

5/17/18
Week 19: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Steven Scott

James: Hey! I appreciate it. You're so kind. Some of you are clapping and smiling. It makes us feel good.

Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I am James Robison. Betty is here. Betty has had a few little challenges recently. You might have missed her. Just really and truly, you just keep praying the Lord just restores her health and the knee that really troubled her. We appreciate you doing that because prayers are being answered.

Well, we've got one of our best friends back. By the way, you notice we don't invite a lot of our enemies in here. Really, the fact is we would be so happy for those who consider themselves our enemies to come and sit down and talk to us because they would find that we might not agree with them and we don't plan to get in bed with our enemies but we will love them and we gladly communicate.

But this is a friend and he has a new series teaching. The guy is just amazing how he takes the Word of God and just releases it like a flood. This is *Proverbs Power*. He took the words of Jesus and the greatest words ever spoken, and of course, he talked about the wealth that one of the richest men in the world ever could teach us. He's taught us a lot of stuff.

But this *Proverbs Power* is now available in a teaching series where we'll take the components related to the power of Proverbs and Steve Scott just lays it out because he's able to sell. But God's moved him so far beyond that. He's built billion dollar companies and he's made people very, very wealthy. And he says, "I have enough to get by myself." That's not the real deal. The real deal is he wants us to be in the word and have the word in us. He really is a joy to be around; isn't he?

Betty: Yes, he really is.

James: Would you welcome Steven Scott back to *LIFE Today*?

Steve, good to see you.

Steven: It's great to be here. Thanks.

James: You told me before we came out here because I couldn't remember back. I'm quite a bit older than you are. But you can understand. You say you've been coming 12 years? The first time you came what were you talking about?

Steven: In 2006, I'd just come out with the book *The Richest Man Who Ever Lived: King Solomon's secrets to success, wealth, and happiness*; and of course, it was on the book of Proverbs.

Proverbs changed my life. I went from atheism to Christianity when I was 16 through the ministry of C.S. Lewis and the book *Mere Christianity*. So I loved my ministry; I had a ministry throughout my life after that. But I couldn't succeed in business. I really tried. I was married, I ended up having children and I lost nine jobs in my first six years after college. I asked people to show me their hands, how many have lost nine jobs in six and I've only found one person and he was a pastor.

[Laughter]

James: That's easy to understand.

Steven: But I couldn't succeed. And after I lost my fifth job, my best friend was visiting me from Chicago; his name was Gary Smalley. He hadn't written any of his books yet. I considered him very wise because he had gray hair. He was eight years older than me; I was 26 and he was 34.

I said, "Gary, I don't get it. I don't understand. I have a college degree. I understand my field which was marketing. I'm not stupid. I have an okay I.Q. and I'm not lazy. I'm first in, last out at every job I work at but I just can't succeed. I can't hold a job for more than six months. I don't know what to do."

And Gary was wise. He said, "Let me pray about it." So many times when we tell people a problem they shoot from the hip. But Gary was wiser than that and he said, "Let me pray about it."

The next morning he comes into our little tiny house. We had a 1200-square foot house and he said, "How would you like to be wiser than all your bosses?"

I said, "Yeah, right!"

He said, "No! There is something you can do. If you do it for two years, in two years you'll be wiser than all your bosses, and in five years you'll probably be a millionaire."

That was really ridiculous. I'd never made more than \$13,000 in a year. I never made more than half of the average wage earner in America. But he got my curiosity going so I said, "Okay, what do I got to do?"

He said, "There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, 31 days in the month. Every day read the chapter of the day with pencil and paper in hand. Write down the wisdom and insights you gain and begin to use those in your work." He said, "Do that for two years. It will take you through Proverbs 24 times and I promise you, everything will change."

Well, I started doing that. And 18 months into it -- in the next 18 months I went through jobs six, seven, and eight, but on job number nine, using the wisdom from Proverbs, I doubled the company's sales from \$30 million to \$60 million and with that I had an offer from a friend to back me in my own business. He had \$5000 and I had an idea.

Well, using the wisdom I found in Proverbs, five months later our tiny little company, our sales hit a million dollars a week. So Gary was wrong. I wasn't a millionaire in five years I was a millionaire in two and a half.

But I never chased money. I did what Proverbs says. Proverbs says if you chase after wealth it will take up wings like an eagle and fly off into the heavens. But he said, "In all labor, there is profit." So you guys do your labor and God blesses it. You haven't become wealthy but you have fed tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, you've put shoes on the feet of hundreds of thousands of kids. You've provided clean water all over the world! Why? In all labor -- it is your labor and it is motivated by love.

But I discovered that Proverbs really, it answers every question any of us could ever have about anything, marriage, business, if you're an employee or an employer, it doesn't matter, Proverbs has the answer and Solomon penned it. It was God's wisdom but the only man to ever live Proverbs perfectly, of course, was the Lord Jesus Christ. Solomon couldn't even do it.

James: So you put all the teaching into a presentation that is very easy for people to get. We're offering everyone the first, which is "Successful communication." Let me ask you, why you started that? By the way, you have a study guide that goes with "communication" and then we have a study guide that goes with the other five areas that you covered. Name the other five too. We've touched communication, it's critically important and you're going to expand on that.

Steven: One is called "The Happiness Secret." Today people aren't happy. They're entitled. They have more money, more knowledge, more everything than any generation in history but they are not happy. Well, Solomon reveals what the key to happiness is. So we get into that in the happiness secret.

Another one are the four qualities that make you valued. Most people today don't feel valued. They don't feel valued by their boss, by their spouse, by their children, by the world. We measure ourselves by the world and we don't feel valued and yet God loved us so much that he gave his only son to die for our sins. That means we are valuable.

So Solomon reveals four qualities that when you work on those four qualities your value goes way up and guess what? People don't get rid of people they value. You become the most valuable person in a corporation and they make you a partner instead firing you. Your mate values you. And guess what? They can't do enough to be with you. They love being with you. But it doesn't take a hundred qualities. Solomon reveals only four qualities -- that's all you need to be more highly valued. So that's the four qualities that make you valued.

Another one is on vision. Solomon said, "Without a vision the people perish." It is true about anything in life. If we don't have a vision for our relationship, the relationship begins to die. We don't have a vision for our job, our work, our labor, inside we begin to die toward that. Well, the converse of that is true. So where there is vision new life comes. So we show you how to gain vision and how to vision map, what we call "vision mapping" for the most important areas of your life. You don't do it for everything but you do it for what is most important to you, including your relationship with God.

With a vision comes new life and vision isn't like something mystical, it is more like a G.P.S. like Google maps. It has a destination. It has your current location. You see the alternate routes you can go, one is fast, one is scenic and it gives you your time estimates, traffic warnings and so on. Well, we show you how to map out a vision in any area of your life in that particular one.

"Breaking through Mediocrity" -- that's my problem! I was mediocre in school. I was lousy in sports. How do you break through mediocrity? Well, Solomon gives us a secret. When you do this, all of the sudden it literally says, when you do this that you'll become advisor to the kings. You'll be respected and admired by anybody in authority when you do this one thing. So we show you how to do that one thing and we'll get into that.

James: Why did you -- we have one of our guests this week is going to talk about mediocrity and how her life was transformed when she saw there was by no means mediocre when she saw the truth. Why did you start with communication? I think God is according to people who listen to me, they believe God gave me a gift to communicate and it is more than just talking

because you can talk and people not hear one thing you said; they just hear the noise. But you don't connect.

So when you talk about communication, are you talking about somehow speaking in such a way that it actually communicates, it projects, it imparts what it is that you're trying to put across or the point you're trying to make or the question you're seeking sincerely an answer for?

Steven: Much more than that -- so all that and much more. The most important part of communication is authenticity; that you are sincerely interested in the person you're communicating with; that the goal is not you, your goal is them -- that's authenticity.

Now what we do, Solomon had 30 Proverbs, that's more than any other subject other than wisdom -- 30 Proverbs on communication. Communication today is the number one problem in business -- all areas of business, not just sales and marketing. It's the number one problem with relationships, with how people treat one another. It is a huge problem. C.E.O.'s recognize the number one problem, communication. It is the number one problem in marriage. It is the number one problem in parenting. Yet Solomon answers all the problems all the questions, he gives us all the answers we need to become an effective and loving and persuasive communicator.

What happened was I learned these secrets from Solomon and then I needed a mentor and Gary Smalley mentored me in four communication techniques that allowed me to do what Solomon said. So in this series, we don't just read Proverbs, it is not a sermon. It's really a mentoring series. So it's how to apply those to the areas I want. Communication, I know when Amy Smalley is with us later this week we're going to hit communication because that is the key in their counseling ministry. But we can solve all communication problems and it is huge.

James: In the book Betty and I wrote on marriage, *Living in Love* we talked about open, honest communication as being the major key in a meaningful relationship, in a lasting relationship and that's true; isn't it?

Steven: It is. People don't even know where to start. Like with a man and a woman, and we get into this, right away you have a gender difference. Men typically, 90% of all men are left brain dominant; that's the analytical side. Women, 90% of all women are right brain dominant; that is the feeling and visual side. Now we have a communication problem.

Betty says, "James, I don't think you ought to do that with that person."

You say, "Why?"

She doesn't have a logical reason but her spirit is picking up on something that you're not picking

up on. But you're left brain dominant so you say, "Well, I just don't see that, Betty. This person is a nice person and this and that." So right away there is a conflict.

Well, there is one communication technique and we teach it, it is called "emotional word pictures" that bridges left brain and right brain. So she gives you a picture. She tells you a little story. All of the sudden it fires up the right side of your brain and you go, "Whoa! Now I see what you're saying." And she didn't have to get logical. She just had to enable you to feel what she's feeling and to emotionally and spiritually, hopefully, see what she is seeing. Without that one little technique, you can't do it.

Betty: Well, in a lot of communication too depends on being good listeners; don't you think and listen to the heart? Because I know that a lot of marriages, they say, "Well, I communicate well. I tell her what I think and what I..." It's all them spewing out all the...

Steven: In fact, that's what Solomon says is foolish communication is the one who speaks before they listen. It says, "A fool answers before he hears. A wise man hears first."

The key to communication, we teach all of this in here, the foundation has nine things to it. Well, the foundation, the cement of the foundation is learning your frame of reference if I want to communicate with you. Well, how do I know Betty's frame of reference? I have to ask questions and listen before I ever speak. That's not natural but that's wise and that's what we do in this whole series. We not only get into the strategies and the wisdom behind everything we do, but then we give the specific skill sets and techniques.

Solomon says, for example, "A wise man trains his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips." The word in the Hebrew for train is bridle. He bridles his tongue. He shuts his mouth first, not last! And then adds persuasiveness, not manipulation. He says, "A wise man makes knowledge acceptable." But in the Hebrew the word is *tastes good*. If I offer you sauerkraut with sour milk on it, you take one taste and you don't want to receive it. But I offer you a Hershey, a bite of a Hershey chocolate bar and then I set it down and I go out, guess what? The rest of the bar will be gone before I get back because it tastes so good!

[Laughter]

And there is a way we can do that with our communication. We make wisdom and knowledge taste good. It changes everything.

James: I don't know that there's a bigger focal point of the enemy's, the deceiver's assault than on communication, to disrupt it. I know that in the first probably six months of our marriage, and we've had times and we had plenty of reason to have a challenge, most of the people sitting

watching on television would say, "She's living with one, baby. We know she had a challenge. Y'all had lots of them!" No question.

But in the first six months I would say that we'd dated -- we actually dated four years that I would say communication was the biggest thing the enemy attacked. He would even get it to where she wouldn't even talk; she would go to the other room. Of course, I followed her there and said, "This is not how we're going to do it. We're going to talk and we're going to confront and we're going to deal with issues." And she is pouty. But the point was I made my point, I was determined, I was a determined communicator; right?

Betty: Yes. You still are.

James: But it wasn't going to work. And really, the truth is though we began to communicate. The beautiful thing about it is now, this woman communicates to me and I'm supposed to know well great speakers and communicators and leaders, this woman communicates with me so beautifully and even on television, she doesn't like to talk a lot. We have to encourage her. We're over here signaling, come on in, Betty. Come on in. And everybody loves to hear her but when she shares, she communicates. She doesn't just say some words, and her hearts communicating. So I think it is important for people to understand.

Steve, I believe God's given you wonderful wisdom. I praise the Lord for the way that wisdom flows. I hope everyone that's in this studio and everyone watching will get *Proverbs Power* and give us an opportunity to give you this series. Would you say thanks to Steve for the wisdom that he shared with us? Everything that you've published has been such a tremendous blessing and want to thank you for it.

Then I want to say this to all of you and those of you here who pray for us and who support us, and those of you watching perhaps for the first time or some of you have watched us a lot. By the way, you can't watch *LIFE Today* to the end and not make a difference, a powerful, positive difference in someone's life unless you just say, "I don't want to know about it. I don't want to know whether there's a need. Or I don't want to know where there is a problem I could solve."

Well, why wouldn't you? Why wouldn't you want every problem you face to be solved if someone could? Well, here's the deal. You can. I'm not exaggerating. So I want you to look and I want you to see yes, a serious problem like you also have them, but here's one you can solve perfectly -- really, even miraculously with the power of love because it is love -- love that never fails. Watch.

On the mission field

Isak: It really just breaks my heart how the children in this village know what it means to have an empty bowl because empty bowls mean empty stomachs and empty stomachs mean going to be a night after night suffering from the pain of hunger, starvation, malnutrition and ultimately death.

The graves are full -- full of children; precious little lives, children who have a name, children who mean so much to their family, children whose lives are stolen simply because they didn't have enough food.

Open Captions:

>> Sometimes we pick leaves so we can eat for one day. I am so tired of this life. I don't know how long we can last. I have nothing. What are we going to do to survive?

[Crying]

Isak: We can end that pain. We can end the suffering of children going to bed at night with the pain of hunger. We can end the cycle of death, of mother burying child because she wasn't able to give them enough food. It is so easy to change it.

Please, give the gift of life to these children and fill the empty bowls.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, that's precisely what you do. I was even watching -- this is the lead missionary over all of Africa, Peter Pretorius. We've been working with him and his wife Ann and all the thousands of workers that are part of the mission outreach. And that's his son, that's Isak.

I'm looking, Betty, at the soup being portioned out, the nutritious mix and there are all those colorful bowls that you, somebody like you, just like I said a moment ago, you are a part of miracle. You watched us taking old rusty cans that they would bring, all sizes, all different kinds of containers, most of them appeared to be very unsanitary, and sometimes plastic bags and the hot porridge mix would burn through the bag and you'd watch them drop down in the dirt and start scooping up the mix right out of the dirt that went through the bag. You know what you said? Why don't you give them some bowls?" Some of our viewers said, "How about heat resistant bowls" because they saw little children pull their hand back because the hot soup in the tin can burned their little hands.

See, that's what love does, Betty. Love looks and sees a need and then asks can I meet it? Can it be met? Could I help meet it? Here's the deal. Now think about what I'm saying this is not an exaggeration. We've got 400,000 children that are right now malnourished in various locations throughout Africa. Many you'll see were there in Angola and places like that. And when you see these children, the missionaries, full of love and compassion who planted their life in the midst of that pain are saying, "Let's feed them. Let's get them healthy. Let's get them back on their feet and let's give them a life." And it changes everything! And those missionaries lead these people to Christ because they've seen the love of God before they hear about it, they see it.

So here's what you can do. Now this is the truth. For \$30 -- it's hard to believe but it is true, Betty -- \$50 or \$100 you can feed three, five or ten children for the next several months. That is not an exaggeration. And in a matter of months, six months to a year, it stabilizes everything. It is like a miracle -- a God-breathed miracle through you.

So would you right now go online or would you dial that number, take the time to get your bankcard, go get it, don't miss the number if you have to write it down but I want you to call and take that card and say, "I'm going to feed ten children."

You say, "Why didn't you say three?" Because I'm always going to ask you to reach above and beyond what you might first think. A lot of times, we have a tendency to downsize in the wrong way so I'm always going to try to stretch. Let me tell you something. If you help three with the gift of \$30, that is huge to those three. There's no small gift, it is huge! It is life changing, life giving. \$30, \$50, or \$100, three, five or ten children -- you could very well save their lives and point them to Christ, encourage those missionaries. \$1000, and some of you can do it, you'll feed 100.

We have some gifts to send you. We want to send you the power of Proverbs. Any gift we're sending you the very first lesson on communication with a study guide. And then the other lessons if you'll make a gift of \$100 or more. We have the beautiful Thomas Kinkade canvas painting, it is beautiful -- framed! That we'll send you, the "Bridge of Faith" because for many, you give \$1,000 you say, "Boy, that is a big step of faith." But look what it does -- look what it does for 100 children. And likely, very likely it changes everything.

Would you dial that number right now? Or would you go online and make the gift God put on your heart? We have a gift to bless you. The wisdom God freely offers, we're going to try to make available to you in a transformative way. Thank you so much for making the gift. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and drought-stricken areas of Africa children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face severe malnutrition -- even death.

With your support LIFE's Mission Feeding outreach can save lives by feeding and caring for children in the hardest hit areas of Angola, Mozambique, and South Sudan. With previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding helping in areas with severe crop failure we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children who are counting on us.

Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. And with your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Proverbs Power: Successful Communication*. This powerful CD series, along with study guide featuring Steven K. Scott unveils the secrets to incredible wisdom found only in the book of Proverbs. This series will give you the tools to transform your relationships in life.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the complete *Proverbs Power* library featuring five power-packed sessions that include: The Power of Vision, Breaking through Mediocrity, and much more.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request the "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hope you're excited about being a blessing. I'm telling you, Betty and I live excited because we find great joy in seeking to be a blessing in someone's life. I have so much fun talking to people about Jesus. And by the way, it works when they believe you care. Not just that you're talking religion, you care about them. We want to send you *Proverbs Power*. I'm telling you, the wisdom of God changes far more than you could ever imagine.

Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Steve? He's going to be back with us with another guest and we're going to be talking about the power of wisdom, *Proverbs Power*. Thanks for watching.