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Week 46: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Miles McPherson

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

James: Yeah, and we've got a football player that is not a Dallas Cowboy. There was a day when Betty would have been upset about this but she's lost a little bit of her zeal for the Cowboys over the last years. Excuse me, Jerry and all the family there, but you've kind of put the people's fire out a little bit. Build the fire up a little bit.

Miles McPherson, great football player, college, N.F.L., but he is a great preacher. I think he is a great leader. I believe he has a touch of God on his life for this moment. This is a powerful book. Just the title should arouse your interest, *The Third Option*: Hope for a racially divided nation. In many instances we could rightly say too often a racially divided world. I want to know what this third option is. And I believe that Miles McPherson is gifted, period, in many areas. I believe he is anointed and chosen by God to help us understand not only *The Third Option*, but begin to practice it. And I think he is going to make it clear that the only way it is going to happen is in the power of the Holy Spirit enabling us. We need that one of the same kind that's in us, Jesus. Would you welcome Miles McPherson to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

I want you to just take off. It's just like we've kicked off. I want to get on with the game. I want you to tell us, what do you mean by "the third option"? Like is the first two options

proved to fail so now you're given us one that might work?

Miles: Exactly! I'll give you a third option and then I'll go back and give you some history. *The Third Option* is honor. Hold that thought.

James: Honor?

Miles: Honor. I grew up in a diverse family. My grandmother was white; another grandmother that was half Chinese and black. Both of my grandfathers were black. So that's why I have this nice caramel color that you like. I grew up in a black neighborhood, went to school in a white neighborhood, got harassed in the white neighborhood because I wasn't white, got harassed in the black neighborhood because I wasn't black enough. So I got harassed wherever I went.

I started playing football and our teams were always black and white. We got along great. I have a church of 20,000 people and it's like skittles, it is the United Nations. We all get along great. But yet the world is divided. So I've had these experiences of racism from a bunch of different people but also I've seen the great side of all those same people that are made in the image of God and they really just don't know.

The Third Option is this. In every race conversation it is always about us versus them. You have to pick a side; whether it be the police in the black community or the N.F.L. stand or don't stand or black versus white -- or whatever it is, all around the world we have conflict.

By the way, that "nation" in the title can be any nation because the principles transcend all countries and all people. It is not an American thing. So in every race conversation it is about us versus them. When you watch the news you're forced to pick a side. You're forced to pick a network that's against another network. So once you pick a side, now you're against the other side and you can never agree with them because you just sided against them. So those are your two options.

The Third Option is that we honor what we have in common with each other because we have more in common with each other than we have differences. We're all made in the image of the same God and God is not inferior in you than he is in me. We're 99.5 genetically identical. You want to have dreams, you want to be in love, pursue your dreams and your talents. We have so much more in common and I'm so encouraged. As divided as our country is, I'm more encouraged now that we're ready to be united because I think the devil has overplayed his hand. I think people are tired of it. I think people are ready to do something.

James: He's revealing how ugly he is, how deceptive and dissentious he is, and we ought to be able to see that the prince of the power, not only of the air but now too often the airwaves is playing this discord and pitting us against one another. And the more you-know-what they can stir up the more stink they get, the more attention they get, the more controversy the bigger their audience. So they're actually...

Miles: Making money.

James: That's exactly what they're doing at the expense of the very things that matter to everybody that's in this terrible harangue that is going on.

Miles: Exactly. So I believe that when it comes down to me and you, if we can get past all that then I can look at you and say, "Hey, can we decide to get along?" Because we want to get along.

James: You and I don't even have an issue. We don't have to have a discussion because we actually care about one another, care about each other's families and we care about people. We're going to show people, during the course of our program, some people that are too often overlooked. Now there is not a human being, they don't even have to be a Christian, they just have a heart, they've just got a life, and you see somebody that needs water? What happens when a storm comes? The neighbors come. It's too bad we have

to keep having all of this crisis to get us to behave like neighbors. If we would just decide to behave like neighbors, we could probably get rid of a lot of crisis.

Well, when you see that child, *The Third Option* is that we agree, could we possibly help that child there? That hungry person? So there's where we can start. We really could come to the table of reason rapidly if we just would.

Miles: The biggest "aha" I got writing this book, which I think is going to set a lot of people free here in the next 60 seconds; there are so many people who cannot separate these two facts, that I could be racially offensive and not be a racist. Because often when someone says you offended me racially, you assume that now that makes you a racist. They may be calling you that but that's another story. But you can be racially offensive. I can offend you by saying, "Hey, what kind of accent do you have?" You're from East Texas; right? That may offend you. I just want to know your accent but I offended you.

James: Not me. I've got Texas, baby. I'm Texas.

[Laughter]

Miles: But you got what I'm saying. And people can be racially offensive because they don't know what not to say or they don't know how to say it. So when people receive that offense and say, "You offended me" we have to be able to believe them without getting defensive ourselves and saying, "No, I'm not a racist so I didn't offend you." And say, "You know what? I want to know how I offended you so I don't do it again."

James: Can you be hyper-sensitive to where you're just looking for them to rub you wrong?

Miles: Yes. But that's still not my decision to decide whether you are. My decision is to love you and not to decide when and how.

James: Any time I find out if I hurt somebody or offended them, I want to make it right. I can't go to sleep if I hurt somebody. Is that the truth, Betty?

Betty: That's true.

James: We'd never go to sleep -- we went three weeks without sleep when we couldn't get it right.

[Laughter]

But here's the deal. I'm serious with you. I cannot -- if I've offended somebody, I want to get it right.

Miles: Exactly. And you wanting to get it right because I may be looking for you to offend me -- it doesn't matter. As soon as you know I did it, you have that attitude. I'm like, "Oh, I made a friend." So your love must overcome any angst I have and you must not judge whether I'm being sincere or not; I told I was offended. So if people could get over that this book is designed to give people tools on how they can honor someone as made in the image of God because racism in -- just racism in the air, and our perception is about what you're thinking and what I'm thinking.

James: All that breaks my heart.

Betty: What has happened to make us so sensitive that way?

Miles: It's a history of division, it's a history of fighting, it's a history of conflict.

Betty: Because you're almost afraid to even speak anymore; you're going to offend someone if you say it the wrong way.

Miles: Exactly. When you hear that over and over again, you see people being offended

or people bringing it up and you say, "Okay, I don't want to get in that." However, love covers a multitude of sin.

So I have in here steps that you can take that we can actually exercise very easily. Number one is to rename everybody as your neighbor. This goes to what you're talking about with the little kid with no water. The Bible says the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart mind and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself. That is the greatest thing I can do is love you as my neighbor, as myself.

James: Paul said if you do that, you fulfill all the law and will act.

Miles: However, if I relabel you as something less than my neighbor, I don't need to love you.

James: That's really good!

Miles: And so if I rename you and we all know the derogatory names we call people, white people, black people, Hispanic people, middle eastern, we have all those little names we call them, they all dehumanize those people.

James: Yeah. Do you think we could ever get a Democrat and a Republican to say, "Hey, neighbor!" Hey! Would that be progress? Give me a high five!

Miles: That would be -- praise the Lord! I don't have the courage to write that book yet because that would be impossible.

But imagine if every person you saw, this kid needs water, imagine if you said, "That's not a poor black kid in Africa, that's my neighbor! That's my brother! That's my sister!" Now you have a different perspective.

James: And if you're loving the family, the neighbor like yourself, that's my family!

That's family! What if that was my kid? Betty often says, "Just think about this, what if it was your child?" She says, "My grandchildren that we're looking at." She always takes it every time she talks to our viewers, she says, "Think about it that way."

Miles: Because when you label someone less than neighbor, you now cannot relate to them as a human being. You just dehumanize them. You can't relate to them as an equal anymore. You see them less than. So they don't deserve the justice you deserve; they don't deserve the benefits of life that you deserve because they're lower than you. So it is easier for you to let them be mistreated. But if you say, "No, that's my neighbor!" Now they deserve what you deserve in your mind. They always have but now it is in your mind. So that's one of the things we can do.

Another thing we can do is discover the blind spots we have. All of us have blind spots. In other words, there are things that we can't see that we can't see because there are things we don't know we don't know because we all grew up in a certain area and we developed a certain social narrative, a story that defines how we see the world. Every single one of us has our own prescription based on our family and how we see the world.

The problem is that there are six billion prescriptions. My two brothers who lived in the same bedroom as I did, they have a different prescription than me. My brother and I slept in the same bed the night of *The Exorcist*. Remember that old *Exorcist* movie? We slept in the same bed that night because we were scared. We have different prescriptions. So I had to realize that I can't see life as everyone else does so there are things I'm blind to. Which hence there are things I don't know. So I should be ready and willing to receive information from somebody. And one of the easiest ways to find out where your blind spot is, is to go up to somebody who is of a different ethnicity, a different culture that you know and say, "Is there any way that I have offended you?" Or "Is saying this wrong?" To make it really simple, if men went up to the women in their life, at work, at school, "Is there anything that I do is creepy?" You'll get...

[Laughter]

You'll get some stuff! They'll say, "Yeah, you're a creepy dude!"

[Laughter]

But by asking and learning about what others see in you that you can't see, it doesn't make you bad, you're human. But if we would step back and go, if I humble myself God's going to lift me up but if I'm prideful he is going to cast me down. If I just say, "Lord, I want to know how can I be more honoring? How can I be more loving and respectful? We would learn so much about...

James: You're giving me what I'd call the offensive play; to put on the offense, let's go forward. So do we have a message though to the person that sees these people that don't yet know how to treat you like a neighbor, that they can begin this process of healing too? Because I see a lot of hurt people and I want so much to pull them up close and hold them.

Miles: Correct. People have been through things that -- I don't want to say unspeakable, but decades and lifetimes of hurt and rejection and oppression.

James: Is it hard to believe that you really are caring like you might be trying to imply you care?

Miles: It's not -- it's a lot of things, it may be that but more than that it's you caring for me in five minutes is not going take all of that away. I have a lot of stuff to deal with; that's really the big picture.

James: You've got to walk it out together.

Miles: You've got to walk it out together. And if you and I, let's say we develop a relationship and you say to me, "Miles, you seem defensive." In the context of our

relationship and you can walk it out with me to understand a little bit what that means, that's what has to happen. We have to build relationships with people. We have to see people for what they are.

I remember the first time someone told me they didn't see my color. They said, "I don't see your color." I thought they meant they didn't see red, blue, and green. I said, "That's messed up." They said, "No, no, no. I don't see your color." And so what they did was, they erased everything that comes with this color, all the experiences, the pain, the positive and the negative, and the rejection and the acceptance. They said, "We just don't want to talk about that. We don't see that." That's what it said to me. So then they might not have meant that. I don't think they meant to hurt me but they were being racially offensive, insensitive to what I am and what I've experienced without necessarily knowing it. Now, they need to know that. So they don't do that again because when you say that...

James: Did you tell them?

Miles: You know it was 30 years ago. I said something. Oh it's in there. It's in there!

James: All right. We've got a lot to cover and I feel like you cover it. I really do. I think this man is a gift from God and his gift is a gift from God to all of us. I think we want the same thing. I want to believe that we want what God wants, and he wants a family. He is a perfect Father, he wants a family that love one another like Jesus prayed in John 17. I want to agree with you.

I want you to lead a prayer that we will see supernatural unity come to the church and his family. Would you do that? Can we just do that and you lead that prayer?

Miles: Lord, thank you so much. You said in John 17 that you prayed that we would be one. And I know that one starts with the church, and then extends outside of the church to bring the non-believer into your family. But we have to start with us. You said in

Matthew 25 that before the throne there is going to be all the nations gathered together and they're not going to be in their own little pockets and corners, they're going to be altogether like a bag of skittles is all mixed up. So I pray Holy Spirit that you would start to open people's hearts that they would see people who look different but know that they're made in the image of the same God, that you will stir our hearts to love each other, to forgive each other, to be curious about each other, to celebrate each other, to celebrate the uniqueness of how you made us.

I pray you will move in this country. I see it happening. I know we're ready. So I pray in Jesus' name you would use this book, this message, and all the people around the country who are working for the same thing, praying for the same thing that you would unite us; in Jesus' name.

James: Amen! Miles, let me just say this to you. I believe that in your heart is the same desire that's in God's heart. I believe you want his perfect will and the perfect love and the supernatural unity; I believe that with all my heart. I totally trust that in you. I believe God will use you to help inspire us all. Let me just say this to you with the whole world looking in. Any time you come our way, and you've got time, you say, "I'm going to be there." And you can come. Let's sit down and let's talk about this some more and let's try to see the world learn to treat each other like neighbors. But even beyond that, to be the answer to Jesus' prayer. We want our prayers answered. Wouldn't it be great if we got to see his prayer answered in our life time? Isn't that what we want to see is Jesus' prayer answered that we would become supernaturally one with the family? The book is in the bookstores. I hope you get it. I hope above all that we learn to walk *The Third Option* which really and truly it ought to be the first option.

Miles: The bookstores, Amazon as well, at MilesMcPherson.com.

James: You know what we do regarding the overlooked and the least of these. I want you to watch but I want you to please hear me. You know a doctor said "no" to an abortion when my mother had been raped. That doctor became my miracle -- that's why I

was born. I want you to know you're going to be somebody's miracle today. You may be many people's miracle if you'll just watch and listen to the heart and the mind of God. Watch.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> My children ask, "Where is brother?" I had to tell them, "He died."

Announcer: Victoria's oldest son was buried yesterday. The loss fresh and weighing heavy but still hard to believe. The lack of food in Victoria's village has made malnutrition a constant companion creating a burden too heavy to bear.

Open Captions: It's very difficult to find food. There is no rice, no fish, no vegetables. Our only food is maize if we can find it. We eat maize meals once a day or not at all. I tell the children, "We can sleep without eating. Tomorrow we will find food."

Announcer: Victoria and her husband work hard producing charcoal for wages. But when combined with failing crops, their limited resources can't sustain the health of their children. Weakened and malnourished, their immune systems falter and allow minor illnesses to turn deadly.

Open Captions:

>> Right now, I am too weak and tired to even think. I'm suffering, and my son is too sick. I don't know what I can do.

Announcer: The burden Victoria bears is one expressed by so many mothers in this area of Southern Africa. Their lack of resources has created a collective hopelessness. But we know when we join together in response, we can introduce a new hope and health.

End of clip

In the studio

James: There is nothing more beautiful, Betty, than to watch a mother holding a little child. Wherever I watch mothers with children it touches my heart because it is so beautiful. And we watched that mother there and she is too weak, the child is sick. The losses are great.

As a mother and a grandmother and now a great grandmother, what goes on inside your heart when you look at that precious mother and you see those beautiful little children?

Betty: As I listen to that sweet mother that loves her babies more than she loves life itself, her babies are all she has. She will go out every day, tired and worn out like she said but she'll search every day for just a morsel to keep her babies alive.

We can make that difference. These babies don't have to die before their time. This mother doesn't have to lose the only thing that she has, her children. Please join with us. Let's get the food to them. It can save their lives. And they can be productive. Children grow up. We've seen some of them later on, they grow up and they're safe and they're smart and they've learned. We can just make the difference in it. So please join with us right now. Let's get the food to the babies.

James: This is an incredible statement of gratitude to God and to you, but we have saved the lives of now right at 15 million children and their families. That is not an exaggeration.

But here's the thing you need to understand. It was one child at a time -- three children, five children, ten children that somebody said, "I'm going to be the miracle." That's not an overstatement. You become the miracle that gives life for those children and their families. It changes everything. It's so easy to get them to hear about the love of God that you've just demonstrated, which is why they respond to the gospel.

I want to see the whole continent of Africa healed. I want to see amazing grace poured

out all over it and those people learn what it is to live free and fruitful and productive. But it all starts one life at a time.

Would you right now dial that phone number that's there as a prayer line for you? Or would you go online and take your bankcard, and would you make the gift God puts on your heart? Now listen to what it takes. Listen to the miracle: \$30, \$50, \$100 we can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. That's not total child care, that's nutritious food to get them totally stabilized and healthy. And it absolutely works. So if you will right now, write a check and make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving. Or take your bankcard, go online or dial the number and make the gift God puts on your heart.

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you. They're going to be a real blessing to you. But you're being the greatest blessing because you're sharing the greatest gift, you're sharing life. And then the life of Christ will be presented because you have demonstrated the life and love of Christ, you become the miracle.

Thank you so much for doing it. Please go get your card. Dial the number and make the gift God leads you to make.

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.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach you can save lives by feeding and caring for children currently suffering in parts of Angola, Mozambique, and South Sudan. With previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding helping in areas with severe crop failure, we urgently need your support to replenish food supplies to reach the 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. With your gift of any amount we'll send you *Death-Defying Faith*, the extraordinary life of miracle man, Peter Pretorius. This autobiography, completed just days before his unexpected death, chronicles the thrill-seeking adventures of missionary, Peter Pretorius. You will love reading how God took this ordinary man and performed extraordinary miracles throughout all of Africa.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the beautiful "Faith and Hope" pen set; two beautifully crafted pens featuring the key words of Hebrews 11:1; a key verse for every believer especially when facing adversity, trials and challenges.

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 gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: I was just thinking how amazing you are. When you see the least of these, you notice them. And somehow I think you realize that I'm not only touching them I'm touching Jesus. What I do for them, I do to Jesus. I bless him. And somehow that really means a lot to you. I want to thank you. I want us to bless Jesus by being an answer to his prayer that we really be one.

I think Miles McPherson is anointed by God to help us see the healing of the tension between races. This stuff has got to go away. There is enough of it. All the schisms and -isms need to go. You know where they need to go? They need to go into a pit. They need to be gone and we need to love each other.

Do you appreciate Miles McPherson? This great book, *The Third Option*. Let me say to all of you who are watching. All of you watching, you say, "James, would you mind

sending us that book if we just help these kids like you ask us to? Would you send it to us?" You ask for it and we will send it to you.

Join us in saying thanks to Miles. God bless you. You come back any time you can.

Thank all of you for being here. Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*!