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Week 36: Christmas Shoes and Smiles

"Kingdom Living" #3

James Robison

Tony Evans, Dudley Hall, Jim Hylton

James: I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I hope you've been enjoying the programs this week with Dr. Tony Evans. It is so important that every believer understand that we have been left here on a divine assignment. We've been commissioned. We're on a mission. It is not to get out of here. When we receive Christ we receive heaven forever, eternity is secure -- no enemy, no conflict there.

But in this world, in this realm, a fallen realm we're here on a divine assignment as missionaries to represent the King of kings, Lord of lords as an ambassador and as more than conquerors, as overcomers. We're to make a kingdom imprint, an impact on every area of life; that's what it is to live with kingdom purpose.

I don't know anyone who understands this any better than Dr. Tony Evans, and clearly, so biblically lays it out. All week we've been talking about it. Today we conclude. You don't want to miss this. I even think it would be wonderful to go back and listen to all of them from time to time as a Bible study time. Here is Tony Evans talking about *Kingdom Disciples* and *Kingdom Life*. It is an imperative. Be blessed and you're going to bless others beyond imagination for all eternity -- kingdom people!

Begin video clip

James: Jim and Dudley, I want to ask if you have something you want to make, a comment you want to make or a question you'd like to ask Tony?

Dudley: Well, I was just going to comment on what you were saying earlier, Tony about politics and then the spheres. It seems to me that one of the things that's happened in our culture is that we go straight to the politics to say we can change culture by changing politics and not realizing that politics is downstream from culture. So I think the desperation is already there in some areas like education because all these people here, they're either parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, whatever. You've got kids, grandkids, great grandkids whatever in some school somewhere and the whole education system from academia, in the universities all the way down is shot through with post modernism, not a Christian worldview, and those kids are going to be running things in a few years. And if that does not make us desperate then what is? Are we going to wait for an economic disaster or a military disaster? There's already a disaster going on. And so my question to you was, how far along are you in this and what are you seeing the people do? How is it working when they adopt a public school or whatever?

Tony: For those who actually engage it, we get all kinds of supernatural testimonies of the environment changing in the school, of parents being impacted. And then we show them how to then -- we respect separation of church and state while they're in the school but we show them how to then use the church as a drawing back to the kingdom of God. So we show them how to do that. We train thousands of people now so we have hundreds of schools that have been adopted and so we're seeing this slowly move. It is a slow move because they've got to get used to this is a little different paradigm, particularly from a discipleship mentality.

What's happening in the culture, and you mentioned something very critical because education is a disaster right now and the Christian worldview is not only rejected, it's attacked. Then you've got the racial strife, then you've got the political division so we're getting hit from every which way. And I think that's why more and more people are calling on hearing more about this worldview because they're seeing just having church is not working. So I think we are getting to a tipping point of a crisis being so deep and us getting so desperate that the kingdom opportunity, the door's opening wide for that message to be heard and received.

James: One thing I've shared with this group the last few weeks and on our own program is I

feel like in America today the enemy has actually overplayed his hand. I think he has actually revealed his not only divisive but destructive, damaging nature and I think he has revealed his ugliness. I think common sense Americans are fed up with the ugliness of what they're seeing: The political correctness, the manipulated media, the deception, the academics that have absolutely no appreciation not only for our nation, our founders, for our history, for any of the positives and no biblical worldview. And I think the common sense people said, "This is not working. It is ugly. It is destroying the economy." Do you agree with that?

Tony: Absolutely.

James: And don't you think this is the manifestation of the enemy's acts but don't you think it is God giving him room because the hedge is down at our own choice? We are becoming a reprobate in our thinking and now the population like the last verses of Romans one says, "We not only do those things but we give hearty approval to everybody doing them." And doesn't that look like America?

Tony: That is America right now.

James: So people are saying we've had it and anybody that would say, "We want to go away from that," people get excited about it. But what they've got to realize is there is no president, no leader, no congress that is going to lead us in the right direction if we don't know what the right direction is. And the right direction is what God says is right, what is good is right, what is righteous is right, what he says is correct is correct, and it's the church that has to carry that message. And even if you know what's right and you don't have a transformed heart by the power of the gospel you're not going to live it.

And if America does prosper like it looks like we are in some ways now, if we don't have a change of heart the more we prosper the more idolatrous we become and we'll be digging another pit and getting right back in it. So there's no substitute for the gospel and there is no substitute for people being involved in every area of American life.

Tony: What pulpits for far too long failed to understand is the difference between the content of the gospel and the scope of the gospel. See the content of the gospel is narrow. It is faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. So we're good with that. Evangelism, let's win people to Christ. Let's get them to heaven.

But the word *gospel*, Euangelion, is used in the Bible broader than just that. It is used in the Bible to solve the race issue. In Galatians chapter two and Peter is eating pork chops with the Gentiles because he found out they could cook –

[Laughter]

He's eating pork chops with the Gentiles and then some of the boys from the Jews show up and Peter is intimidated. He moves his chair, segregates himself and now there's a division. Paul comes in. He wanted pork chops too. He comes in. When Paul comes in it says, "I confronted Peter." Now Peter is a believer, he is a leader. I confronted him before them all -- it was public. He says, "Because you were an affront to the truth of the gospel." He wasn't talking about how to get to heaven. He was talking about you're not applying the gospel in this racial situation.

It doesn't take 250 years to solve a racial problem. It takes two and a half minutes if you're kingdom minded and because we're not kingdom minded we have seminars and workshops when there is a word from God that is definitive on this issue.

James: Can we see a miraculous healing right now racially in our country?

Tony: It will be a miraculous healing if it happens and it will be because God had a church to work with through which he could demonstrate what healing looks like.

James: You've seen me put forth a lot of effort to try to contribute to this; haven't you?

Tony: You have.

James: Do you have any suggestions before the whole world, to me, and to all the people here in this room?

Tony: Well, I think every influencer should move to a kingdom motif like you have. So we've got to get this kingdom mind-set in our leadership so they can pass it down. And then we have to come alongside and support in prayer, and support the message going as far as it can go to have as much infiltration as it could have so that more and more people can be trained in it. Because you can like it but not do anything with it if you don't know how to do that.

So we want to get our resources out so that people can see -- our biggest seller is the book, *Kingdom Man*. The great fulfillment I get is all the men around the country who are saying, "This kingdom understanding I'm supposed to not just be a male but a kingdom man." That has lit me up. This kingdom concept will light you up, and when it lights you up, you affect your world. You get enough people doing that and every place you run into you're running into a kingdom something.

James: I just believe we are real close to seeing that kind of move of God on the people in this country who know him. I believe people who know the Lord realize that we are walking far short of the power and glory that he says we're to walk and live in. I think it is high time we step up and we allow him to be manifest through us and carry us.

With all my heart, I just say this to you, I am available to you and you know I mean that. You've shown me everything I can do to help build the reconciliation, the relationships we need because I not only long for it, Jesus longs for it and he prayed for it. And if he prayed for it, it's real important. And what he prays for has become more important to me at this point in my life than what I pray. I want his prayer. I believe we can see it in our day.

Do you think it is possible that we can see his prayer answered and we really have this supernatural unity that he prayed for?

Tony: Because God is on the throne, it very much is possible. You brought up a very good

point in John 17 when Jesus has his high priestly prayer. He says that they might be one but then he goes on to say around verse 23 this. He says, "So that they will see your glory." See that's what you're wanting. You're wanting God's glory, his visible manifestation to show up. But it is conditional. It is conditional on their oneness. Oneness does not mean sameness. Oneness mean unity of purpose.

James: And it starts with oneness with the Father.

Tony: That's right! One with him, one with each other so that -- we have one God composed of three co-equal persons, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit but they all make up the one godhead like a pretzel with three holes. First hole is not the second hole, second hole is not the third hole but they're all tied together by the same dough. So they all have divine nature.

So Satan's tactic is to create disunity because he knows the unified God will not be himself in a disunified environment -- even in a family. He tells the husband, First Peter 3:7, "Don't pray if you and your wife are in conflict because I can't hear you." Because the unified God will not function in a disunified environment. So he keeps the church divided, he keeps races divided so that God has to stay away because God can't be himself in that environment.

James: Wow! The Spirit of God jumps all over me, sometimes convicting me but sometimes making me want to shout. Because see, not only have Betty and I never gone to sleep angry -- now we once went three weeks without sleep.

[Laughter]

We took that so serious -- listen to me -- we took it so serious, I can't even stand an hour of being out of fellowship with her. You just can't believe how much love I poured on her before I walked out the door. I mean 55 years married, four years dating before that, 60 years and she is so precious. I told her, I said, "Betty, there is no way to explain what you've meant in my life. I don't think I'm ever going to be able to tell you enough. I don't know if I'll ever be able to

communicate it enough."

But if we ever get even a little bit of tension, Tony, I can't take it. You know why? Because it breaks the fellowship that's possible with him and I can't stand that. I don't want to lose that fellowship. If I thought you were unhappy with me, I wouldn't be able to go to sleep until I talked to you. And I mean that. So don't you ever get unhappy with me and not call me...

Tony: So you can sleep.

James: So I can sleep. Jim, you want to ask Tony something? It's pretty good; isn't it?

Jim: Oh my goodness! I'm having to keep my seatbelt fastened here. I'm about to float away. Thank you. You know I read a book that the earth is the Lord's. And the author of that, I think you've read that author before; right? The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and every person who lives in it.

When Jesus the king came in kingdom operation he didn't come out of a sacred place. He came out of the unlikely place of Nazareth and it had a reputation: No good thing could come out of it. So too many times we write off the place that Jesus is coming from because many times when there's the moniker, "no good things coming from this source," the king shows up. We must break out of this fact that there is a sacred place and a secular place. The whole earth is his, every person in it. And the kingdom calls us to love the people that are even enemies. I think you have demonstrated that as I've known you through the years.

And you've been a mentor to me personally. I want to publically thank you because I learned from you as a young pastor in this city. There was a time I was young. I can barely remember it.

[Laughter]

But I do recall.

Now, talk to us a little bit about how we break out of this thing that the kingdom is going to come to the church campus and that will be the landing place for the kingdom. The fact is the landing place is as big as what God created; is that correct?

Tony: Absolutely. You hit on something very critical that has stymied the church and that is this illegitimate division between secular and sacred. Since the whole earth is the Lord's that means everything becomes sacred. In fact, in the dominion covenant which God established in Genesis Chapter 1, verses 26 and 28 he says, "I put you here to rule." We are to act as his agents, managers of what he owns. And he works through his management company, his agency, the church in order to manage his affairs. Well, we're messing up his product because it's not being managed as the owner had in mind and that's because we've got this bifurcation.

The key phrase here is God told the church, "I'm going to give you the keys not of the church. I'm going to give you the keys of the kingdom." We have turned kingdom keys into church keys and that's not what the keys are for. And how do you know when you have kingdom keys? He says in verse 19: "Because whatever you bind on earth I will bind on heaven, whatever you loose on earth I will loose in heaven." So we're waiting on God when God is waiting on us. So we are actually holding up God from doing his kingly activity in history because we're more interested in the church than the kingdom.

Jim: Right! Thank you!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! Father, I pray that everyone with ears to hear will hear what the spirit, your spirit is saying to the church. Stop listening to all the spirits that are firing darts and thoughts and accusations and dissension at people and resist that and quench those darts and receive your transforming truth and release it; in Jesus' name.

If you get the message that's been shared this week, the importance of kingdom life and kingdom reality, and understand that's why we've been left here. From the time I became a Christian and I sold out to God, and Betty and I together said, "We're losing our life." We didn't understand the full depth of it but with all of our heart, as much as we said, without understanding everything about marriage, when we said "I do" to one another, "I do assume this role and this responsibility, and I make this commitment to you before God and man," we knew with the fullness of everything we understood that we meant it, we were going to be together. But when we said yes to Jesus with everything we understood we said, "We are losing our life for your sake, for your purpose." Let me just tell you this, it was greater than anything we ever imagined but we were serious about it. And it is time for people to get serious.

Now we've had those times in our life when we've had to come back to that first love and back to an understanding of why we're here. We're not here to get out of here. We're here to bring him here in manifest power and presence; the influence of who he is -- that's why we're here. I pray with all my heart you get that.

We really do enjoy, I mean with everything in us, we enjoy sharing the king's life. One of the greatest ambassadors we know is Tammy Trent. You're going to see someone who lost her husband, a swimmer and yet he drowned, but she didn't lose her purpose, kingdom purpose fulfilled. Watch closely. This is going to bless you.

On the mission field

Tammy: It's a great day when you can give "unto the least of these." I have hung out in this village all afternoon and I could not wait for this moment to be honest with you. But I've had a chance to play with the children. We've hung out and I've played at their playground with them. But you would not imagine what playground they play on. It was filled with broken glass, broken tin cans, all kinds of debris, trash, animals everywhere, fecal matter everywhere. And I'm watching the kids play in this stuff. It was just awful. We would never allow our children to play in an atmosphere like that. But that's all they have in this village and they were the happiest children I've ever seen.

Yet even in that moment we witnessed before our very own eyes a little boy stepping into something and cutting his foot. The reason why is because you'll look around and you see that most of these kids don't even have shoes -- not hardly one of them. If they do, they're broken apart and falling apart. It's just not a good scene.

So let's do something special this time of year. It's not just about a pretty pair of shoes, it's so much more than that. It is really about the quality of life and something so simple as putting on a brand-new pair of shoes on their feet that will protect their feet whether it is infection, cuts, hook worm, whatever it is, it is going to protect their life. It is so simple. Thank you so much *Life Outreach* for making this possible for these children and hundreds of thousands of children across the world. Thank you so much for giving and if you haven't had an opportunity to do that I would encourage you to partner with us today. Let's do it. Let's make a difference one child at a time.

They're a perfect fit!

End of clip

In the studio

James: God bless you, Tammy Trent. I don't know how you could fail to see the beauty of Jesus, and I think the manifestation of kingdom reality in Tammy's face. She loves those children.

She lost her husband, a swimmer and of all things, drowned in beautiful crystal clear water. How could it happen? There are so many things in life that break our heart.

But one thing that heals even our broken heart is a sincere desire to heal the broken heart of others. I think when we release love, we experience it. The more we express it, the more we experience it in its fullness and reality. I think if you will ask God for the grace to forgive you're going to find a sense of cleansing and refreshing in your own spirit that is almost indescribable.

Well, I'm holding one of these little shoes. We've got them in all sizes. We've got them in the tiny size. Precious little feet! 150,000 children that we're seeking to put shoes on their feet. Understand that the missionaries reveal to us the areas which you just saw where those terrible cuts, that horrible big toe so infected, almost wonder if they're going to lose that toe. In fact, they not only lose a toe oftentimes but hookworms will get into their brain and can kill them. So it really is important that we protect them from the bacteria.

\$36 will give ten kids a pair of shoes for Christmas; \$72, 20 kids! Would you make a gift right now by going online? And would you take your bankcard or would you write a check and make it to *LIFE*? And would you give Christmas Shoes and Smiles to 150,000 children shoes, and as many smiles as possible? Example, \$1,000 and we can do two of those cleft palate surgeries. And it is a miracle. Sometimes it not only gives them a smile, a better appearance but actually the ability to eat and to talk far more clearly. So whatever you can do.

Father, I just pray everyone watching today would express the power of your kingdom, the reality of it, the reality of your love by saying, "I'm going to put some shoes on little feet and I'm going to give someone a smile because you, Father have enabled me to be able to do it; in Jesus' name."

Would you right now go online or dial that number? It's always there if you need prayer. Always, so grateful we can pray for you, pray with you. Or would you please call or go online and take that card and use it like a check? Remember, that's how we're supposed to use those cards; that's wise. Thank you so much for doing it. By the way, if you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but be kind enough to call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail because we really have a time limit. We've got to get these shoes so we can get them to the children by Christmas and point them to the great gift God made when he gave his son for us.

Thanks so much for watching. Let's be kingdom-minded people. Tell your friends to watch. Don't miss the next program!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we often take for granted like a simple pair of shoes. Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections and disease that can lead to crippling consequences and even death.

By responding today you can help immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas Shoes to 150,000 children around the world and for many, just in time for the holidays! Your gift of \$36 will help provide 10 pairs of shoes, a gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pair and a gift of \$180 will help provide 50 pairs of Christmas Shoes for children in need.

As a thank you for your gift of support, be sure to request this beautifully crafted red crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display at each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request "The Light Shines in Darkness" frosted glass candle featuring a beautiful golden design that's scripture from John 1:5.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request the "Bridge of Faith" canvas print by Thomas Kinkade. Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip**In the studio**

James: Well, I want you to get one of those little crystal shoes. I want us to give 150,000 children shoes for Christmas. "The light shines in the darkness." That's what happens when we just express love to those children you just saw.

Thanks Tammy Trent for joining us so often on the mission field. What a blessing you are. Thanks for being a kingdom person. That's what you are.

Thank you so much for joining us in kingdom purpose. Please go online or call that number and you make the gift God put on your heart. That's fulfilling kingdom purpose and it is a joy. Thank you!