

**8/14/18**

**Week 33: WFL last week**

**James and Betty Robison**

**Andy McQuitty**

**James:** Thank you. I'm thrilled to welcome you. I'm just excited about my guest, Andy McQuitty. I'm James Robison; Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Andy is a friend. He is the pastor of Irving Bible church, more than 30 years.

About ten years ago I called a group of leaders together, probably about as visible of leaders, church leaders as there are in the country and we really began to seek the Lord for God to do something to begin to heal our nation because it was obvious we were headed in the wrong direction. Andy stepped up to encourage me; got me to read a book that we still hold these truths. It was great. It's a great book. But he prayed for me.

Our daughter battled cancer while he battled cancer and he prayed for our daughter Robin the whole time he was battling it. Our daughter won in heaven and he won here for now. But we've kind of walked some things out together. So to say that there's a bond of love and understanding would almost sound like an understatement.

I love Andy McQuitty. I love Irving Bible church. I love all our friends from Dallas Theological; Tony Evans being one of them, many of them, Bruce Wilkerson has been here, so many that have done so much to impact people's lives. Praise God for them -- Swindoll, on and on we go.

I'm glad he is here. I'm real excited about it. Would you welcome Andy McQuitty?

**Andy:** Glad to be here.

**James:** Why did you seem to get involved with what was going on in my heart ten years ago? Is that the Irish blood coming out? What was it?

**Andrew:** I think it is we are brothers in our Celtic heritage; I'm sure that's part of it. I think part of it is that we're kindred spirits in terms of our love for this country and our love for God and our love for people. I have always seen you -- you have always been my leader in showing love. I hope I'm not giving away a secret about James Robison tonight because you're known for your amazing powerful preaching of the truth and so forth. What I know you for, and other pastors around the country is your servanthood and your love for us -- and your love for people. I hope I didn't just destroy your image there. But you are the most loving person.

I feel the same way. I've felt the same way that you felt about our country, about God, about the church, about people and so, man, when I got a chance to be around you and have that rub off on me, then I just wanted to pray for you and to hold you up.

**James:** Well, we really walked the battle with you when you were fighting for your life; and you were fighting for your life and helping fight for our daughter's life with us. I know the love there. So you're real special to me, Andy. I want you to just continue to lift up Jesus and know that we love you. And you know you've been a real blessing to us and you are to many.

Okay, *The Way to Brave*, shaping a David faith in today's Goliath world. You said to me just privately this is not about the David and Goliath battle but it is about the David of that battle and what went on inside of him. So what do you want us to get? You love your church. You love *the* church and you love people. And you want people to let God love through them the way he loves. So what are you giving us?

**Andy:** I want for Christ followers in America today to go forward into our post Christendom America in terms of the changes, the cultural changes about our faith and our values as Christians. It has changed in this country. We're not in Kansas anymore. I

see that the changes are trumpeted in the four major cultural definers of the government, the media, the entertainment industry, and the academy. If you want to know what our culture thinks about Christianity, just watch the Oscars. Or just look at the Supreme Court's decisions. Or just look at the United States government in terms of approving certain people for positions based on whether or not they're Christians -- they don't want Christians.

**James:** Look at what the schools are teaching. Everything is anti-God.

**Andy:** And so we have I think in our country today a new land of giants. It's kind of like when Caleb went in the Old Testament to spy out the Promised Land. He found the Nephilim, and they came back and the other spies reported, "We were like grasshoppers in their sight." And then the next sentence is, "And we were like grasshoppers in our sight." It's kind of like, "We're in the land of giants."

So the question that I'm asking in this sea change in our culture, being a Christian and a Christ-follower in post Christendom America, what do we need more than anything else? We need bravery. We need courage, which is the hallmark of our elder brothers and sisters in the faith through 2100 years of church history as they also had walked into oppositional cultures to their faith.

So how do we get it? How do we get this bravery? How do we get this courage? I really want people to understand that this book is not a reaction in fear to the sea change in our country, it is actually a challenge of love because courage is defined by many as standing firm and fighting bravely in a battle to the death. That may be courage in some instances but that's not what the courage I'm talking about in this book is all about. The word *courage* actually comes from an old Anglo/Franco word *couer* which means heart -- heart! And where there is heart there is love and where there is love there is courage.

I think if you go to Psalm 18 you will find the source of David's courage which was love. It was love! He says in Psalm 18, he says, "O Lord, I love you my strength. You are my

fortress, my rock, and my refuge." His love created the way of courage. So whenever David came to fight Goliath, he stood against Goliath, not because God took away his fear but because love informed his faith.

So what this book is about is how do we get on this way of "brave" by developing our love for God? The book is really not about...

**James:** You took David as an example.

**Andrew:** I took David as an example because he shows how his love propelled him into preparation and discipleship to make him courageous, to make him brave. It was not a momentary act of bravado. It was not some psychological ginning up of courage to meet a certain crisis. God had built in him a steady intrepid faith -- not for the moment but for a lifetime. That's what we're after here. I think that what that means for the New Testament church, keying in on David's example is that *The Way to Brave* is Christian discipleship. In the context of community, I think as Christians in America, in a post Christendom America we're going to be brave as we learn how to love God together by letting him prepare us in five specific ways that he prepared David.

**James:** By the way, if we're really loving him we will love each other and we won't really love each other correctly if we don't really love him. It has to start there. Give me those five points. Break them out for me.

**Andrew:** I thought, okay, what is a great example of courage in the Old Testament? So obviously, my hero, everybody's hero is David. I went back to First Samuel 16 and 17. David's preparation and battle with Goliath, 16 and 17 of First Samuel. I found five things that just jumped off of the page. That God prepared David to be the courageous so that he would step up and fight the giant. I'm very interested in the dramatic story of David defeating Goliath but that's not what I'm most courage about. I'm most curious about what was it that God had done in David's life that made him willing to even go fight the giant? I find five things and they're very simple and they spring out of David's

example but I think they transfer to the New Testament church. These are the ways that God prepared David the way he wants to prepare us as Christians and Christ followers in the New Testament church.

God called David. David was sure -- he knew what God wanted him to do and he derived courage from knowing his call.

He was anointed. Samuel anointed him with oil. It's a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Only prophets, priests and kings were anointed with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for certain specific tasks. Thankfully in the New Testament after Pentecost all of us as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us but God anointed him.

He called him, he anointed him, and he broke him of his pride so that his confidence would not be in his own abilities but in the power of God. Broke him of his pride by I think his upbringing in a home in which he was somewhat cast out by his father and his brothers. Some Jewish historians think that David was an illegitimate child, and that perhaps explains why in Psalm 51 David says, "In sin did my mother conceive me."

But David is the Old Testament Cinderella story. His father Jesse takes the favored older brothers and they go off to the ball and meet Saul and the battle and all the drama there and leave David over here with the stinky sheep. And I think it broke David of his pride. He was susceptible to pride because we know from scripture that he was handsome and he was athletic and he was a natural leader. He had everything that Saul had before him that caused Saul to disobey God. And God spared David by that by breaking his pride. The New Testament says God opposes the proud but he gives grace to the humble. God wanted to give grace to David so he broke him. I think we need to be broken of our pride.

The fourth, and I'm running through these things but God tested David.

**James:** But you wrote a book so you didn't have to run through them.

**Andrew:** I did! So I'm trying to speed talk.

**James:** You need to camp on them a while.

**Andy:** So David goes up to Saul and says, "I'll fight him."

Saul says, "No. Not on my watch. He will take you apart."

-- Essentially, David says, "I beg to differ. When I was caring for my father's sheep there was a lion, there was a bear." And the lion and the bear didn't just come to eat David's sheep, they came to eat David; right? And David said to Saul, "I killed them. I killed them."

**James:** That's big stuff.

**Andy:** It's big stuff. As I write in the book, no self-respecting shepherd would ever fight a giant who had not already killed a bear and a lion. Right? And this goes to the issue of testing. In the church today I think that many people have lost the idea that trials and temptations and testings are blessings to be embraced. James one, I love the Phillips translation: My brothers, when all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, do not resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends.

**James:** That's hard to do, Andy.

**Andy:** It's hard to do but it's essential that we do it because as God tests us he puts us in the crucible which strengthens our faith and enables us to face the Goliaths of our day. Without the lion and the bear, David never would have defeated Goliath. What Goliath for us will we never defeat unless we endure the testing that strengthens our faith?

The last point, I want to get them all in, is training. David was trained in the weapon of

his warfare which was a stone and a sling. You know Malcolm Gladwell's book talks about the slingers of Israel and David was one of them. These guys could knock a pigeon out of flight at 30 yards with a stone the size of a man's fist.

**James:** A moving pigeon?

**Andrew:** A moving pigeon going 100 miles an hour. They were the ancient artillery. David was skilled with a stone and sling. I've been over there to Bethlehem on those hills, and you have too, and picture a teenage boy on those hills with nothing but rocks. And boys with a sling and nothing but rocks, they're going to get really good. He got really good. He was trained.

So what's the only offensive weapon in the Christian's tool bag in the New Testament? Paul says it in Ephesians: The sword of the spirit is the Word of God. We have to be people of the book. We have to be trained in the scriptures.

**James:** Jesus overcame the enemy with the word.

**Andy:** We've got to be like Jesus. We've got to be trained.

**James:** And the word of our testimony is not just us giving the devil our testimony, it is the word of his testimony. It is the word of everything he says. That's the power; isn't it?

**Andy:** It's the power. I contend that if we will take these five preparatory principles from David's life and institute them in our churches in the New Testament that communally together, as we experience the power of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ which is the church, as we help each other to walk through breaking experiences and testing experiences just like we walked through them with our families back years ago, as we are certified in our calling as God's people in this world, which I'm convinced is the Old Testament Abrahamic covenant where God said, "Abraham, I'm going to bless you that you may be a blessing."

It's the same thing in the New Testament; First Peter two, we as Christians are to go as foreigners and strangers into this oppositional culture and live such good lives in the midst of the people that they will turn to our God, First Peter 2:11. We're to create pockets of peace and shalom in our world where God blesses us and is blessed so that his ways may be known to the world, Psalm 67 and salvation come to the nations. We do this, sure of our calling, in the power of the Holy Spirit, together, broken of our pride, our confidence and trust in God, tested so that our faith is strong and people of the book so that we know where we stand, I'm telling you, we will be on *The Way to Brave*.

**James:** And filled with the spirit that he said he sent to be with us all the time. So we need to realize that there is no substitute for living like David. And David missed the mark. He failed miserably but his God would not fail him and his God did heal his broken heart and his God did use in restoration a fallen man who came back to that walk with that same shepherd heart you're talking about.

This has got to be a phenomenal book because I know what's going on in your heart. We've become close enough together to share the Father's heart and to pray for people all over this nation and all over the world so I know what you're doing is going to be a blessing. And I hope everybody gets it.

Would you thank Andy McQuitty for coming over here and sharing with all of us in the church what I know he has been sharing at Irving Bible Church? Here it is. It's in the bookstores.

Andy, we are in our last week of this emphasis on drilling water wells. We've been drilling 6,000 of them now, saved millions of lives, led millions of people to Christ and it is our viewers that make it happen. So I know you'll be praying for us and everybody watching who can help give a cup of water, drill a well of water will do it. I'm going to give everybody this book. We're giving away a book that I wrote along with some of our guests contributing, the *The Miracles of Christ*. It's a gift book. It is something to read in

short order and be inspired. This will take a little while but it will be like sitting in the presence of the Lord with the word open.

I'll tell you what, this last week now, let's everybody that can give make a gift. Whatever you give we're going to send those two books to you. You just give a cup of water. Listen. \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. \$144 will give 30. The wells are \$4800. You may be able to drill a well or give \$1200 or \$2400 toward it. I don't know what you can do but you ask God. And I want you to listen right now -- I want you to listen to the heart cry of a mother and you are the answer to the heart cry of many mothers, many children and I think you will want to be.

### **Begin video clip**

**Announcer:** In Cambodia, finding water often isn't the problem. It can be seen in abundance nourishing rice fields and livestock. But for its people it presents a devastating choice, share this same water with your children or go without. Mothers like Kunmau know this burden all too well.

### **Open Captions:**

>> My three year old baby got sick. Diarrhea... All the time. I was also pregnant and then I started to get sick too. I tried to get my baby to the hospital... But before we arrived he died.

**Announcer:** Tragically, Kunmau lost her son to waterborne diseases and yet she must again return to the same source which robbed her of so much.

### **Open Captions:**

>> When my kids get fever and diarrhea, I worry I will lose them too.

**Announcer:** In the midst of unimaginable grief, her only water source constantly reminds her of the decisions she must make.

### **Open Captions:**

>> I've told my kids the water is not safe. But I have no choice but to make them drink it.

**Announcer:** You can change that. With your help, we can tell mothers like Kunmau that her children no longer need to drink from sources like this. That fresh clean water is on its way.

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Betty and I have been blessed with three children, 11 grandchildren, now four great grandchildren. We have three little girls. They're the prettiest little girls. One of them could stand there like that one now; she is old enough to stand.

I watched that mother going down there to get that precious little girl and thinking about how much we love our children and want the best for them and that mother wants it too but she has no choice but we can give her a choice if we just will.

**Betty:** We can. And as I listened to that young mother's broken heart, and the sorrow she has already experienced from the loss of her little boy and now she has the other children that she's concerned about, she is worried about because she has to force them she said to drink the water just to be able to live at all. But knowing that she could face that same sorrow any time, any day, any moment that they continue to drink that water.

I hope your heart's been touched. I hope you will reach out and let's drill the wells for these precious families that are in such dire need. And they have nowhere to turn but to someone and say, "Please help me."

**James:** I'm really glad that the missionaries and relief workers can call me and Betty, and call us here at *LIFE* or send us an email or a note and say, "James, we've got a real serious problem here and we felt like the viewers of *LIFE Today* would want to help." It's not a compliment simply to me and Betty at all, I'm glad they can call us, but it's really a compliment to you. Because you are sensitive, I believe, to the heart of God, not only the concern of that mother or the concern of those mission workers but you're

concerned about what God's concerned about.

And if Jesus talks about giving a cup of water as being significant and how significant would it be to give a well of water? Well, some of you can actually give a well. The average cost is \$4800. If you can do that and you know, some people tell me that's probably as great a joy as I've ever had. We've had a lot of children do that as you know. They would go raise the money for a well, just kids.

Well, can you give a well? Could you give part of a well and pray others join you? \$1200 or \$2400, I need another or three more join. Most of the money, Betty, that comes for the wells comes from \$48 gifts, that's the majority and from \$144; \$48 gives ten people water the rest of their life, \$144 gives 30, that's how it breaks down. That's not an exaggeration.

So would you be a part of that miracle this last week? Would you go online, take your bankcard or dial that number and take that card? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're sending it in. Please, we really need a tremendous surge this last week.

Father, I pray every person watching will hear not only the heart cry and the desire of that woman, that mother, but they'll hear your heart, your love and they will reach out in love right now; in Jesus' name.

Would you please go online? Would you dial the number? Would you make the gift God put on your heart? Thank you for doing it. We have some gifts to say thank you that you're actually giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life. Thank you for doing it.

### **Begin video clip**

**Announcer:** Today a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable: give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice, what's a mother to do?

With your help, clean water is on the way. *Mission: Water for Life* provides a new beginning for thousands of children and their families; a bright future with better health.

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 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 life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *The Miracles of Christ; What Living Beyond Impossible Looks Like*. Filled with scriptures, prayers, and stories of Jesus' miraculous power, James Robison adds insight about how to walk in faith and live beyond the impossible.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the Morning and Evening coffee mug set. Each mug features beautiful artwork and scripture from Psalm 92:2, a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness each day.

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 beautiful "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**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Well, I tell you what, I just thank God for you. I wish I could look at you. You say, "You don't want to see me now!" I understand. I don't know what time it is where you're at. But I want to thank you for your love. Sending the *The Miracles of Christ*. If you would like to have Andy McQuitty's book, what a great teacher, preacher, inspiration he is and great friend to me and Betty, *The Way to Brave*. God knows we need it right now. You want it? You help give water, ask for it and we will send it to you. It is in the

bookstores. Tell your friends about it.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Andy McQuitty? Bless Irving Bible church. Bless the church -- you too, buddy! Thank all of you so much for watching. Thank you very much. Remember last week now. We need your help. Thank you for it.

**Announcer:** If you're in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, come be a part of the *Life Today* studio audience. Go to: *LifeToday.org*