in the bookstores. Tell your friends about it.

Also want to remind you that we're coming now, the last week of the 30 days of prayer for our president and our leaders, and I want to thank you for that because I'm telling you, we need the miracle of God's wisdom to flow continually into the minds of our leadership. Pray for the healing of our land.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Emerson again, Eggerichs?

Emerson, we appreciate you. Thank you for being here.

Thank all of you for being here with us! Thank you for watching. Thanks so much for giving a cup of water.