

1/16/18
Week Three: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Havilah Cunnington

James: Oh boy! You know what? I don't know how you feel about watching *LIFE Today* but we're honored that you watch. And more than anything we're honored that you share *LIFE Today*. As a matter of fact, we're sending this book, *The Riches of Christ*: What true prosperity looks like. It is so far beyond just material things. It is incredible. When we get to share with you *The Riches of Christ* and his glory, it is just a blessing. You know one of the main ways we do it? Is we share people he is flowing his love through. God's love flows through yielded vessels and channels.

Havilah Cunnington is one of those vessels. Now I happen to know her dad, known him a long time. His name is Francis Anuso.

Hey Francis! Beautiful daughter. I love you, buddy. What a visionary. You and I have dreamed a lot of dreams together. Some of those things we haven't yet seen come to pass, they still need to happen. God is sure using this girl, and I'm sure your family.

I want you to welcome Havilah who wrote *Stronger Than the Struggle*: Uncomplicating your spiritual battle. Would you welcome Havilah to *LIFE Today*?

Well, you tell your dad hi.

Havilah: I will. He loves and respects you a lot.

James: Well, I do him too. We really had a lot of fun talking about reaching young people. You have several boys yourself, four boys.

Havilah: I have four boys. We had four boys in five years. So my husband and I, we've stopped kissing, we've stopped hugging. We are -- yes, we are doing our best. I said, "I will receive prayer for anything other than right here. If you pray for this, I'll slap your hand away." Yeah. Just so you know. I don't want miracle babies, I want miracle college funds. So that's where we're at in our life. Yes!

James: That's great. *Stronger Than the Struggle*. You're a preacher's kid. You grew up, I'm sure, in the wonders of church. Now you're at Bethel in Redding, a great church that's seen some real significant spiritual breakthroughs and fabulous praise and worship. It is just a wonderful thing.

So when you talk about *Stronger Than the Struggle*, are we starting here with just a biblical lesson or are we starting here with a personal life lesson and experience and taking people somewhere? Tell me about this.

Havilah: I'm a church kid and my dad was an evangelist. He traveled eight months out of the year and as kids we were on the road six months out of the year. So I spent my childhood in diverse communities of the body of Christ, anything from very conservative to very Pentecostal and out there. So what I learned as a kid is really to see, really diversity was happening in the church but what was also interesting was to see what people were teaching, how people were understanding certain things.

I didn't see myself as a minister. In fact, I never wanted to be in ministry. I always said my sister was signed up to go to nursing school and I was going to live off my parents. That was my plan.

[Laughter]

At 17, I found myself in the back seat of a car. Some guy had picked us up from church, my sister and I to go to a party one night. We were in the back seat of this car. I feel the presence of God come in this car. I didn't hear it audibly but I sensed it just like when you begin to hear the voice of God. I began to hear him speak to me. He kept saying, "Havilah, you are called to more than this. You can't live like this. You can't be stuck in the back seat of this car."

I felt so compelled with his presence that I shouted out over the music, "Can you turn the music down?" So the guy in front turns the music down and I did not know what I was going to say because I knew I should say something. So I shouted out, "I have a call of God on my life." And it was very awkward. It was not beautiful; there was nothing beautiful about it. But as I said it, I began to cry because I think something happens when we're living two different lives and we're putting them together and we becoming the same person, everywhere, the same person. I began to cry and I looked over at my sister and she's crying. So I know God is doing something in this car.

So I'm compelled for these friends because I know I've ruined their whole night. I'm shouting out, "I have a call of God on my life" in the back seat of their car. So I say to them, "I'm going to follow Christ and you're welcome to come with me if you like but this is what I'm going to do. I'm going to serve Christ."

And as I'm saying that, I'm weeping and I laugh to this day because I look out and they took us home. They never said a word, the guy just drove us home.

[Laughter]

So we get out of the car, we walk into the house, our parents are sound asleep, it's dark. I'll never forget this. I'm 17 years old. I kneel down by one of our beds and I say this prayer out loud, "God, I'm not much. I'm young, I'm 17, I'm a girl, which is evident, and I don't have any special gifts or graces on my life." -- Because I had learning disabilities my whole life. I came from a family that was very highly educated. My grandfather was an Italian immigrant who came up from Staten Island, lived in a one bedroom apartment in New York and took himself through law school and then became a Supreme Court justice of New York State for four terms and I could barely pull a C. I was so embarrassed. I couldn't read out loud in high school. No one could read my handwriting which was a problem because I wasn't going to medical school.

[Laughter]

I really battled with this kind of insecurity like God, I don't know how you're going to use me. I'm very confused by this. Pick somebody who has what you need because I don't. I have a twin, she looks like me. I'm sure you got us mixed up. Pick her. The Lord began to talk to me about using this part of my life where I was embarrassed and humiliated to realize I felt so lost in life. I remember the Holy Spirit saying to me, "Your mandate, your life call is to uncomplicate big spiritual concepts that can sometimes be complicated and uncomplicate it for the church.

That's what I've been doing for the last 20 years. I've been sitting and taking moments of my life uncomplicating that. So that's really my journey into the story and into this book.

James: Now how would you help and in this book, how do you help a person understand the real battle is a spiritual battle and we're bigger than the struggle because Christ is in us and he is greater than all, so how do you simplify this complicated reality?

Havilah: Right! Because it does feel complicated. And what we find, the church can be what confusing because we've been in the church for a long time. Some parts -- I like to call them two camps. One camp they never talk about the enemy; they never talk about spiritual battles. It is very scary. It's shut down. Sometimes if somebody acts out, they have that one person that takes them out. Sister so-and-so with the Jesus pin takes them out and they pray that when they come back nobody catches it.

Then you have the other side of the church that's kind of here devil, devil there, devil

everywhere, devil, devil. You sneeze in front of them and they're like, "Be released in Jesus' name."

You're like, "I didn't even know I had anything."

They're like, "Well, you look freer."

And you run out of gas and they're saying, "The devil took my gas."

I'm like, "I don't understand. The devil has time to take your gas? I'm so lost."

So the Bible is very clear. He says, "Don't be ignorant of the schemes."

I love what T.D. Jakes says. He says, "We must understand our enemy for we cannot defeat what we do not understand." That's really a mandate for us as believers. We have to understand what we're really battling. The devil and God are not two gods battling each other. We have a God and an angel with a god complex. That angel with the god complex is on the earth, believes the earth is his, and anyone on the earth, he believes he has control over.

James: He's so deceived he believes that.

Havilah: Exactly! He doesn't know that the battle has already been won and we are...

James: He's already defeated.

Havilah: He's already defeated. So we have to go in understanding how does the enemy operate? Because we'll blame everything on him or we won't give him any credit if we don't know how he operates. So you take it from the basic foundational chapter of John Chapter 10:10 which says, "The thief comes to kill and to steal and destroy," which we've all said. But you have to go deeper in to understand it. The first word is the thief and that word thief in the Greek means klepto. I know that sounds familiar. A lot of our listeners that are listening are going to go, "Klepto? You mean like the English word?"

And we go, "Yeah! It actually is." In fact, if you dig deeper it means pickpocket, bandit, it means to embezzle, which means he slowly takes what we're willing to give over and over and over.

Now then people go, "Why am I struggling?"

Well, there is another aspect and that is to kill. Now I used to think kill meant like the devil was

violent, he is out to get us and he has these little horns and -- whatever. But what I found was "kill" actually means sacrifice. So this is what it means. What the enemy of our soul cannot take from us, he will convince us to give away.

So most of the church, I'm finding in the body of Christ. The enemy is not taking anything from us. We are giving it away because we lack endurance, we lack clarity, we're biblically illiterate. We don't know enough of what the enemy is like so we blame it all on him or we don't actually know what he's doing with us. So really going after that.

So I began to kind of unpack that spiritual battle. So the way -- how do we fight the enemy? Because that's the number one question people are going to ask. They're going to go, "Okay. Now if I know it is the enemy, how do I know?"

Well, Jesus gave us a perfect example in Luke Chapter 4. He gave us a strategy to fight the enemy. He goes in the desert, he's hungry; 40 days of not eating. He's fully god, fully man, walking the earth. He spent three years in preparation ministry for -- 30 years, excuse me, for three years of ministry. It's crazy if you think about Jesus' life. He's about to leave the earth with 120 people in his church -- not a mega church, not multiple campuses, just 120 people and 12 leaders and one of which has him killed. So not a great leadership team either.

James: And another one denied him. Oh, the one that never would did.

Havilah: We wouldn't think you could take the world over with this. But Jesus knew the message what of he was doing and the reality of what he was doing on the earth was going to work. He knew that. He trusted us because he knew he was going to send the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is a twin spirit, the Bible says and he sends the spirit to live within us so we are never without him. That's what makes us powerful. Everywhere we go, it makes us powerful because we have him. So we begin to understand this battle.

Jesus gave us this strategy, back to Luke four, he looks at the enemy. Every time the enemy picks on him, he says, "It is written." He gives us this phrase. I want us to look at, for just a second I want to talk about Ephesians Chapter 5 and it talks a little bit about this where it talks about the armor of God. Am I in the right chapter?

James: Yes, in five or six. Yeah. You got the right book.

Havilah: I have four kids; they each took a portion of my brain and that's the problem. I'm pulling it back. I'm just asking for the Lord to restore my brain. So what we find is he says to them, "Put on the armor of God." Then he says, "Put on the helmet of salvation and take up the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God."

And we've all been taught that the word of God is the Bible, which it is. But translated in that verse it does not mean logos, which is Bible, written word of God. It means Rhema word, which means a quickened and specific word of the spirit. So what he said to the believers, this small church, he says, "Listen, when the enemy comes you're not just going to take out your Bible and hunt and peck." We used to call that, where you're just in a desperate moment, you close your eyes and you put your finger down and you're like, "Give me a word!" And so-and-so begot. Right? It's always the begots. You go, "Okay! I'll give you two out of three, God. Let's try this again."

That's not what it is about. What it really is about is knowing that we are in the word, building our pantry, building our strength and endurance but when it comes to the battle, we go into that pantry and we pull up the meal we need, the Holy Spirit does, and it reveals it to us and we say, "Not anymore." And we cut the enemy.

Now I want to explain this. When Roman soldiers used to fight the enemy, we used to think Roman soldiers had these large swords and they would go and fight. We've seen big movies where they're cutting and slashing. But that is not historically accurate. What is historically accurate is that the swords they carried were the size of a dagger and they were taught never to cut and slash but only to use as little energy as they can for the endurance, for the battle. So I believe as Christians we spend way too much time and energy cutting and slashing, hoping to defeat the enemy when really we need to be more strategic in how we fight him and go, "Nope! I'm not going to allow that."

I was thinking back to a moment when I was a young Christian and I was preaching. I went to a church and at this church the pastor interrupted me during the altar call. I thought, that's kind of interesting. Went up to a meal that night and I said to him, "What did you think of the message tonight?"

He said, "Well, do you really want to know?"

Which I just want to give you a hint; if anyone says, "Do you really want to know?" Never agree. Just say, "No, I really don't. God bless you."

[Laughter]

But I said, "Yes, I would like to know."

He said, "Well, I don't believe in anything you did tonight. I don't believe in what your message was. I don't believe in women doing what you did. And if I would have known what you were

going to bring I would have never had you."

I remember walking into our hotel room that night and my parents were asleep, my dad was preaching at another church and as I'm crying I tell him this story he says something that marks my life forever. He says, "Havilah, I guess you get to decide if man called you or God called you." And I would love to say that those words lingered with me but you know what lingered with me? The words of that man; I had to fight those words for many, many years. And what I found was the book of Timothy where Paul says to Timothy, "Don't let anyone look down at you because you're young." I used that as a sword for many years and it helped me through my many battles. We all have different battles, we all have different swords and we have to figure that out and that's how we learn.

James: And in that battle, you forgave what he did even while you were dealing with it. You didn't let it stick like a dagger.

Let me just say you are hearing a flow. Do you appreciate the flow of God that you heard through Havilah? You have a supernatural anointing that is undeniable. You flow like a river. What you're hearing is fantastic, and what's in here I believe is going to be illuminating. I believe it is going to set captives free.

This is what you reveal in this book that we are stronger in Christ; Christ in us is bigger than the enemy, bigger than the deceiver, bigger than the one that's come to take us away. I believe you have uncomplicated spiritual battles. Don't you love the clarity which Havilah spoke of -- and the anointing?

You make me sound like I don't have any zeal or any fire. You make Beth Moore look like she's not fiery. You are a blessing.

And Francis, and your family, what a beautiful daughter. Jesus is beautiful in her. She is beautiful in Christ.

This is a terrific book. I hope that you will go online, I hope you get it, go to the bookstores, I believe it will un-complicate many things for you.

Betty, I know you didn't say much but can you say a big amen?

Betty: I'm just streaming it all in. Amen! I think it is so important that we realize that the battle is here; whether we fight in it or not, the battle is here. And why would God give us an armor to put on if he didn't expect there to be a battle? So we just need to be prepared for the battle.

James: Well, we're definitely in it. You can't choose not to be in the battle. It's on.

Our viewers and I'm telling you, you are so special. I honestly believe that the most remarkable people who watch *LIFE Today* say, "James, thank you for sharing truth through so many different vessels." Because Betty and I believe we're two people, we're the chosen generation, just like you we're part of that. But we're not the focal part, we're not the centerpiece, Christ is. It is his body, not the somebody's we need to focus on but his body and God flowing through the yielded bodies of believers. That's what we showed you on *LIFE Today*.

But there's something else we showed you. I think right here is where the real spiritually sensitive people in my opinion step up because if you watch *LIFE Today* -- now some of you may have not watched it before but don't leave because you're going to see where we go. We try to show every believer, every viewer that if you really want to experience life fully then express it freely, release it. And we show you how you release it effectively so that it changes everything in a person's situation and in their life.

I want you to watch and you just see if you don't want to be a part of an indescribable miracle. And this miracle depends upon someone like you saying yes to the Father's heart. Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: Deep within the continent of Africa, on the western border of Burundi flows the Ruzizi River. For those who live in the village of Musaga it has been their only source of water for generations. Women like Casalita, a grandmother of four and Beatrice, a young mother of two, the river has not been a source of life but instead a river of death.

Open Captions: The water that we get here is unclean and it is doing bad things to our families. I have lost two children because of the water. I am very worried about my other two children. They're always vomiting, have diarrhea and worms come from their mouths.

Announcer: Beatrice is not alone in her heartache. Casalita, living on her own, has no choice but to walk miles each day to collect more of the same river water that took the life of her husband and her granddaughter.

Open Captions: My granddaughter got very sick from the water. Her belly got inflated and her legs too. She was four years old. I took her to the clinic but she kept vomiting and having diarrhea. She died in bad condition.

Announcer: Losing a child or grandchild to unclean water is such a tragedy especially when

one realizes there is a way to stop this cycle of death through Mission: Water for LIFE. But it is not only the young who suffer.

Open Captions: Losing my parents to unclean water has caused me to such sorrow. They told me they were proud of me, that I was a good mom.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You are a sweetheart. I wish you could hear that. You realize missionaries go over there and love these precious people. One of the things the missionaries said to me and Betty when we said, "We will stay here and help you."

And they, years ago said that it wasn't that they didn't want us to be around, they loved us but they said, "If you'll go back and ask people to help us, we can stay here and we can be effective because one of the biggest challenges we face when we moved here,"

Betty, most all of them we met had moved there with their little children. They moved right into the very pit of hell and pain. And they said, "If you'll just help us, then we cannot only share the gospel but we can show them the power of love and we will have something to share." At that time, it was food. It was before we even recognized the importance of water.

So when you watch that, and you hear the heart cry of those precious people, Betty, what goes on in your heart as a mom?

Betty: You know as I watched that the main thing I heard was they walked to the river of death. But I want them to walk to the well of life, water that will give them life and give those precious children a chance at life. Please join with us and let's offer the well of life to them.

James: Boy, you said a mouthful. It is because of the water of life in us, Jesus that causes us to want to share Water for LIFE. But the missionaries not only give them a cup of water, you can give them a well of water that provides many cups and then they want to tell them about the water of life that led you and others like you to give them the cup of water and the well of water. We're going to lead them to Christ. And when you show people the love of God, they're anxious to hear about it and to receive the source of that love -- and that love is Jesus.

So here's what I'm going to ask you to do. The missionaries have shown us 400 places. They know there is water there. It can be revealed by a borehole that was dug by the people but it got contaminated and filthy or they know in the area there is water there. You can tell. You can tell

the terrain. They've got 400 places where the need is desperate just like you saw; that is an illustration of it. And we're going to, with your help, drill those 400 wells. We need a miracle support.

The wells cost \$4800. If you can give a well, now listen to me, if you can give a well, your company, your church, your prayer group, you individually, if you can give a well, do it. It is \$4800. Sometimes people say, "Well, I can give part of it. I can give \$1200." Well, three join you and we've got a well. \$2400 and one person joins you and we've got a well.

Please do it. Go online, dial the number, take your bankcard and make the gift. Where could you put \$144 and give 30 people water the rest of their life? Right here by giving them a well. \$48 gives ten people. Would you make the gift God put on your heart right now?

Father, I pray every person watching would be moved by your spirit. I pray, God they would believe for the miracle of love to be expressed through them; in Jesus' name.

Some of you may step up. You may go beyond what you ever thought you could do. But God put it on your heart and you're going to do it. Go online right now. Please, go get your bankcard. Call the number, take your bankcard, make the gift God put on your heart. If you make a check, make it to *LIFE* but tell us -- call us and tell us what you're mailing. We need to know; 400 areas have a desperate need you just saw. We have the answer. Thank you so much for doing it.

We have some very special gifts we're going to send you to bless you as you bless others with the great gift of God's love and life -- Water for LIFE. Thank you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink dirty polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from 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. You can help end the suffering because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in over 15 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people, a gift of \$48 will help provide for ten, \$72 will provide for 15 people and \$144 will help provide fresh, life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we'll send you *The Riches of Christ*, what true prosperity looks like filled with wisdom, prayers and scripture. James Robison adds insight from what God has shown him about finding contentment in the Father's provision for your life.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the *Children of the World Storybook Bible*. This easy to read Bible features colorful art by children from nearly 50 countries around the world.

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 the "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We again thank you for sharing the great gift of life and Water for LIFE. The "Bridge of Faith," what a wonderful gift if you can make a gift. If you give a well or \$1200 or more we'll send that along with the *Children of the World Storybook Bible*. This is fabulous. Then a book that I really want you to get, *The Riches of Christ*; this is where I share what it really means to be prosperous. And then we bring in the insight of our pastor, Robert Morris, Tony Evans, John Bevere, so many others who just contribute to what it means to really be experiencing *The Riches of Christ*. I'm telling you, this is going to bless you and revolutionize your life. So thank you so much for your help. Just pray others will join.

Havilah has got some kind of book, *Stronger Than the Struggle*. By the way, if you say, "James, would you mind sending that to me if we help give water?" You just ask for it. It is in the bookstores. Tell your friends about it. Go online and get it. When you help us give water and you want Havilah's book, you just ask for it.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Havilah? Bless you. You go and tell Francis and your mom how much we appreciate you. Francis, I hate to tell you, I think she is probably better than you -- a better communicator than both of us. Bless you! Thank all of you.