

10/19/17
Week 43: Transport LIFE
James and Betty Robison
Mark Batterson and John Eldredge

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

James: Yeah, I'm sitting here with my sweetheart. We'll be married, our next anniversary 55 years and it's just awesome! I love you.

Betty: I love you.

James: You ready to celebrate?

Betty: Continue on.

James: I've got the author here that wrote a book about men, *Wild At Heart*. I just wanted to confirm, that doesn't go away. You don't grow out of it. If you do, at least it isn't at 74. I've still got a little fire in my bones.

John Eldredge is back who wrote *Wild At Heart* and he's got a book, *All Things New*. It's just great. I talked to him earlier this week. And Mark Batterson has a book called *Whisper*, which is hearing the voice of God. If you're going to hear the whisper, you've got to get close. You've got to cut off other sounds and tune in. But he also has another book, *Play the Man: Becoming the man God created you to be*. Wow! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we'd be that? Wouldn't it be an answer to women's prayers?

And ladies don't try to act like men. You're not impressed with the way they act so why try to be like them?

[Laughter]

For heaven's sake, just don't go there. But let's just really pray for one another.

These guys are a tremendous blessing. Would you welcome John Eldredge and Mark Batterson to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

You guys have respected one another, you've appreciated each other, you've read each other's books, you've blessed each other and you just met here this week; right?

John: Right here!

James: Sitting right here together. I want you all to share your heart. Let me just ask you, *Play the Man*, what do you want? If you say, okay, all of you watching, all of you here, this is what I hope you take away if you read the book. What would it be, Mark?

Mark: The first thing I'm going to say is if you're only going to get one book for men, get John's book!

[Laughter]

It's the best -- I mean it profoundly impacted me. I think my journey. Listen. I have the joy of pastoring a church in Washington, D.C. I love writing as an author. But at the end of the day, I want to be famous in my home. It's about being a husband to my wife and a father to my three children. I think *Wild At Heart*, and a few other books set me on a journey to really prioritize that.

I think there are a lot of men who don't know how to be a man of God. There are a lot of fathers who don't know what it means to be a spiritual father. So a few months ago I'm in a setting with about 500 guys and I asked them, "How many of you were disciplined by your dad?" And three hands went up.

Houston, we have a problem!

[Laughter]

Because I think if you weren't disciplined by your father, sometimes it is hard to know how to do that for your children. But listen. Here's the bottom line. I love youth pastors but it is not their job to discipline my children, that's my job. And I'll take the tag team; I'll take all the help I can get but that's my job. It's my greatest privilege and responsibility and about the hardest thing I do.

So that's kind of the sum of the heartbeat behind the book.

James: So that's what you try to do was inspire, impart, inform and instruct along that line. What it looks like; right?

Mark: And talk about seven virtues of manhood but I'll tell you the heart of the book and I know John and I just share this in common that we want to help dads disciple their sons.

John: Right.

Mark: There is not a lot out there to help dads do that. Come on. If our initiation is getting a license at 16, or 21 legal age, we've got to do better than that. We've got to help our sons figure out what it means to be a man of God. So I talk about a discipleship covenant, a rite of passage and it's going to look different. It looked different for John, it looks a little different for me, and it looked different for my two sons because they're different. But really taking my sons through that year of discipleship, most important thing I think I've done.

James: That's great!

John: He's not doing a good job selling this book. Let me take a pass at this.

[Laughter]

Let me take a pass at this. *Playing the Man* is a really important book because he talks about the journey of how do you initiate boys into manhood? I appreciate the word *discipleship* but it is a little churchy.

[Laughter]

The issue is how do you initiate young boys into young manhood? How do you take them on that passage?

That's the best part of the book. He talks about how he does it with both of his sons and it was very interesting as I was reading it, you did it the same year I did mine, around the age of 13, psychologically, some very important things start going on in the development of a boy and he starts pushing. He starts pushing into what does it mean to be a man, who am I? What's my identity? That is a prime time to take him on a very intentional journey. So I think that's -- it's gold, buddy! Come on!

[Laughter]

James: Really, back when this has been gosh, when my son was 13 nobody was even talking

about this. I didn't have a father. You talk about clueless about being a father; I would kneel at the door or by the bed of my children when they were asleep many times and just say, "I'm clueless. I need your help." I put them in God's hands and he did a great job.

I think one of the reasons our children turned out so remarkable is I was all over America preaching in all the schools speaking all day, everybody's kid heard me, all the stadiums and coliseums and I'm pouring my life out. I think millions of people really prayed for our kids with all their heart. That's why I say don't give up on America -- and don't stop praying. Don't give up on freedom, don't give up on the future, don't give up on your family. I'm just telling you, prayer works.

So when I look at what you guys are sharing, I hadn't heard it. I didn't hear it from my father, I didn't hear anybody saying, "Here's how to be a better dad." I was clueless. So I want to thank both of you. Thanks for the nice things you said about him. He's not getting a commission.

[Laughter]

Here's what you've written, this book now. John, I want you to address anything you'd like to. We hope everybody gets the book but I wanted the two of you to be on because I feel like you move men, I feel like you move people, I feel like you've taken your gift and you gave it to God and to us -- us meaning all of us. So what's on your heart that you just wish people would hear?

John: Well, I think this is what we want to say. In spite of the fact that the news and global events and all of that, it looks like things are getting worse, God is doing a very profound, restoring work in men's lives. I'm talking by the thousands -- tens of thousands.

I see it. We spend a lot of our work in our ministry with men and they are becoming genuine, awesome men. They love God. They are filled with integrity. They're not sexually bound to addictions. God is working profoundly down below the headlines, below all the press, down in the hearts of men and their families. Phenomenal things are taking place.

James: That's why prayer is important because these things are happening. John, you know, both of you know, Betty certainly knows, I spend most of my time talking to leaders, church leaders and national leaders. As forceful as you've ever heard me delivering the gospel in truth, that's how I do it. I may not raise my voice as loud but I can be low key and pretty forceful. Would you agree that's pretty much the way I project?

John: Sometimes.

[Laughter]

James: I've spent my days and hours with leaders and with church leaders; and this studio has been filled with the most powerfully influential church leaders in the country, more than once. Ravi Zacharias and I moderated a meeting with the church leaders that move probably 60-80 million American people with their influence easily.

What I'm finding, I'm just telling you this because I think it is critically important, both of you men have tried to help families function like a healthy family beginning with the father leadership, the marriage, where you lead the children. God wants the nation and he wants the church to function like a family. He wants a family through which he blesses all the families and nations of the world. It is not too late for the church to get on with doing that. What I'm seeing, more than ever, I'm seeing church leaders come together with a respect first of all, an honor for God and his word and his truth. But also, to speak that truth in love, unconditional love and have righteousness and truth kiss to where there is not that cruel mean judgmental attack, wrangle about words to the ruin of the hearers. It is just like a cancer, Paul said writing to Timothy. It's a canker; actually talking about how they're being held by the devil to do these things. This is not spiritual depth, this is demonic activity.

But what I'm seeing is a total move away from that. I'm seeing church leaders of the highest caliber with as much responsibility in oversight as any people on the planet love one another and lay their life down to try to speak truth, even at great risk.

So that's answered prayer. That's what you're talking about. God's already up to something. And the church needs to lead the way in loving each other. This studio is filled with men and women who are from many different denominations and they haven't even checked each other's pedigree since they walked in here.

[Laughter]

They didn't pull their card out. They didn't do a D.N.A. sample. They just walked in here as family and they're acting like family and they're listening to people trying to share the heart of the Father, like fathers, like a caring brother, and it's healthy.

Don't you like this kind of a spirit and this kind of an atmosphere where you see people come together and really have a family? Speak to us some more about what you believe God wants to do right now.

Mark: I think it's no coincidence that the very last verse in the Old Testament is that God would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers. So it's the last note -- I think it is the last hope. I think revival starts right there with God turning

the heart.

And then you get to John the Baptist. I've asked 100 preachers, what was John the Baptist about? Well, prepare the way for the Lord. But there's a little nuance there. He said the same thing; his message was to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. So I think what we're hoping for, what we're praying for is that turning. I think that's where it starts.

We will make more mistakes than we can count, so many days I feel like a failure as a father but it starts with God really turning our hearts towards our children and I think that that's how revival is going to happen.

James: That's great! What do you think listening to these men talk here, Betty?

Betty: Well, I sit here in amazement and I look at three men that have completely yielded their lives and their hearts to God. You're allowing God to change the hearts of the world because of your heart for God.

I was listening to James a while ago saying, "I didn't have a father that showed me how to be a father." But he had the Father that came and took a little boy that didn't have a chance in life, that didn't have anybody to guide him and to lead him, that wasn't supposed to be because his mother tried to have him aborted but God had a purpose from the moment he was conceived. And I look at his life and he says, "I didn't know how to be a father." But because he gave his heart to the Father, God showed him and he guided him.

Like you said, we all make mistakes. I look back as a mother and I think I could have done this differently. I look at our children and I'm so proud of them. They're adults with their own families now and beginning to have grandchildren and I'm so proud of them. I've watched them parenting and that's what a parent wants to be able to do is for their children to have it better and to do better than they did. I've been blessed to be able to watch that in our family.

We didn't know how to do it but God through our mistakes, through our learning but through our yieldedness to him has made the difference. I can say I thank you, God so much for guiding us so that our children learned it better and their children will learn it better.

John: So let me offer hope through that story because it's not about, I hope you had a great dad. That's not what this is about because there are too many people watching this right now that that is not their story. Their story is deep woundedness, their story is violence, the story is abuse with their father.

Ephesians one, long before God laid the foundations of the world he had you in mind; had settled

on you as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Paul says what pleasure he took in planning that you would be his son and daughter. God is not the backup plan for those who didn't get a good dad. That's not what we're saying. God is Father and wants to heal in us all the damage that was done, all the neglect that we just don't even have categories for it, he can do that. He can do that in a woman, he can do that in a man, he can do that in a family with no background in this. That that's the deepest work of God is healing our view of father.

Mark: And he is saying the exact same thing that he spoke over Jesus, "This is my beloved son -- this is my beloved daughter in whom I'm well pleased." I'm just so convinced that all people need to hear is that -- that message and that's who the Father is; that's what he is saying if we listen close enough.

John: "I love you. I love you. And I'm proud of you." You just open your heart and let that be true -- just let that be true. "I love you and I'm proud of you." From your Father to you right now. That will take care of a lot of other things, folks. It will address a lot of other issues in your life. "I love you. I'm proud of you."

James: That's what God wants for every one of you who are watching, just right now, just say, "Father, I want to be your child. I trust you with my life." Broken hurt, perhaps so much has not been right. Maybe you didn't have the parents or the father or the leadership, or maybe you've not been the right parent. It doesn't matter where you've been. There is now no condemnation from the Father who covers us, who cleanses us from all of our sin. Jesus died to redeem us. He will transform us.

Would you ask him to? Right where you are, just say, "Father, be my father. I want to be your child. I want you to be pleased with me; in Jesus' name."

You call that number. Say, "I just prayed for God to be my Father, for Jesus to be my savior." Tell one of the people on the phone, they'll pray in agreement with you. We'll send you a book, *Knowing God As Father*; that's a simple little Bible study. It tells my journey of coming to know God as Father which you referenced a moment ago. It's a miracle, Betty what happened but it can happen to anyone. We'll send that to you. I just say thank you.

You want to say thanks to John and to Mark for being with us? And for Betty! Betty, you blessed us -- always a blessing. Thank all of you. Let me remind you this book is in the bookstores, this one is too and you've got a new one that's just come out, what's the title of it, Mark?

Mark: *Whisper.*

James: That's on hearing God. So all of these are there.

Let me just say this. I want you to listen to the requests of missionaries. This is a real challenge for us because we did not expect this. This is like one of those million dollar blows you've got to have. It's like something hit you unexpected but it is so important and the impact so great. I want you to help us be an answer to the request of the missionaries. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: There are not too many jobs as rewarding, yet challenging as that of a missionary serving children around the world. They face unique hardships that many of us do not have to deal with on a daily basis. The simple act of getting from point A to point B can be very difficult in a typical back country road. Or keeping up the maintenance on a well-used vehicle that is in constant demand can be very time consuming and expensive.

David: Transportation has always been a challenge, it's been a great expense, it's been a great heartache. In our 34 years in Haiti, most of our vehicles are junk. Most of them have in excess of 150,000-200,000 miles on them. We're trying to upgrade that well drilling rig and that is going to require us to have a new service truck to go along with that.

Open Captions:

>> This is another vehicle for the mobile clinic which has serviced us for more than ten years. The suspension is worn out because the roads are bad.

Tony: In the countryside, a special needs child is an unreachable person. Unless we go get them, they won't ever have therapy, they will never have hope. The 100 special-needs children that if we can have a van to go get them and transport them, there is 100 special-needs families that will receive therapy with your help.

Announcer: No matter the type of ministry being performed around the world, all missionaries need some sort of transportation to get their job done effectively, efficiently and the most economically sound. Recently, our mission partners have urgently asked *LIFE Outreach* for immediate help with their transportation needs. And now you can be part of something bigger than yourself by sharing the gospel in word and deed with Transport LIFE.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, it seems tough to ask people to help with vehicles, transportation, trucks and so forth. What do you feel in your heart? Because you've been all over the world on the mission field.

Betty: I listened to the plea for help with the vehicles and they are very, very important. But when I listened to that, you know what I hear? What I see in my heart? Is the children; they need transportation to carry these children to the places that they need, some of them for food, some of them for water, some of them for physical therapy like they said. They need vehicles to transport them back and forth in safety.

We've been to all these places. The roads are horrible. And they need vehicles they can count on to get the children safely to their destination and back.

So I hope you will look into your hearts and say, "It is for the children." It is not just for a vehicle that they can drive around; there's a purpose for it. It is to carry precious, precious children. So please join with us and help us.

James: And it is to carry the resources to the children, the food has to be transported. Betty, they carry film equipment all over India on motorcycles up the mountain trails, set up screens and that's where we have led millions of people to Christ watching a film that is titled, *Daya Sagar, Ocean of Mercy*. And it is the most powerful presentation of the life of Christ with the Indian actors in their language -- and it is powerful beyond words.

So even a motorcycle is part of what the missionaries are asking for. Whatever mode of transportation they need, we want to supply it. And they have asked for specifically 71 vehicles, over \$1.1 million. We did not anticipate it, we're just praying for a real miracle right now.

So if you would simply go to the website you see there or dial the number and use your bankcard like a check, please, make the largest gift you can. If you can give \$40 or \$80, and I just suggest that as a possibility, and we're sending every one of you that make a gift a beautiful instrumental CD of fantastic, historic great hymns, *The Sweetest Name*, the sweetest sound. And also, how those hymns came to be written, the history of them.

Then also we're sending to those of you who will give a gift of \$120 or more, what I think is the most beautiful leather bound Bible I've seen; and it is in giant print. I'm telling you, I'm 74 now and I had a little surgery that corrected my vision and I don't know why they didn't get this before my surgery. I needed it!

[Laughter]

But I'm telling you, you're going to love this. It is a beautiful Bible. You make that gift that's going to mean so much to the missionaries also, a gift of \$1,000, we have what I think is the most beautiful bronzes that we have ever had designed by incredibly gifted artists. This is the "Determined Eagle" -- determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and the challenges of the day and rise higher. We'll send it to you to say thanks for your love gift.

We just thank you for being a part. Listen. Also, if you'd like to have John's book, you just let us know. We'll send it to you, because John believes in what we're doing and all things are made new by love.

Thank you right now. Go online, dial the number, make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you for doing it.

On the mission field

Announcer: It's a missionary's nightmare, having lifesaving relief supplies in your hand and no way to get it to those who are suffering. Some of the vehicles so vital to our outreaches are completely worn out and must be replaced. And in some critical areas no transportation is available at all. *Life's* mission partners have immediate and urgent needs to transport lifesaving supplies to children and families in remote locations. An additional 1.1 million dollars is needed to purchase 71 vehicles, large and small. Your gift of \$40, \$80, \$120, or \$1000 will help purchase these vehicles and provide lifesaving food, clean water, medicine, and the good news of Jesus to people in need.

With your gift of any amount, be sure to request *The Sweetest Name* classic hymns CD with a booklet containing the history behind the hymns for all twelve songs.

With your gift of \$120 or more, please request the NIV Super Giant Print Reference Bible, ideal for anyone looking for a Bible that's gentle on the eyes.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1000 or more to help transport life. And you may request our beautiful Determined Eagle bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I want to say thanks so much for watching the program. Thanks for doing what God puts on your heart. I hope we're able to send you the beautiful giant print Bible. I think this is the nicest leather cover I've ever seen. It's just beautiful! If you can make that gift of \$120 it will sure go a long way to answering the need of the missionaries.

If you want a book that John or Mark has written, you can say, "Could you send me that?" You know what's on your heart, you feel free to ask and we'll send it to you to say thanks.

Join Betty and me saying thanks to Mark and to John. You guys are a real blessing. Y'all come back any time. You don't have to write a book to come back.

Thank all of you for watching. Thank you for being with us. Thanks for your help.