

3/6/18
Week 10: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Scott Hamilton

[In the studio]

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

James: Scott Hamilton is with us. I love the winter Olympics. I'm sorry to say but I actually root for those. I like them better than I do the summer Olympics. [Laughter] They're just amazing.

Scott Hamilton is -- I think he ought to be a hero to a lot of people. I admire him. I'm amazed. He's got a new book called *Finish First; Winning Changes Everything*. I think you're going to be amazed at the insight he is going to share. And I just think he is one of the most amazing people I've ever met. When you talk about Christianity and you talk about Jesus and people having had a real experience with Jesus and you can see it, well, you can see it in my opinion very clearly in Scott. I just have indescribable admiration and appreciation for him. And I'd like for you to give him a real big welcome to *LIFE Today*. We're glad to have you back.

[Cheers & Applause]

I wish I could give you a gold medal.

Scott: I've got too many of *those*! [Laughter]

James: You really do have the joy of the Lord. I see you in so many different settings and so forth and just gosh, I appreciate you. I want you to go ahead and tell people because we're going to talk about *Finish First* but you kind of got off to a tough start. A lot of people say you're too small. We have so much fun. You tell us how everybody said, "Yeah, you're good but you're too small."

Scott: Yeah, yeah, you're probably not -- you did that, but you're probably not going to... That happened but you're probably not going to ... " So yeah. It's always the naysayers; right?

James: You're too small.

Scott: “You're too small. You're never going to be competitive internationally.” Okay, you won four medals. Yeah. [Laughter] It's really wild. It takes a great woman, sometimes, to kind of wake you up. Without my wife Tracy, I don't know where I'd be. But throughout you're in this journey and you're tripping up and it's like you're at risk. And all those years I spent in the hospital not knowing what was wrong with me, and then I start skating and I start to get well. And it's miraculous. I think I may have fallen on my head too many times or something. And then you go through this whole thing and I get this career and then I get cancer. And then I go back to the career and then I get a brain tumor and then another brain tumor. It's just really wild that with each of those things, each of those knock downs, something amazing has come out of them. And it is by choice and by just deciding that I wanted to do something more, I wanted to get up.

In writing the book, I estimated through all my practices and learning and growing and all the learning and falling down and falling down and falling down, I estimated that in my 36 years of active skating, I fell 41,600 times. [Laughter]

James: Isn't it fun?

Scott: It's great. But guess what happens after you fall 41,600 times? You get up 41,600 times. When you start getting up and you get used to getting up you kind of build muscle and you build -- Like that's the worst thing that can happen? I'm still here. That's the worst thing I can happen? I'm okay. That's the worst thing that can happen? Here we go again. And it allows you to become more optimistic. It allows you to become more resilient. Through our struggles we build perseverance, hope, all those wonderful things that the Lord gives us.

I didn't always have the Lord in my life but when I look back, I didn't know he was there but he directed every single one of my steps. I think he does that for all of us. It's just when are you going to get to that awakening of like, oh! Duh! He was there all along.

So I really have tried to take what I've learned and I try to encourage people. And no matter what your description is, no matter what others say, there is something for you out there, there is a purpose and there is something that you need to just dive into and participate in no matter where you are right now; and that was the reason for *Finish First*.

James: You know reality is not only in skating but in life you're going to fail. You're going to miss the mark, you're going to fall. I really don't think there is anything that may be any bigger for us to make up in our mind. They that endure 'til the end shall be saved. There is something about that endurance implies a determination that no matter what I'm getting up. Doesn't it? So no matter how many times you go down, you'd never have made it skating if you had ever let one of them keep you down where you didn't get up. You guys really learn how to fall kind of

gracefully.

Scott: That's what we teach at our academy, is we teach how to fall down because you're gonna. [Laughter] But my first time I made it to nationals and it was after a lot of struggle and it was a lot of not making it to nationals. The first time at the national championships as a novice man, 17,500 people were in the audience and I rose to the occasion. Five times! I fell five times! I never fell five times in practice! But I do it in front of 17,000 people. It doesn't get any worse than that. I'm sorry! It doesn't!

James: Did you get up all five times?

Scott: I got up all five times.

James: If you hadn't gotten up you couldn't have fallen four or three.

Scott: I think I might have cried for a week. Then I said, "I'm never going to let that happen again!" -- Until the next year when it happened again. It's the whole idea of just don't quit. If you stay in the game -- if you stay in the game no matter what it is, if you stay in the game and you start to build that muscle of purpose, you're going to find a way to be successful. I just feel in our society we've gotten kind of -- [Sighs] I don't know, it just seems like a lot of work.

I meet people all the time, "Ah, it's too late for me. I should have done that when I was younger." I'm here to tell you, it's never over. No matter where you are in life, no matter how young, no matter how old, I have to -- half of *Finish First* is an argument for. I feel like I have to argue for people really getting the most and the best out of their lives. And the other half is here's how you do it. There's decisions to be made throughout. There's all these little forks in the road. There is the high road, there is the low road and it is easy to navigate once you kind of get moving and get starting. And once you fall down and get up a few times, you build momentum and you build strength. Hope comes out of all of that. I experience it on every level. Even after winning Olympic gold medals, I failed. And I got let go even after I never missed a show, I never missed a press call, Ice Capades didn't have a use for me. It's like, well, now what am I going to do? I was able to start a tour because I had proved myself and that becomes something. And then I get cancer and because I'm able to get through that and get back to my life.

So there's so much to talk about when it comes to really living a full life and living lives of purpose and living lives that you can look back on and saying, "Wow! I wasted a lot of days but man, at the end I did exactly what I was supposed to do." That's a hard one to get started on. But I just want to encourage people. The greatest, biggest -- if you had a recipe for success, the biggest single ingredient would be failure.

James: But don't let it keep you down. Just like Churchill said. By the way, a lot of times people talk about characters that don't seem to have the very nature of Jesus and they aren't quite churchy enough. Well, Churchill wasn't churchy enough but he may have saved freedom for all of us in a way. And one of the most powerful things he said was, "Never, never, never, never, never give up! Never!" I think that's some of the wisest advice anybody can get. Do you agree with that?

Scott: It's so true because there is so much. It is social media. It is media. There's so much news, images, naysayers. It's always people like, a judge told me, "You're too short to be competitive internationally. You just have to accept that."

I go, "Well, is it fact or is it opinion?"

Well, if it is fact I'll find out. But right now I'm going to treat it as opinion. We can just have the rug pulled out from us from people that we love and respect that's telling us, "No. It's not for you."

It's like, "Well, I really feel like this is my calling. I really feel like this is something I need to be doing."

If you ever see me in traffic and I'm sitting there in the car by myself and normally I have three or four kids in the car with me, but if you ever see me and I go, "Shut up!" It is when I'm hearing those voices saying, "You're not worthy. You're going to mess it up and you're going to fail."

Writing this book was really a step out. It was like, oh boy! I call out participation trophies for what they are. They're poison. If nobody wins and nobody loses everybody loses. It's like we're all meant -- we're all meant for something more. I just really want to -- it doesn't matter what it is, if it's succeeding in school or if it is getting another job or if it is painting or if it is losing weight or whatever it is, victories are there to be had because you go after them. All the strength of the Lord will be behind you if you're moving forward and you're learning from your mistakes and you're staying close good things will happen. It always does. Always does!

James: I was driving here tonight and one of my staff called and said, "I just saw Scott Hamilton again. Gosh! I didn't realize he was so small." I thought, okay.

Scott: And I'm shrinking! [Laughter]

James: I look at you tonight and I think, I've never asked how tall you are. How tall are you?

Scott: I was five three -- I'm telling you the truth. I was five three and a half, I had chemo, I went to five four. So I figured, maybe I'll just stay on chemo. [Laughter] And then I just measured myself again and I'm back to five three and a half. Gravity is a horrible thing, James. But you know, if I were bigger, would things have been different? Would I have been as quick on the ice? Would I have been able to adjust in the air? Would I have been able to recover from weakness or stamina as fast? So I really looked at my size as a blessing.

James: I'm stunned at what you just said because see, just like my friend who called, my staff member said, "Man, I didn't realize he was small." I've never seen you as small. I understand that.

Scott: Oh, thank you!

James: No, I'm being honest with you. I want you to know this. To me you're big because I see the heart, I see the character, I see the determination, I see an unshakeable, unflappable person. Even before Christ you had a determination. You were going to win when everybody said the odds are stacked against you. I'm even stunned that you're as short as you just said you were because to me, and I'm meaning this, you're big because I see the character in you, I see the glory of God. I see you on television. Betty commented about just seeing you, how it always brightens my day. I just like seeing Scott. He is just there. It isn't just the shine off your head.

Scott: Oh man!

James: It's not just that glory. It's beyond that!

Scott: Hair is so overrated! [Laughter]

James: You have a countenance that testifies of the glory of God. So when you talk about finishing first, you know who is first. You know who must be first in order for us to ever *Finish First*. You know who has to be first in order for us to get up every time. He is reaching down and he is reaching down before we even look up. It is an amazing thing. God, I'm looking up here at these lights and yet you're looking down here. You're so cool, Father. You're right there. And this is your family and you like us. You think we're pretty cool! What a Father! He's there, he is with us, he is big and he is ready to pick us up.

And you know that and it comes through in your countenance and it comes through in what you write. There are people, if they'll read this book and get it to friends, it will change everything about how you see finishing and how you see falling and how you see failing. It's just going to make all the difference in the world.

You've got recently now, because you just referenced it a while ago, another tumor deal. Here we go. And yet what's happening to the enemy taking another shot?

Scott: It's shrinking.

James: It's what?

Scott: Shrinking.

[Applause]

Without medical treatment.

Betty: Wow!

[Cheers & Applause]

James: Right here, I just want to say thank you, God and I want to say to all of you watching. I don't know what's going on in your life but I wish you could know that I don't think any of us, regardless of how well we can communicate can really get it across, God loves you so much. I just said talking to God, you think we're cool. He made us and he never said oops. He knew exactly what he was doing. You are so special.

I don't know what is going on in your life, he is bigger, he cares, and he loves you. You may say, "Can he hold my hurt? Can he hold my disease?" Absolutely! Let me tell you what he wants to do first. First he wants to hold your heart and he wants you to have a shoulder you can lean on that is everlasting and unshakeable. And he wants to hold you so close you can feel how much you loves you; every heartbeat, I love you.

Now listen to me. Just ask him to heal your heart, to touch your life, to touch your family, your friends, whatever is going on and say, "Father, in heaven, in Jesus' name who you gave to die to redeem me, please heal my heart. Get me up. Stand me up. Strengthen me. Help me. And enable me please to be able to help someone else you love." Ask him to do that. He'll do it.

You want someone to pray with you? See the phone number there? That's always there as an opportunity to help people that need help but it is also there for you to call for prayer, for help. Don't hesitate to call. Just share your heart with somebody. Say, "I just gave my heart to the Lord. I just received Jesus into my life." And you just tell them.

And for all of you that are watching, this is in the bookstores. Get it online. It's fabulous! In a

few moments I'm going to be telling all the people here in the studio and all the people watching how they can touch someone's broken heart directly and give them life. I mean save their life. So you don't want to miss that. The people who help us give life, if you want the book, we'll send it to you.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Scott Hamilton for sharing Jesus?

[Applause]

You're a great blessing. You've been a great blessing to everybody. Get the book in the bookstores. Scott, we're going to let folks look in. It's kind of like disease going away. You know there are a lot of diseases the medical community says we have nothing. There are some problems that are deadly there's a perfect cure for. It's not wishful thinking. And you're going to see -- listen to me -- you're going to see the greatest killer of people on the planet, and you're going to see the perfect, not wished for, the perfect, perfect never fail cure and you're going to be the one to give it. Yes, you will. Watch.

[On the mission field]

Translator: I feel so bad I can't know how to explain or the pain I'm feeling.

Jeanne: What has made you so sad?

Translator: I've lost two kids.

Open Captions: There are always many deaths caused by this cholera. Every day we bury kids who have died because of this virus. My two children died the same death. The first was my ten-year old boy. Then I lost my daughter, Francine. She was six years old.

Jeanne: I can't imagine losing two children and then to watch a village every day have to bury children because they get so sick on this water.

You can't tell but she is pregnant with her third child. We want this one to have a chance to live. It's a very simple thing we can do that will bring clean water to this village. Clean water to this mama. Clean water to this baby. So this baby lives. And the whole village is going to explode with gratitude, with life.

[End of clip]

[In the studio]

James: Betty, we do know what it is to lose a child. Most of you know that. She lost two.

Betty: I was sitting here listening to her story, James. I thought, there is a lot of things that can cause pain in life. We've been blessed that we haven't experienced a lot of those things that can cause pain but we have experienced this one. We lost a child. I can't even imagine losing another child, the pain in the heart, the despair and the loneliness and the hurt you must feel in thinking, what more could I have done?

This mother is saying, "What can I do?" Their water is killing their babies; the disease in that water, that is the number one killer in their area. They're hopeless without some help. But we can offer them hope through our blessings bless them. We can drill the water wells that will bring fresh clean water and bring a solution to their problem.

Please join with us. This is something we can do. This is something we can fix if we'll just join together, reach out and join hearts and hands and give what we're able to give to drill water wells.

James: You know as I'm looking up here at all the audience members here and you, when Betty and I, and Betty spent many hours just, "Mom, would you just rub my feet? Just sit by me." In the hospital, when -- you hardly know how to touch someone when you realize they know they're saying good-bye. But if I had said to any one of you here, any one of you, this is where our daughter is and you knew, any of you, I don't care where you are, if you knew you had in your hand the perfect cure, for just this couple's daughter, you would have gotten in your car, you would have gotten on a plane, you would have come where we are and you would have walked in and said, "Give this to her." Yes, you would. I know you would. Because you know it works. Thank you. Thank you.

All right. You just heard that mother. This works. A cup of clean water. You give them the reward of life because of love, you get the blessing of giving that and changing everything. And the missionaries get to tell them about the water of life that makes possible Water for LIFE, that love.

Would you please help us drill another 400 wells? Would you do that please? Would you do that right now? Would you simply get up, get your bankcard, dial the number or go online and say I'm going to help you drill a well. They're \$4800. I believe if you could drill one you would do it. Say, "Take care of the whole village. We'll save hundreds of lives." Okay, thank you. Give part of a well, \$1200, \$2400, pray another person joins you or three join and we've got another one. But most people help us \$144, 30 people get water the rest of their life. \$48, 10

people get water the rest of their life. Will you help us?

This is the last week now for this emphasis. Would you please right now get up, go to the phone, go online, take your bankcard or write a check and make it to *LIFE* and just tell us, I'm sending it. Please do it. Thank you for doing it. Lord, may everyone who can help give that perfect cure because of your love.

[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.

This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

[End of clip]

[Mission Video]

James: Just as we're giving water here in Southern Africa, we need to give water like this, a cup of water all over the world where there are contaminated water sources that are killing not only children but their entire families. Many children lose a parent because of some intestinal disease from contaminated water. And it may be that you can give a well. You can provide the entire cost or you could say I'll join another person or a couple of other people but I'm going to help.

I'm going to help provide water all over the world. Thank you for doing it!

[In the studio]

James: Frankly, I want to apologize for not being able to control the -- I'm not sorry my heart breaks. I just wish it wasn't so messy. I'm trying to be neat. But I don't think I can say thank you enough to this guy for really showing us all over the world Jesus every time we see him. I love Scott Hamilton. Buddy, you're the tallest 5-foot 2-inch guy I've ever seen.

Would every one of you please just say thanks Scott for showing us Jesus and thank you for the book! [Laughter] I took an inch away from you. He's short. Listen to me! You want this book? You help us give those kids water, you just ask for the book. We'll send it along with the others. Bless you, Scott!