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**Week 36: Christmas Shoes and Smiles**

**"Kingdom Living" #2**

**James Robison**

**Tony Evans**

**James:** I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. I think this is probably one of the most important weeks of television programming we've ever aired. If you will focus and listen you're going to understand that we've been left here on a kingdom assignment. And Jesus is very clear when he says, "If you want to find your life you lose it in my purpose and you'll find it." And his purpose is kingdom life. Manifest the kingdom of God right here on earth.

I want you to listen to what Paul wrote; one of the most powerful passages of scripture you will ever read. It is in Philippians Chapter 2. Now listen to the verses: Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if there is any comfort of love -- and boy, is there! -- if any fellowship of the spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded -- that's Christ minded -- having the same love, being of one accord and one mind -- the mind of Christ, the fullness of the spirit, that's how we live. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit but in lowliness of mind and real humility let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, and that's fine, but also the interests of others.

This is why we're here. Now listen. We're here on a divine kingdom assignment. Most people seem to think that the church is somewhere we go rather than a body of believers who we actually are in Christ and Christ in us. And we're to make a kingdom impact, an imprint, the gravity, the weight of God, the imprint and impact of his manifest presence all over the earth -- that's why we're here. And if we don't fulfill that, we're not being

fruitful, we're not living a meaningful life and we're not having the joy unspeakable, full of glory that he wants us to enjoy. So let's focus, take these verses in Philippians 2:1-4, let them get down in your spirit and then let the spirit carry you.

Now listen to Dr. Tony Evans. We're talking about "kingdom life." The church must get this because this is why we've been left here; not to get out of here, but to get the reality of king, his power, his presence manifest right here on earth through believers, through us. Listen closely and be blessed and then be a blessing.

### **Begin video clip**

**James:** You know a lot of people in the church say, "Well, politics is dirty so let's stay out of it." And the more they've stayed out of it the dirtier it's gotten; do you agree?

**Tony:** What people do not understand is kingdom calling. A Christian is called to leverage kingdom influence in the sphere that God has them. And God wants us in every sphere of his sovereign control and his sovereign control is in every sphere. So a doctor is not just a doctor; he is God's representative in the medical field so the medical field sees what God looks like when God helps hurting people. A lawyer is not just a lawyer; he is God's representative in the bar association so the bar association sees what God looks like when he tries a case. A business person is not just a business person; they're God's representative in business so the business world sees what God looks like when God cuts a deal. And a politician is not just a politician; he is God's representative in politics so the world of politics sees what God looks like when he endorses or rejects legislation because we are to represent his kingdom in our spheres of influence.

**James:** Are y'all with us? Do you understand how weighty and how heavy and how liberating what you're hearing is? Do you understand how important it is? I've got to be honest with you, preacher, I think the church, most of them have checked out on this rather than checked in on it; am I right?

**Tony:** Of course, a mist in the pulpit makes a fog in the pew. So since the clergy has missed it, the people don't get it.

**James:** What are we going to do to wake preachers up?

**Tony:** Well, I think our biggest awakening that we need is not in the White House it is in the church house, and that biggest awakening has to come from our leadership. Because leaders, people follow leaders, for good or for bad. So we have now got to ask God to create an environment where the crisis gets so bad.

Okay, here is a scripture. Second chronicles 15:3-6. It says: In those days there was no true God because there was no teaching priest and there was no law. As a result it says: Citizen rose up against citizen, nation rose up against nation and city rose up against city. And then it says: For God troubled them with every kind of distress.

You would have thought it would have said "for the devil troubled them with every kind of distress" but it says, "God troubled them." See what we're experiencing today is the passive wrath of God. In the Old Testament it was the active wrath of God: Fire from heaven, floods. In the New Testament Romans Chapter 1, verses 18 and following, verses 24, 26, and 28, God turned them over, God turned them over, God turned them over. That's when God releases you to live life without him and you bear the consequences of his absenteeism.

We're bearing the consequence of God being divorced from the culture and the divorce was overseen by the church. So until we get the true God, because we have teaching priests, we'll have cultural chaos. So while we're waiting on who's going to take us to the right place, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, God is waiting on us because when he can get our attention that he has the vehicle he chooses to work through to reach the culture.

**James:** I so get what you're saying and I'm so passionately committed to it. I don't know anyone who says it any more clearly. I wish we could get the whole world, beginning

with the church, to sit down and listen to what we've just heard. And we have captured it and you've written many books dealing with it thoroughly and you're going to continue to write. But there is such passion and fire in your voice because kingdom power and presence is all over you.

You and I have been friends about how many years now would you guess?

**Tony:** Oh boy, 20?

**James:** I'd say that many, maybe even more.

**Tony:** When you're having fun you don't remember dates.

**James:** That's true. Have we not had a lot of fun together?

**Tony:** We have! We have enjoyed it. And I want to publically thank you for your friendship and your support because you've stood with us in a multiplicity of ways and we value that. We don't take that kindness and that commitment for granted.

**James:** Would you agree that together as brothers that we have worked to try to take the gospel of the kingdom to the highest places in the land?

**Tony:** Absolutely! I've been on an airplane with you when our former president was president, George Bush and sitting down at his table and bringing that worldview to him. So absolutely.

**James:** And with many others. I would just say this and I have with Mr. Trump, I've spent a lot of time with you. Let me just say it again because I know I've said this to you more than once but I don't think it registered, I don't know any man on earth I'd rather you listen to. I don't know any man on earth I'd rather you'd listen to as congress. I wish the whole cabinet, I wish you'd have a Camp David meeting and have this man just sit

and talk with you for a couple of days. I think it could change our country. I'm serious with you. I wish congress would sit down and give him an ear.

You know my good friend Ravi Zacharias has spoken to the Pentagon and just literally brought the house down because he is so full of God. Isn't he a wonderful man?

**Tony:** Absolutely!

**James:** There are just so many that know the truth. But here's the thing I'd like you to get here in this group and any of you who might be watching. You're kingdom representatives. See the passion of the kingdom that lives in me wants what's in him to flow like a river to the ends of the earth. Because see God has given me some gifts; would you agree I have some gifts?

**Tony:** You have a bunch of them!

[Laughter]

**James:** I'm very grateful. One of them is serving others. Would you agree that I've wanted to be your servant?

**Tony:** Absolutely. You've asked how could you serve and I value that. Thank you.

**James:** I would do anything for you. And I mean that. I just don't think there is a stronger voice. And he is not going to make as much noise as I do. He is not going to split his pulpit and break Jerry Falwell's pulpit; he is not likely to do that. Listen to me. God has truth that's flowing like a river if we'll just tune in. You close and this book is really cool. I underlined a whole lot of the first chapter. I want to go to this last little story you told. And you see I've got it all -- this is if you're a real astute student. You'll highlight and then you'll come back and bracket and then you'll put little stars by it. You ever do that?

**Tony:** Yes. I've done that.

**James:** Does he do that, Lois? Okay. Look at this. Here's a man that's dying of thirst. He finds a little shack and in that shack there appears to be a well, a pump, and there is a picture of water. Am I telling it right?

**Tony:** So far, so good!

**James:** And on the pitcher of water -- now this man is dying of thirst. He knows he is going to die. He's reached the limit. And it says, "You must pour all the water in this pitcher in the pump to prime it -- all of it. You must pour all of it and trust, and the pump will work." And the man had a dilemma. Tell the folks what the dilemma was now, what is going on in his mind.

**Tony:** Well, if I pour all of the water and it doesn't work then I have nothing. But if I drink the water at least I have something for right now. So do I settle for something for the moment or do I take the risk to pour it all the way in knowing that if it does work then I'll have much more water than I could ever use? So the question is: Are you going to prime the pump or are you only going to live for the moment?

**James:** I think the trust factor comes in because we have got a water of life, we have got a well of water but he has told us what to do to get it flowing. I believe that we lose our life in kingdom purpose to find it. I really do believe that.

See when I look at the journey that I've been on, and I've had those low moments too when I think I live for my kingdom; I live for myself. I think too many churches live for their kingdom. You're a good friend of Gateway. Would you agree Gateway is kind of a remarkable picture right now just to watch from a distance and even up close?

**Tony:** It is absolutely phenomenal to see how God has taken Pastor Morris, his family,

and his ministry and exploded that thing all over the country in terms of its effectiveness. And I think that's because there is a kingdom mentality in the pastor, in the leaders and in the congregants. Plus you're a member so they can't help it.

**James:** And in that elder body, it's so beautiful to watch -- and the love that they pour out. I believe that everywhere you see God's power manifest undeniably, I believe that's a kingdom manifestation. That's a manifestation of the reality of the kingdom now.

**Tony:** Because with the kingdom comes authority. See Jesus told his disciples in Matthew chapter 10, he says, "I'm going to send you out and with your sending out I'm going to give you my authority."

Why do we not have authority? That is because Jesus doesn't feel comfortable sending us out because he does not know whether we're going to consistently represent him or just use him as a salt shaker and kind of sprinkle his name around but really not be totally absorbed in his purpose for our life. That's why every Christian needs to become, shall we say, "Kingdomized."

**James:** I have listened to some of your disciples. I've seen your family and I see kingdom power and presence. I see Jesus. Now here is my question. What must happen, what can we do in prayer or support to see that become like a fire, become an awakening throughout the church? What do you think it will take to see that? Because listen, everything inside me longs for that. I would do anything to see that awakening power and to see the flood of kingdom presence and manifestation all over the earth.

**Tony:** Well, let me go back to that passage that I quoted a moment ago, Second Chronicles 15:3-6. Verse four says: In their distress they sought the Lord and he let them find him.

The key word is "distress." Verse six says: God created distress. Verse four says: In their distress they got serious.

So one thing that will happen is God will continue to let things get bad enough until he gets our undivided attention -- that's the negative side. On the positive side, I think we need to engage vehicles that are sending out this message. We just launched a national training center through the *Urban Alternative* to develop *Kingdom Disciples*. People can go online. How do you become a kingdom man? How do you become a kingdom woman? How do you become kingdom parents? How do you have a kingdom church? Because everything is kingdom for me.

So we want to get that message out so that anybody who wants to be kingdomized can find out how to do that in practical terms and live it out. So using the tools that God has given us to get this message out. We go across the country and we have a three point plan for any community that wants it. Point one: A solemn assembly. A solemn assembly is a sacred gathering. In scripture a sacred gathering was called because there was chaos and we desperately needed God to return. So we call churches together to have a solemn assembly.

Then we challenge them to move from membership to discipleship in their churches. Then we give them an influence challenge. Adopt every public school in your community providing mentoring, tutoring, and family support services. That's church, school, and family. Then you can impact every community because every community has churches, schools, and families. So we give them a practical thing that they are all doing for the benefit of their community so that there is kingdom presence so that people see that the church has benefited their community.

So that's a three point plan we're taking around the country.

**James:** Tell us the website again.

**Tony:** [TonyEvans.org](http://TonyEvans.org) will take you to all of this.



**James:** But this is a particular study.

**Tony:** This study is called -- the training center is the Tony Evans Training Center for Kingdom Discipleship. So you'll see that. The three point plan is there and that will walk you through how you can have this initiative in your community.

**James:** So you can be involved in that like it is a course, almost like a college course.

**Tony:** It is a course. We even have a team that we send out across the country when people want somebody live, we'll send them out to train them and then we provide ongoing help for them to continue the impact.

**James:** I pray this goes like a glorious fire across the country with all my heart.

Father, I pray that right now because Lord, I believe you've deposited something so wonderful in the heart of this man and his family. And I pray dear God that it will become a mighty wave and it will lead to an awakening contributed as powerfully as possible; in Jesus' name.

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Well, I really hope you will avail yourself the opportunity of going to Tony's website. I wish the whole church would just listen to the wisdom that Tony is sharing because it is obvious, we have not made a kingdom imprint. We just go to church; it's almost like we want to kind of settle into a monastery, you know let's get comfortable. And yet Jesus said, "I'm sending you into the midst of wolves." But he didn't send us to be devoured by them. He sent us to scatter the wolves and protect the sheep. And that's kingdom life! We need to show people what life really looks like.

And if you'll understand you've been left here on a kingdom assignment and you begin to live for the King of kings and Lord of Lords, you're going to affect everything around you because you're in love with him. And you want to do his will. One of the things I've seen just so clearly is the manifestation of God's kingdom power through people who watch *LIFE Today* because when we talk about a need that God wants to meet and he uses people as the instruments of blessing and you say, "Count me in! I want to make an impact."

You're going to see right now a beautiful kingdom person, Tammy Trent. You're going to see in her countenance the love of God and you're going to see precious children. Listen. We want to give 150,000 kids shoes. Think about this. \$36, did you listen? \$36 will give ten kids a pair of shoes for Christmas. \$72, 20 kids! I want you to listen not just to Tammy but to the very heart of our savior, the King of kings and then do his will, kingdom action right now. 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, "The light shines in the darkness," that's this beautiful candle; that's what happens when you reach out and touch someone with love. You're going to love the little Christmas crystal shoe. We're going to send that to you. And hopefully, you've got all the others too. Just know this, you gave someone a smile when you gave them shoes. Some of you can do a surgery. Imagine what that would mean to you if you had a grandchild or a child that needed that correction and love gives it. Whatever you can do, thank you so

very much.

Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. Remember Tony Evans' website if you want to get some more information. But above all, lose your life in kingdom purpose and you're going to find it -- and many others will too.