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Week Seven: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Terry Looper

James: Oh boy! Thank you. Thank you. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you watching and listening.

I think you're going to hear a remarkable story. Now think about this title, *Sacred Pace* -- not a space, not a place, a pace. Now why in the world would a very successful businessman with a multi-billion dollar company, why would he be talking about pace?

Well, Terry Looper has got a very clear testimony why pace matters. As a matter of fact, as a businessman who is very, very successful and experienced that success but it didn't give him meaning and fulfillment -- all the money, all the attention, all that he could buy. There was a very wealthy man, perhaps the wealthiest ever lived said, "All is vanity." That was Solomon. He experienced the reality of that.

I want you to welcome our guest and the author of this book, where I feel like, Thomas Nelson published it because they try to publish something that will really help people in a very transformative way, and I think it will. Will you welcome Terry Looper to *LIFE Today*?

Terry, good to see you.

[Cheers & Applause]

Your company is called Texon. Just tell our viewers what you do, what does your company do?

Terry: Well, we're in the energy business and we do a lot of marketing of different products in the energy business, all kinds. It's called midstream, for some of you that know that but otherwise, most people don't. But we're 30 years old this spring. We've had -- we've been blessed.

James: You've been one of the leading businesses in the state of Texas and in the country. Now you got real successful and you actually, the chapter titles are quite phenomenal. You actually start with a collision course. You didn't think you were on a collision course. You were ascending beyond anything you could dream and then you talked about the crash.

So since that actually sets up the title of the book and what it implies and what you really would like for everyone to hear, tell me what was going on there. Because from the world's perspective, would you say you were already quite successful at that time?

Terry: Well, everybody has got their own expectations and I had exceeded mine from a boy from a small town. But I started getting dizzy. I got to where I couldn't make decisions. And then on a Saturday morning my brain shut down. I thought I had a nervous breakdown. I thought I'd lost my mind. I didn't know. My wife took me to the bedroom, shut the door, and put me in bed. And I just cried; I didn't know what else to do, thought I'd lost my mind. Finally, I got on the knees and prayed to the Lord to take control of my life because clearly, I had not done a very good job of it.

Well, lo and behold, I didn't know it at the time but I was born again. I actually didn't realize it until about a year later. People say, "Well, why did you not know it for a whole year?" I said, "Well, I had been tithing 10%, I had been a deacon, and I was getting ready to be ordained as an elder. And I prayed to Jesus and the Lord. It turned out in retrospect, I just kind of thought he was my Santa Claus. Like I'm Lord and I'll let you -- you know what you do with Santa Claus when you're six years old, you tell him what you want -- and he does it.

[Laughter]

So that's kind of my reference.

So out of that, it started a *Sacred Pace* and it's been over 30 years. Then I started Texon. About four years of wilderness, and then started Texon, and he taught me -- the reason I wrote the book is he taught me a way to discern his will, which I call the fourth step, but where I get peace in my gut.

And I felt like the average Christian, I thought it was teachable and tangible and peace in your gut. I thought the average Christian had kind of lost faith in that they really could discern his will, his perfect will in your life on major business decisions, life decisions, all kinds of decisions. Because he took an average Christian like myself and truly taught me how to discern his will in a way that I really believed it and convicted of it. Then you can take those steps of faith and courage, jump off those cliffs because you just know he gave you the answer.

James: I think it is important for everybody to really pick up on something. You're kind of referencing, well, I was a Christian but you're actually going back to the Santa Claus type Christian relationship which I feel like a lot of people have. I was christened in the Episcopal Church, it was absolutely a zero as far as any change. Betty was baptized and became a Sunday school teacher and choir member, the sweetest girl in church.

Betty: Yeah, and it was more of obedience for me. If I was good enough then God would be there for me, if I did everything right. But that wasn't -- I needed more.

James: You didn't even have a relationship with him, and I didn't either. I met him in a head-on collision with Jesus. And boy, I tell you, Betty and I learned something. This is where he got and where he kind of got it in even more. And I really think it is important for you to get it. A lot of people go to church, they get connected with the church with

religion and they really never have a relationship with the Father, the creator, and the one who wants to be their shelter and wants to give them holy direction, wise direction, meaningful direction.

But in order for you to experience that Jesus said you've got to be born from above. You don't just join a church, which we both did that. But I think a lot of people have joined the church and that's where you kind of were, and you were even kind of climbing the ladder where church gives all these credentials...

Terry: Went to Sunday school and everything.

James: But you didn't know him. So I came to know him. She saw Jesus in me, she came to know him. Our lives are changing. Here's what happened. It happened to you. People may not know how to explain it but we lost our life in his kingdom purpose. When we lost our lives in his purpose we found it. We found the abundant life that he said he came to give us. But we don't get it if we're trying to hang on to it or if we just get a religious identification, affiliation, association, membership and we don't have relationship. Okay, so now you now --

Terry: You needed to write this book.

James: Yeah! Well, listen to me no. No, this book is great. I'm going to tell you something. I've written a lot of books, I don't think I write as well as you do. And the reason is that you're taking a journey as a man that has had unbelievable success -- you continue to have it. And yet in the midst of having all this success, it doesn't have you. See he wants to bless us but he doesn't want our blessings to become idols. That's what happens too often.

Now what happened here is that you wanted people to know what you do to have this *Sacred Pace* that you're talking about. In other words, you used to work too many hours. Now you talk about working like -- you limit yourself to like 40 hours?

Terry: When I started the company that was the big “Aha!” Now that I had a relationship with the Lord, and my wife, finally, now that I was a decent husband and a decent father, I said I'm not going to start my company and go backwards. He convicted me through this discernment.

James: So pace became an issue to you. All right, now you start talking about four steps. I'm going to read them here and then you expand on some of them in the brief time we have on television because this is not Oprah or Dr. Phil. If you want to send more money but we might have an hour, but we don't.

Here's the deal. You said, "Consult your friend, Jesus." Like talk to him, right? Like he hears you?

Terry: Right.

James: And like maybe he'll give you some advice? He says he would.

Terry: He does. He says in John 15 he wants to be our friend.

James: Absolutely. And he said, "Gather the facts," you said, "And then watch for circumstances." You're saying the circumstances can teach and then get neutral. Just expand on some of these. When you say "Consult Jesus" do you mean like you can talk to him and you think he would communicate with you?

Terry: He says in John 15, he wants to be our friend, right? Then you start thinking about what does a friend look like? A good listener, a good supporter, somebody that loves you. He just also happens to see the future. He also happens to know best; we just think we do. He also happens to love us way, way more than we can. So I'm kind of going, wow! That sounds like a pretty good friend. I think I'm going to tap into that and go with it.

James: Do you feel like as a businessman that you can actually hear his voice and he actually communicates with you where you know it is him and it is his advice?

Terry: What he does for me, of course, I have my quiet times in the morning every morning and all that but what he does for me in these steps, on these major decisions in life and business, and huge business decisions, he gives me a peace in my gut that is undeniable once I go through dying to self where I really want him, his will more than mine.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane said, "Hey Lord, I really like not to carry the weight of all humankind on my shoulders, and their sin. But I want to do your will." So Jesus is instantaneous about...

James: Well, if Jesus could say, "Here's what I want but not my will, not my desire, but yours be done. And this is your will because we're going to redeem everybody with my life. But this is paid for. I know what I'm going through." But he is still saying, and this is really the way we pray. We ask him, we share our heart but we're going to accept his will because he always knows best. So if we ever move into that relationship there's a peace that passes understanding.

Terry: It is. And the furthest distance they say is from the head to the heart. So me saying, "Oh absolutely I want to do the Lord's will." Well, that's up here and I don't do anything -- it is just noise to me. It is not until it drips down here and I finally say, "No." I finally, after a lot of prayer and time, I finally say, "Okay, I'm finally willing to do what it is you want, whatever it is." And it's often something that I really don't want to do right then but like Jesus in the garden, from a man point of view, but I try to do it.

Betty: I think when we learn how to build that relationship with Jesus, we recognize his work in our life that his ways stands out so much different than our way and the way we would do things. That through his word he can confirm what his ways are and which

direction he would have us to go. We recognize that because we've spent time with him. It's just like we've spent many years with each other. We know one another. So when you spend time with someone you get to know them.

Terry: No doubt! No doubt!

James: Gather the facts: Where do you get those?

Terry: Well, as you know there is thousands and thousands of facts. It is which ones are relevant. And what I found in that if again, a call it, "Get neutral" which means dying to self or wanting his will more than mine. Before I would try to get neutral or die to self and pray to get that way, I would elevate the facts disproportionately that I wanted on my ledger of what I wanted. And I would dismiss the facts of the ones I didn't like. Well, that didn't -- that's not going with him.

James: It's not that last -- getting neutral.

Terry: You've got to get where you...

James: It's called yielded clay, isn't it?

Terry: Exactly. And the same way with opinions. I used to think my opinions were facts often. You deceive yourself. It is amazing how often that can happen.

James: A lot of people think their opinions are the Word of God and it is not.

Terry: Yeah! And that's confusing. So that's why it is a process of prayer, surrender, gathering facts that you can't refute, which is the Bible, too. You've got to include that. I've got to do pros and cons list. And motive list; a lot of times on my motive list I see my sins coming out in my motives -- money or whatever.

James: It doesn't have to be a miserable experience, does it?

Terry: No!

James: When he shows you what's wrong, he's going to make you better, it can make it a happy experience.

Terry: He's made me a lot better businessman once I... He really has because I'm more objective. I'm not trying to over-try and over-rush everything. He's slow as molasses anyway.

[Laughter]

James: In relation to our timetable. What do you want to happen when people read this book?

Terry: Well, some of my friends say it is a love story which I wouldn't go that far. But the point being, the more I can get Jesus, the more I can get overwhelmed with his love, the more lovable I am, the more I want to make a difference in other people's lives whether I've got money or don't have money. Most of my time is not around money, it is listening to people, and mentoring people, and discipling men. So it's just a romance that's worth the ride.

He's blessed me. I'm still a sinner. Doris would tell you a lot of stories. But I feel so blessed because he's a jealous God and he's got a hole in our heart; and finally I filled it with the right thing and it's been a joyful ride. Not just about the prosperity thing, we've been blessed to give back, time and money, and to be overwhelmed with his love.

A lot of Christians, as I visit with them, they've never -- they're Christians but they've never been overwhelmed by his love. They've never internalized it where it is a sweet gift. It just changes you further.

James: When it is overflowing us it will flow out on others and touch people. By the way, don't you appreciate Terry's testimony? Would you say thank the Lord? Thank you for sharing. The book is in the bookstores. It's really clear, it's real easy reading. And it is broken out. It is actually outlined good. I'm not the world's greatest outliner. I just kind of cut loose. This is really, really good. It's going to bless you. I really hope you'll get it.

I believe that our viewers, and I've said it many times, I think you're the most giving, unselfish people in the world. Think about this. We show you an opportunity to put arms of love around somebody and you step up. All over the world right now there are people who are crying out in behalf of their family.

Betty, we've watched so many moms, so many grandparents weeping at the graves of their little children. And they lost them because of contaminated water, dirty water. It was the only water they had. It was like going and just getting a disease. It didn't kill them instantly but it killed them. Sometimes there is a long period of time of extreme pain.

And there's a perfect cure. Those mothers, every one of them, we get a translator to tell us what they're saying, they just don't want to lose another child. They don't want somebody to lose a child. "If I could just not lose this child," they would say. Listen to me. That prayer has the answer right now looking at us -- you're the answer to that prayer. You are in this moment the hands of Jesus that give the cup of water.

You know what Paul said to the Philippian Christians? Think about this. He said "You're the only ones that gave." This is the greatest missionary that ever lived. He said, "At this time, nobody gave but you." But he said, "My God knows." Now listen to what he said, "My God shall meet all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." He didn't say, "Those of you who are sensitive, you become the miracle. My God is going to meet all of your desires, all your wishes, all your..." No, no! He said, "He's going to meet your needs out of the riches in Christ."

Something happens when you become that person that says, "I'm going to do it. I'm going to be their miracle. I'm not only going to give a cup of water, I'm going to give toward a well of water. And we're committed right now, with your help, right now to drill 200 water wells in 15 nations. Would you right now reach out? I want you to listen. I want you to watch. I want you to hear God and you be the answer to that prayer.

On the mission field

>> So life isn't easy in this area. Talking about water here is a serious issue -- very serious because people are dying and getting sick from drinking bad water in this area.

So these people are really suffering. They need help. You can walk around, you're not going to find any clean water here. Now you can imagine, how are they surviving? We know that water is life.

Open Captions:

>> If we would have had clean water in our area two years ago my kids would still be here.

Tammy: The water is filthy. It is dirty. It is contaminated, filled with disease but it is all they have, all they know.

So imagine yourself being so thirsty that you drink this water and it is your only option. And in the back of your mind you have that fear that you could possibly die from this water.

Open Captions:

>> I'm always fearing the death of my kids but I know that this is where I live. There is no other place to go, so I know I have to remain here and stand firm.

>> If you do something for this community I think they would be grateful forever. So thank you so much for coming. I hope God is going to use you.

Tammy: Yes! I hope so too!

>> To bless this community with clean water.

Open Captions:

>> I go to my knees and pray to God asking him to help my remaining children, to protect them, because I have no other choice but this water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! I just want you to be an answer to that prayer. When that wonderful overseer, mission-carrying person said, "I hope..." That hope was more than a hope, it was a prayer, Betty. You heard the prayer of that woman, typical of so many. Would you be the one that Paul said you're the ones when others didn't you did. Would you be the one that did? My God shall supply all of your need; meet every need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. God knows what you need. God knows what that little village needs and others.

You can do that. Do you realize that there are some of you who could give a well? Betty and I ask God to let us give a well every time the missionaries point us to need, would you let us give one? And he heard that prayer.

Some of you could give a well. Betty, many people give toward a well, \$1200, \$2400, pray it will be matched and three others join. But most of the support comes when people give \$48, enough to drill a water well and give water for ten people the rest of their life. So the gift is just amazing. But we need everybody to do what God is putting on their

hearts.

Betty: I feel like we can all do something, contribute toward drilling the water wells. Like James says, "It gives them Water for LIFE." I watched that precious mother go down to the dirty, filthy, diseased water. And you think, as a mother, I would *never* offer that water to my children! Yes, you would if that's all you had, knowing that it would possibly kill them. But that's all she could do.

She said, "I have nothing else to offer them." Let's give her something else to offer them. Pure clean water that will bring life to their little bodies. Please join with us.

James: We're sending a gift, *Praying Grace* devotional, insight, thoughts. What you're doing is you're giving grace in answer to the heart cries and prayers. We're giving a little tumbler to people that everybody that sees it and has it says, "This is beautiful!" "I am *Praying Grace*. Acts 20:32."

You know here, in the advanced civilized world, in the U.S. and Canada and so many places in South America, in Europe and Asia and Australia, you know you can put something clean in here. We're saying this to say thank you. But you have been giving Water for LIFE and we're presenting clearly the water of life, Jesus. Would you right now go online or dial that number? Would you please? And say, "I'm going to be the miracle answer to prayer."

Mercy is going to walk right into their lives, right into their village and they're going to have Water for LIFE and they're going to hear clearly about the water of life because we're going demonstrate his love.

Would you take your bankcard, would you make the best gift you can right now online or dial that number? Use it like a check. Please, if you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving. Thank you so much for your response. Thank you for sharing God's love and sharing life with so many in desperate need.

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 way for parents to save the lives of their children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today, you can help drill and establish the first 200 water wells of the year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children, a gift of \$48 will help provide for 10, \$72 will provide for 15, and \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift, we'll send you the *Praying Grace* 55-day devotional. This new devotional will help you renew your mind to the realities of God's grace and help you pray powerful grace-based prayers for each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "Praying Grace" tumbler. This reusable 16-ounce container is constructed with insulated stainless steel, perfect for hot or cold beverages.

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, new commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

Tammy: I'm sitting here on the edge of the water in Burundi, Africa with this little boy. When I look at his belly, it is not because he's just had a great big meal; it's actually because he's been drinking this water. Do you know that statistics say that they are at most risk between the ages of one to five? So this little guy, right now, I can tell you is not doing well. I fear that if he continues to drink this water, he probably won't make it.

I don't even know if I would call this water. It is filthy. It is so dirty. It is filled with contamination and I know he is in the condition he is in because he's been drinking this water. If we could come in here and drill a well, where he could drink off of that water instead of this filthy, dirty water, I've seen it work before. I know that it works. I know that it turns around quickly for these children.

I would rather be a solution than a problem in this world. So I know a solution. I've seen it; I know that it works. I've been all around the world with *LIFE Outreach*. I know that Water for LIFE can change not just one life but so many lives around the world. Let's do something right now for Burundi, Africa. Let's do it together. Let's change this little guy's life. Let's turn it around for him. We have a chance to do that! Go online, make a phone call, and give whatever you can give -- the best gift that you can give!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I join to say in behalf of every mother and every grandparent, every person, every missionary praying for precious people to have clean water, believing that you're the answer to that prayer. If you would like to have Terry Looper's book, *Sacred Pace*, I'm telling you, this is easy, inspirational, exciting, uplifting reading. I'm not

exaggerating. You can hear God and I believe Terry will help you. What a blessing. If you would like to have this book, it is in the bookstores. You can get it online. But if you'll help us give water and you say, "Would you mind sending us Mr. Looper's book?" We'll send it to you to say thanks.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Terry for sharing? Terry, God bless you. God bless your pretty wife. I bless you, Doris. Thank you for being an answer to somebody's prayer. Thanks for sharing life.